

Oak Ridges-Markham Action on Poverty Profile

Provincial
Riding
Profiles

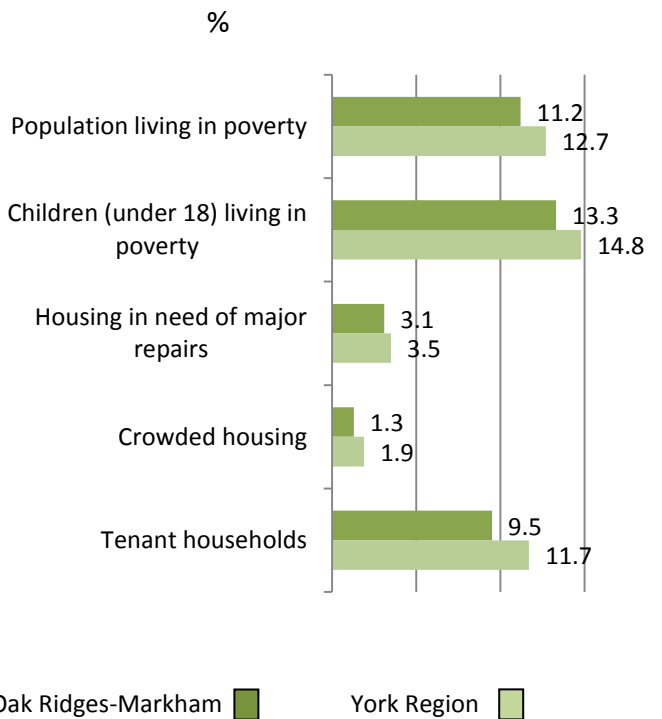


Story Behind the Stats

The Oak Ridges-Markham riding spans parts of Markham, most of the Township of King, and all of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Oak Ridges (north Richmond Hill).

It is a very diverse area and has been rapidly changing with the proliferation of large building developments and the absence of affordable homes or rental accommodation. Increasing numbers of families are mortgage-poor, leaving very little income to meet other needs, or at risk of eviction and homelessness. Due to insufficient family incomes, children and youth are often left with few to no options for recreation outside of school activities, face few options for employment, and cannot find affordable housing when (and if) they eventually leave home. There is also an estimated 300 homeless youth in York Region with only 27 shelter beds available.

Key Figures



**169,645 people live in
Oak Ridges-Markham**
18,816 live in poverty – 11.2%*

“All it takes is one bad decision for youth to get on the wrong path in life. Pathways staff and volunteers are here for the youth when those decisions happen, to provide them with the supports they need to get back on the path of success.”

Michael Braithwaite
Executive Director
Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of
York Region Inc.

The Action on Poverty profile series for the ridings in York Region were created with information from Social Planning Toronto, the Social Planning Council of York Region, the York Region Do the Math Working Group and the York Region ISARC Social Audit, 2010. Statistics were drawn from 2006 Census Data.

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



Taking Action in Oak Ridges-Markham

Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region Inc. was established over 20 years ago to address needs in the communities of York Region. Its mission is to empower children, youth, and families through prevention, education and advocacy to enhance their overall well-being. Recognizing the areas diverse communities, Pathways offers services in seven languages and its staff represent many cultures and experiences.

Located in Oak Ridges, Pathways' Home Base Youth Drop-In Centre offers youth a safe place to get answers and support. Home Base is a one-stop-shop, helping youth to address the issues that have led to their present situation. Every month, Home Base serves more than 100 homeless or at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 24. The Centre's primary goal is to help youth build the necessary skills they need to promote independence. Last year, the Centre saw more than 4,500 youth and served 7,900 meals. Youth come with many different needs and Home Base provides a range of services to address them, including:

- Food (along with information on nutrition, shopping and cooking) and clothing
- Shelter and housing support
- Recreation (movies, basketball, gym, etc)
- Life Skills Training
- Budgeting, job search training and/or help returning to school
- Relationship building training and anger management
- Supportive counselling
- Access to other helpful resources in the community

www.pathwaysyorkregion.com

Social Planning Council of York Region

SPCYR is an independent, non-profit, community-based organization. We are committed to advancing social and economic justice and resident engagement in all aspects of community life in York Region. We do this through community-based research, social planning and community action, with particular emphasis on the conditions facing those from marginalized or equity-seeking communities.

Want to get involved?
Contact us at info@spcyr.com
www.spcyr.com

How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Helena Jaczek*, 905-294-4931,
hjaczek.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Paul Calandra*, 905-640-1125, paul.calandra@parl.gc.ca

Mayor: *Steve Pellegrini*, 905-833-5321, spellegrini@king.ca (Township of King); *Frank Scarpitti*, 905-475-4872, fscarpitti@markham.ca (Markham); *David Barrow*, 905-771-8800 ext 3123, officemayor@richmondhill.ca (Richmond Hill); *Wayne Emmerson*, 905-640-1910 ext 2227, mayor.emmerson@townofws.ca (Whitchurch-Stouffville)

For a complete listing of all elected representatives, including public & Catholic school boards, a map of the riding & its boundaries, see the York Region overview sheets