

Durham

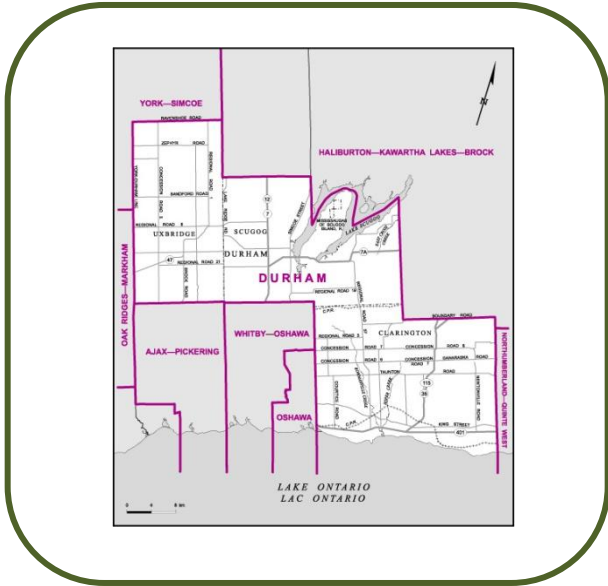
Action on Poverty Profile

Provincial
Riding
Profiles

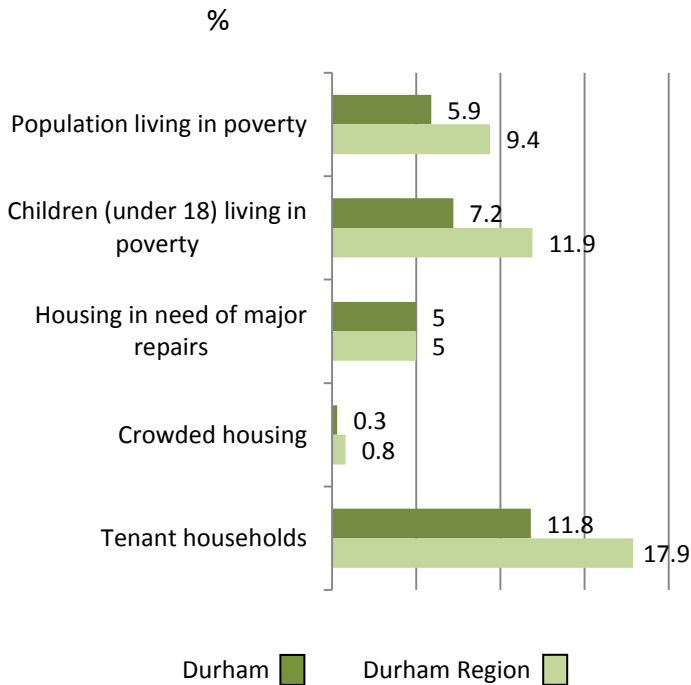
Story Behind the Stats

The riding of Durham encompasses the Municipality of Clarington that sits along the lakeshore corridor at the eastern edge of the Region of Durham, and the Townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.

Outside of a few suburban developments in Courtice-Bowmanville (Clarington), Port Perry (Scugog), and Uxbridge, the riding is largely rural. This has given Durham a distinctive urban-rural divide, necessitating a balance between the needs of rural (largely agricultural) residents with suburban residents who generally work outside of the community. Due to the large geographical area and low population density of the riding, there is a discernible lack of access to social services, transportation, and decent employment opportunities within the community for the majority of residents. Thus, low-income residents face multiple challenges in accessing community supports and resources that could facilitate their full economic and social participation in the community.



Key Figures



**118,500 people live in
Durham**

6,920 live in poverty – 5.9%*

“I think that this is a nice community for most people who live here. However, the good often hides the bad. There are people who live in poverty here in [Bowmanville], people who need social and income supports...and in this community it is the youth who suffer most from this situation. They are stuck, with nowhere to go, nothing to do, and often hidden from view...this is where we need to do better.”

**Social Service Organization Worker
Participant in CDCD’s Enhancing Social
Planning Project**

The Action on Poverty profile series was created by Social Planning Toronto and the Community Development Council Durham. The profile includes Census data from Statistics Canada’s Federal Electoral District Profiles and Community Profiles.

*For details on calculations and definitions, go to www.spno.ca

Taking Action in Durham

The Firehouse is a recreational drop-in program for youth in Bowmanville that provides free access to recreational equipment, as well as programs and activities for youth of all ages in the community. The Centre provides a safe, positive, and engaging environment for local youth to participate in activities such as pool, video games, basketball, hockey, safely access Internet and computer resources, and/or simply be with their friends and meet new people. The Centre also organizes activities and outings, allowing local youth the opportunity to participate in an annual battle of the bands contest, and go on outings to Blue Jays games, Canada's Wonderland, the Ontario Science Centre, and Cobourg Beach. All programs and activities are adult supervised, but the Firehouse has a strong youth volunteer program, encouraging local youth to support their peers, while developing leadership skills.

The Firehouse promotes a pro-social environment that encourages youth to engage each other and build healthy, lasting relationships. The Centre is led by the John Howard Society of Durham and overseen by staff from the Municipality of Clarington. The Centre strives to provide a safe and fun environment for local youth while promoting peer and community engagement, healthy social and physical recreation, leadership development, and the building of self-esteem.

www.thefirehouse.ca

Community Development Council Durham

The CDCD is an independent not-for-profit organization that has been serving the community in Durham for more than 40 years. The organization supports the delivery of a variety of programs and services in the areas of community development and research, immigrant settlement, and housing support. In all of our work we strive to support and enhance the quality of life of individuals and families in our community, by promoting inclusion and equity.

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How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *Adrian Foster*, 905-623-3379, mayor@clarington.net (Clarington);

Geri Lynn O'Connor, 905-852-9181 x218, gloconnor@town.uxbridge.on.ca (Uxbridge)

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *John O'Toole*, 905-697-1501, john.otooleco@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): Vacant (by-election on November 26th, 2012)