

# York-Simcoe Action on Poverty Profile



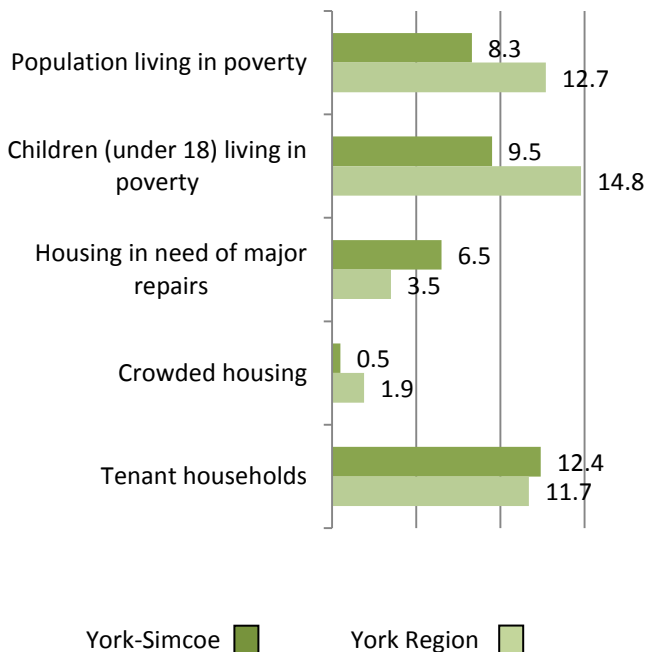
## Story Behind the Stats

The York-Simcoe riding covers the north portion of York Region and includes the communities of Georgina and East Gwillimbury. It runs from Hwy. 9 north to Lake Simcoe and also includes the islands that comprise the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation reserve. It also includes the part of Simcoe County east of Hwy. 27, from Barrie in the north down to Hwy. 9 in the south.

Residents in this area of York Region face some of the highest unemployment rates in the Region. Transportation is a big challenge for people living in Georgina. Having a vehicle is a necessity where transit is limited, which adds an additional expense for individuals or families who are already struggling to make ends meet. With fewer opportunities for employment in Georgina, residents are forced to travel elsewhere – often considerable distances. The Aboriginal community, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, experiences high unemployment and is faced with additional barriers and costs in terms of accessing food and other essentials due to limited access to the mainland.

## Key Figures

%



**120,370 people live in  
York-Simcoe**

**9,854 live in poverty – 8.3%\***

**“Linking Georgina builds on the strengths of the community. Together we listen to the needs articulated by the residents, identify gaps in service, work to address issues of access and plan cooperatively to maximize our capacity, resources and effectiveness. Linking Georgina is truly a testament to the power of collaborative work.”**

**Mary McCormack-Badinski**  
Manager - Ontario Early Years, York North  
Co-Chair of Linking Georgina Planning Table

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.spono.ca](http://www.spono.ca)

# Taking Action in York-Simcoe

Linking Georgina is an independent, self-mandated community based collaborative that was created in response to the challenges faced by Georgina residents. Members include community agencies and community members in Georgina delivering services and supports to individuals, children, youth and families.

The purpose of Linking Georgina is to improve the health, well-being and social outcomes of children, youth and families in Georgina. This is done by sharing information, assessing and researching needs and trends, and collaboratively mobilizing community resources to implement integrated multi-sector planning and enhanced service delivery.

One of Linking Georgina's member organizations focused on addressing the lack of transit options for Georgina residents is Transit Georgina (TG). TG is a small, grassroots, non-profit organization committed to providing affordable transportation for the community. Screened, reliable, volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to connect members of our community with the services and supports they require. TG clients are often restricted due to their financial situation or other life circumstances. Annually, TG provides over 12,000 rides to residents of Georgina, increasing access to necessities and reducing isolation.

<http://linkinggeorgina.com>

<http://www.transitgeorgina.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](mailto:info@spcyr.com)

[www.spcyr.com](http://www.spcyr.com)

## How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *Steve Pellegrini*, 905-833-5321, [spellegrini@king.ca](mailto:spellegrini@king.ca) (King Township); *Robert Grossi*, 905-989-1794, [rgrossi@georgina.ca](mailto:rgrossi@georgina.ca) (Georgina); *Virginia Hackson*, 905-478-4282 ext. 3800, [vhackson@eastgwillimbury.ca](mailto:vhackson@eastgwillimbury.ca) (East Gwillimbury); *Barb Baguley*, 705-436-3740 ext. 1101, [bbaguley@innisfil.ca](mailto:bbaguley@innisfil.ca) (Town of Innisfil); *Doug White*, 905-775-5366 ext. 1200, [dwhite@townofbwg.ca](mailto:dwhite@townofbwg.ca) (Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury)

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Julia Munro*, 905-895-1555, [julia.munro@pc.ola.org](mailto:julia.munro@pc.ola.org)

Member of Parliament (MP): *Hon. Peter Van Loan*, 905-898-1600, [peter.vanloan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.vanloan@parl.gc.ca)

*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.*