



Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region 2022 to 2026

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples such as the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations. This land is now home to many diverse Indigenous peoples. York Region is located within the boundaries of the Nanfan Treaty, Treaty 13 and the Williams Treaties. There are also other land claims and treaty rights involving portions of York Region that have not been resolved. The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation is a Williams Treaty First Nation and the closest First Nation community to York Region.



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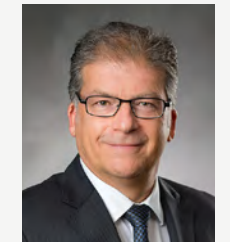
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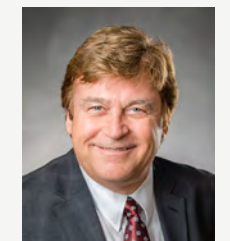
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A Message from York Region Chairman and CEO and Members of Regional Council

York Regional Council is proud to share our first *Community Safety* and *Well-Being Plan for York Region*. The 2022 to 2026 plan reflects what we heard from our residents and partners about what is important as we work collectively to enhance safety and well-being in our communities.

This plan is a long-term tool to enhance safety by focusing on well-being and builds on a strong foundation of collaborative relationships with community partners across York Region. It serves as an important call to action to address community safety and well-being issues that are important to all residents and recognizes this is a responsibility shared by all.

Together, we will collaborate to tackle the most pressing concerns and use our collective strengths to champion initiatives that will drive true change across our communities and help foster an environment where everyone feels safe and supported.

With a strong appreciation of the past and great hope for the future, we invite you to join York Region in this journey as we continue to foster strong, caring, safe communities for all residents, and build a York Region where every person can thrive, and every community reaches its full potential.

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OUR VISION

Strong, Caring, Safe Communities

OUR MISSION

Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow

OUR CORPORATE VALUES

Integrity Commitment Accountability Respect Excellence



Throughout the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region, we have included a young creatives community spotlight to showcase a selection of photos, artwork and poetry from youth artists in our community. We are pleased to share these with our readers and thank the artists who contributed their work for inclusion in this Plan.



This cover image for the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region was created by Mya Salawu, Keira Salawu, and Stella Salawu as part of the Young Creatives Art Competition.



Executive Summary

The 2022-2026 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region (Plan) takes a strengths-based, partnerships approach to enhancing the safety and well-being of residents and communities. Focused on social development and prevention, its goal is to enhance safety and well-being through proactive, targeted, community-driven actions.

Through Community Action Tables and other collaborative initiatives, the Plan brings partners together and builds community capacity to drive change. It leverages strengths and a variety of assets, including Regional and local municipal Plans, and bridges gaps where they exist. Focusing on those communities that can benefit the most, the Plan includes locally-driven actions delivered over the next four-years to address issues linked to the priority areas of mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability.

The Plan was developed with input and support from residents and partners, including community service providers, local municipalities, York Regional Police and the [Human Services Planning Board of York Region](#) (HSPB). The HSPB, approved by York Regional Council as the Advisory Committee to the Plan as required under the *Police Services Act, 1990*, provided valuable insight and endorses the Plan.

Leveraging what we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Plan includes actions and initiatives that will help support equitable recovery from the pandemic as we continue to build strong, safe, caring communities in York Region.

01 About Community Safety and Well-Being Plans

Under the *Police Services Act, 1990* the Province requires upper-tier and single-tier municipalities to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. These municipal plans are intended to help foster communities where “everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.”ⁱ

In preparing and implementing Community Safety and Well-Being Plans, the Province requires municipalities to:

- Identify and prioritize risks that contribute to crime, victimization, and harm
- Identify strategies to reduce prioritized risks and set measurable outcomes
- Consult with an Advisory Committee and prescribed members of the public
- Implement the Plan, and monitor, evaluate and report on its impact and outcomes

What are the Social Determinants of Health?

Our health is determined by the conditions of our everyday lives, and by systems that help keep us healthy and support us when we get sick. The social, economic, political, and environmental conditions, or social determinants of health, in which people live also matter. Social determinants of health are estimated to account for 50% of all health outcomesⁱⁱⁱ. For more information on the social determinants of health, see Appendix 6.

Ontario’s Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework

A Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is a long-term tool to enhance safety by focusing on well-being. It recognizes challenges and experiences are diverse, and the collective safety and well-being of communities is a responsibility shared by all.

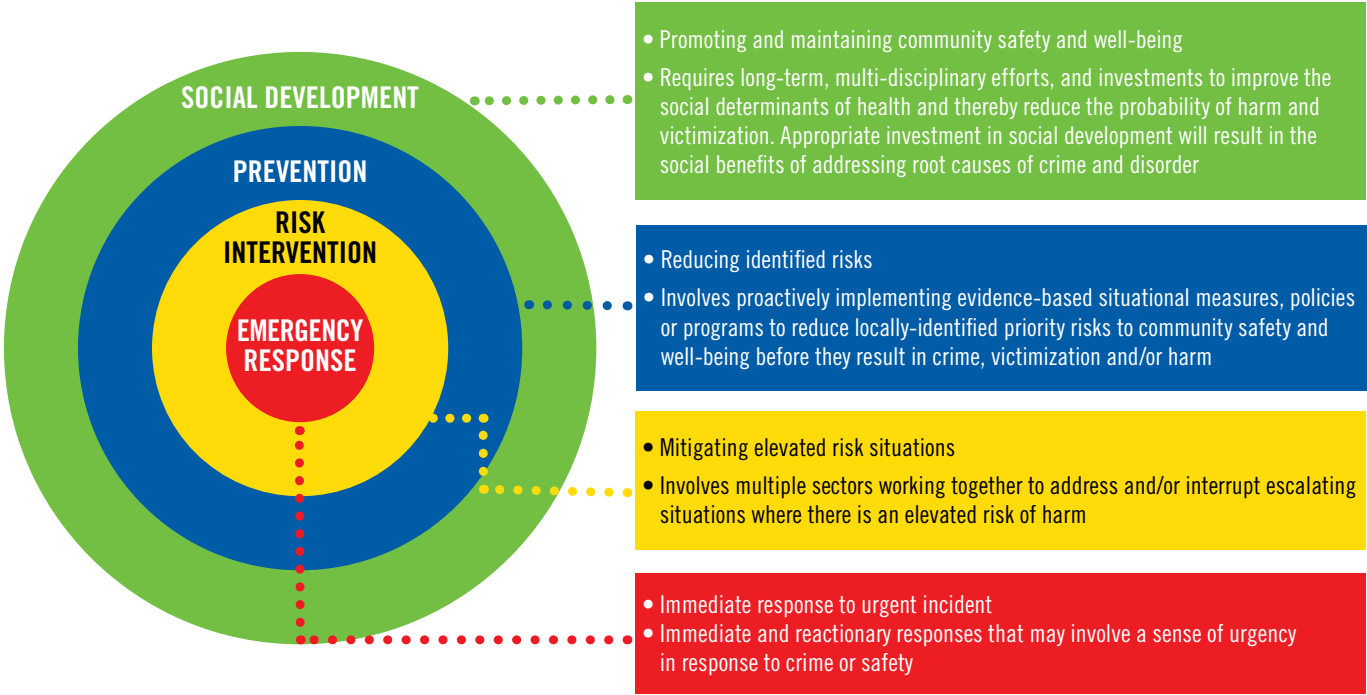
To help municipalities prepare their plans, the province provided a frameworkⁱⁱ for community safety and well-being planning that target risk factors and social development and prevention approaches (green and blue rings in Figure 1.1).

This approach takes the perspective of “crime prevention through social development,” and recognizes the role “multiple, complex social, economic, health and environmental factors” play in individual and community safety and well-being. These factors are often referred to as social determinants of health - factors that keep people safe and well, such as having adequate income, meaningful work, education, community connection, stable housing and healthy food. The term “risks” is used in this type of work to refer to characteristics or conditions in individuals, families, communities or society that may negatively affect these factors and increase likelihood of harms.

By addressing root causes and focusing on proactive actions to reduce risks to safety and well-being, the Plans are intended to mitigate incidence and severity of crime, victimization and harm that require more complex and costly response and intervention, such as through the justice, homelessness or healthcare systems.

The Province’s Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework shown in Figure 1.1 guided development of the Plan for York Region.

Figure 1.1: Ontario’s Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework



Community safety and well-being planning is not about “re-inventing the wheel”. It is about recognizing the great work already happening - within individual communities, through networks of agencies and service providers, and existing human service plans - and collaborating and coordinating to do more with those resources using local experience and expertise.

Benefits of a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Safety and well-being are a shared responsibility of all community members requiring an integrated approach to bring diverse partners together to address common goals. No one sector or organization can address complex social challenges alone. Multi-sectoral partnerships and engagement are essential to developing strategies to help mitigate risks and improve the overall well-being of communities. This includes the involvement of residents, the not-for-profit community and government.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plans provide a framework to help mobilize community members to share insights about their communities, establish shared goals, strategize together, collaborate and share resources. It provides an opportunity to:

- Leverage resources, plans and programs more effectively
- Target supports to respond to needs on the ground
- Learn and scale promising practices for greater impact

York Region at a Glance

DIVERSE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF CLOSE TO

1.2 MILLION
RESIDENTS¹

UP 5.7%
since 2016¹

16.8% of residents lived in **low income** families in 2019

15.6% of children aged 0 to 17 lived in **low income** families in 2019 compared to 17.6% in Ontario³

70%
AGED 25-64 had a **post-secondary education**²

8.7% Average **unemployment** rate between 2020 and 2021⁴

VACANCY RATE as of October 2021⁵

Apartments
1.8%

Condominiums
0.5%



AVERAGE RENT IN 2021⁶

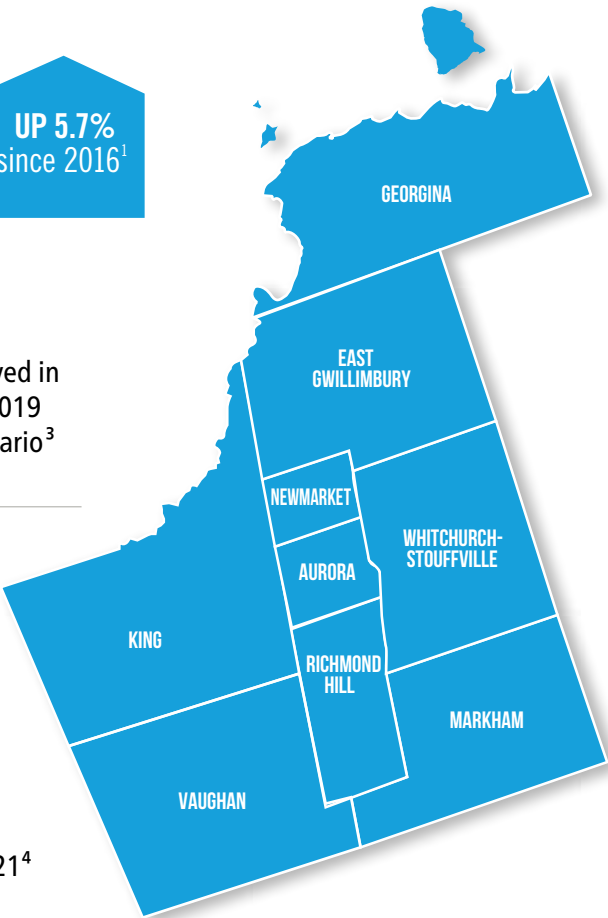
Apartments
\$1,442 UP 13.8% over 2018

Condominiums
\$2,214 UP 10.6% over 2018

73% aged 12 and older reported very good or excellent mental health in 2017⁷



\$105,421
AVERAGE ANNUAL
FAMILY INCOME
IN 2019³



49%
OF RESIDENTS

self-identified as a member of a visible minority group.²
The largest groups were:
Chinese 45%
South Asian 22%
West Asian 8%



47%
OF RESIDENTS
were immigrants²

OVER
120
DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES

were most spoken at home. Among them, the top **non-official languages** were Cantonese, Mandarin, Persian, Russian and Italian²

Young Creatives COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Hi, my name is Melinda and I am 14 years old. During my free time I love creating art, as well as watching dramas and baking!

To me, community safety and well-being means that everyone in the community is able to feel connected with each other. You know where to go for help when needed and feel that being a part of the community positively impacts your mental health.

Throughout my artwork I showed a few ways that people are able to take care of their mental health. While school/work/life can often get stressful it's important for people to have some time for themselves. Taking time to read a book, do some gardening or even spending time outside with nature are great ways to help take your mind off of things.

— Melinda

¹ Statistics Canada, 2021 Census.
² Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.
³ Statistics Canada, Centre for Income and Socioeconomic Well-being Statistics, T1 Family File, 2019. A person is in low income when their family income is below the Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AI) threshold associated with their family size.
⁴ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey - LFS characteristics by 2016 Census Division boundaries - two year average estimates.

⁵ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market Survey Data Tables, Greater Toronto Area, 2018 and 2021.
⁶ A 3% vacancy rate is considered healthy as it is the point where the market can adequately meet demand.
⁷ Canadian Community Health Survey 2017, Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

02 THE PATH

Developing the Plan for York Region

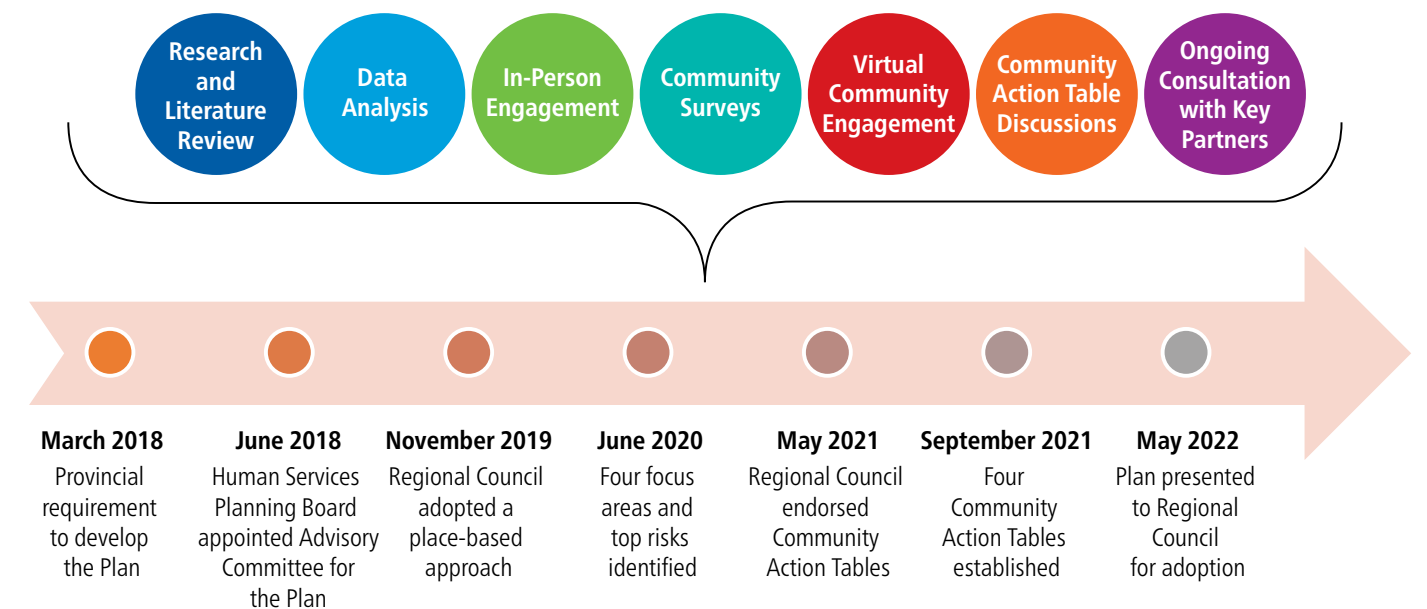
The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region helps achieve the Region’s vision of strong, caring, safe communities.

Creating the Plan for York Region is an outcome of more than two years – including through the COVID-19 pandemic – of research, outreach and engagement with residents from communities across York Region and partners. This process involved listening closely to understand and capture what residents want and need to improve the safety and well-being of their communities.

We have been developing key elements of the Plan in a phased approach, building on what we learned from previous stages of work. Figure 1.2 provides an overview of the development process, including milestones.

Appointed by York Regional Council as the Advisory Committee for the Plan, the Human Services Planning Board of York Region (HSPB) – a multi-sector collaborative of human service agencies, government and community leaders – provided valuable advice and insight throughout this process. See Appendix 5 for the members of the 2019-2022 HSPB.

Figure 1.2: Development of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, including key milestones



There were five phases of the Plan development process. These phases provided insights that informed the direction and key elements of the Plan.

PHASE 1

Collecting and using local data to inform planning

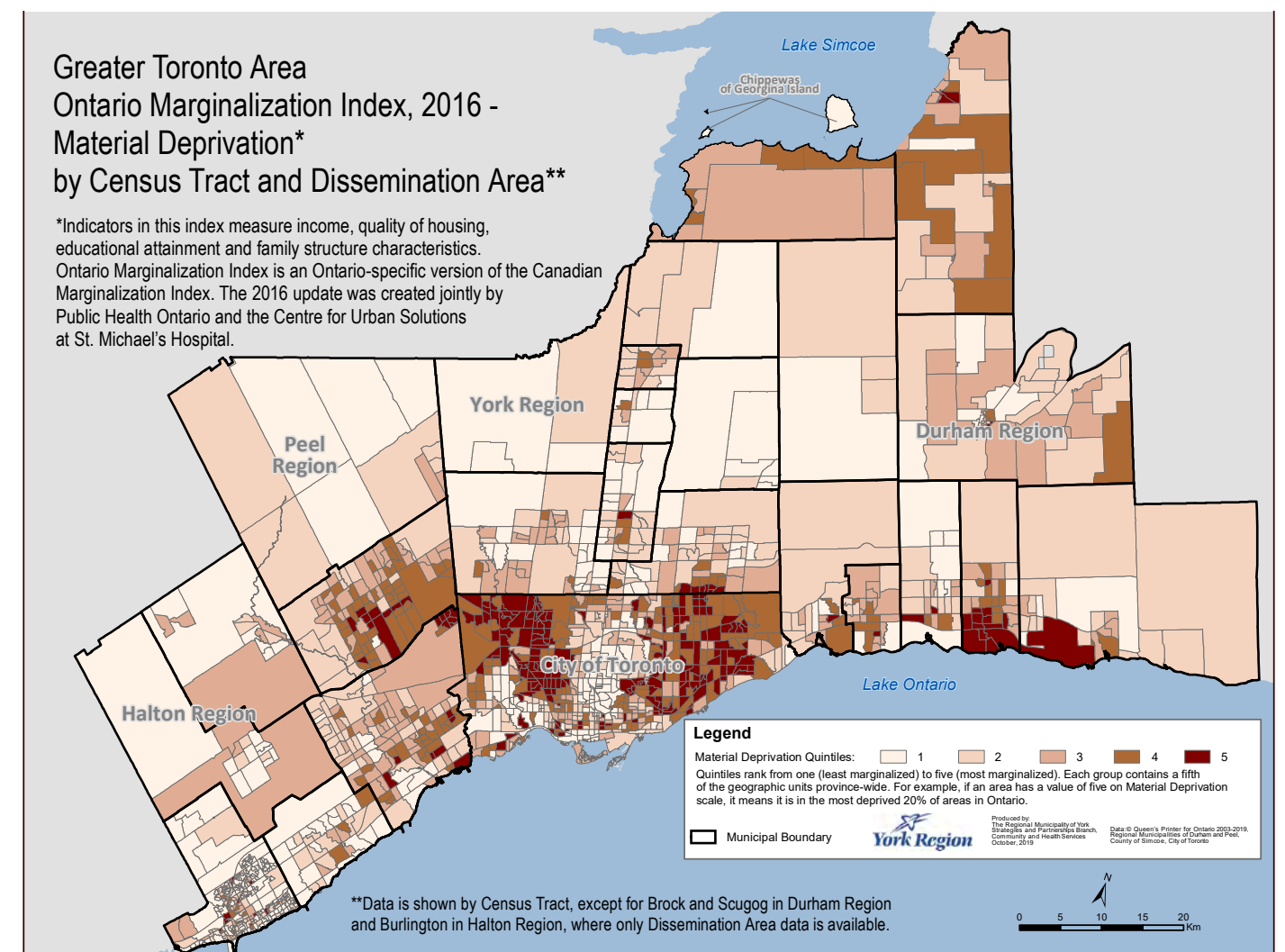
To understand safety and well-being in York Region, data and community indicators were used to analyze a broad range of factors that affect safety and well-being, including household income, employment, crime, education and early childhood development.

To get a broader perspective, we used the publicly available Ontario Marginalization Index,^{iv} which integrates social determinants of health data to understand well-being in communities across Ontario, specifically its Material Deprivation Domain (Figure 1.3). Each geographic area is associated with a material deprivation quintile, from one – the least deprived – to five, the most deprived (darkest red in Figure 1.3).

York Region fares well compared to neighbouring municipalities. Only 4% of census tracts in York Region were in the fifth quintile, the most marginalized category group compared to 32% of census tracts in Toronto, 11% in Durham and 10% in Peel. Only Halton had a lower proportion of geographic areas in the most marginalized category at 2%.

However, while 96% of York Region communities have more favourable Material Deprivation scores, this analysis showed there are areas that would benefit from more support – a key insight informing the Plan.

Figure 1.3: Ontario Marginalization Index*



*Note: The lightest colour represents areas that are the least marginalized provincially and the dark red represents areas that are the most marginalized.

What is a place-based approach?

A collaborative, long-term approach to build thriving communities delivered in a defined geographic location. This approach to planning is ideally characterized by partnering, shared design, shared stewardship, and shared accountability for outcomes and impacts. Place-based approaches are used to respond to complex, interrelated, challenging issues, drawing on local strengths and reflecting local conditions.”

PHASE 2

Adopting a place-based approach

The places where we live, work and play define who we are and what we do. They determine the nature of relationships with neighbours and the communities we create.

While York Region overall is home to vibrant, diverse and growing communities, there are opportunities to improve outcomes in certain areas. Using a place-based approach for the Plan provides an avenue to achieve this objective.

Given the diversity and complexity of York Region communities, the Plan uses data and information to focus efforts on geographic areas that can benefit most (referred to as “focus areas” in the Plan). It also allows for community safety and well-being strategies to differ between places to reflect specific context and leverage local assets, better addressing the unique needs of each community.

With this insight, York Regional Council endorsed adopting a place-based approach as the foundation for the development of the Plan.

Through data and community consultation, four communities were identified as focus areas for the Plan and include northern Georgina, central Newmarket, south-central Richmond Hill and south-central Markham. Refer to Figure 1.6 for details on the focus areas.

Young Creatives
C O M M U N I T Y
SPOTLIGHT

POEMS

Coming together—
these letters
symbolizing the unity of life itself;
we are more powerful together
when we embrace individuality
and connect openly
like the words of beautiful poetry
carrying the wisdom we need,
but fail to hear
over the voices of fear.

Being alive,
It’s all enchanting
poetry
enhancing
the potency
of this power
we so often devour
with greed and insecurity...
Had it been brought up in a better home,
would the flower blossom into love?
If we weren’t so alone
in this shell of personalization,
would we
come to see
how peaceful it is.

Tell us about yourself?

I have a deep passion for the arts which make up our world. Words are my release, and as a creator, I feel a deep rooted responsibility to help others get closer to divinity, closer to life. I love the simple things in life — I just live to see how close I can get to inner peace.

What does community safety and well-being mean to you?

Community safety and well-being to me, means setting a solid foundation of Love and openness in which all beings can flourish, individually and collectively.

Describe your piece

The pieces I wrote encapsulate the bittersweet taste of freedom. What are beautiful moments without people to share them with? I want to create a domino effect through art, which touches the hearts of us in a way that make us say “I love being alive”. Hopefully then, as a community, we can strive to make a better functioning society.

—Jaydon James

PHASE 3

Engaging and listening to the community

Throughout the planning process we consulted residents and community partners in York Region to understand their perceptions of safety and well-being and how they feel about the communities in which they live.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, these consultations took place through online surveys and virtual public meetings. Participants included residents, community leaders, subject matter experts, service providers, school boards, York Regional Police, local mayors and municipal staff. We also engaged the community through collaborative forums, including the York Region Community Partnership Council, which includes agencies serving newcomers, and the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee. Between August 2020 and March 2021, over 700 members of the public and stakeholders from across York Region participated in the engagement process.

These consultations identified mental well-being, housing stability, and economic stability as key areas of concern. We heard that residents, at times, do not know where to go for help, or how to access resources, particularly supports that are culturally appropriate. We also heard about the importance of a strong, non-profit sector to help address resident and community needs, and were reminded that solutions need to be planned and implemented with community members who know their neighbourhoods the most. Figure 1.4 provides additional key insights from these consultations.

Figure 1.4: Community Consultation Summary

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region: Consultation Highlights and Key Themes

PARTICIPANTS IN FOUR FOCUS AREAS IDENTIFIED THESE TOP RISKS TO SAFETY AND WELL-BEING:

Mental Well-Being

Housing Stability

Economic Stability

KEY FEEDBACK INCLUDED:



Learning from COVID-19: Insights and solutions

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, and by mid-March, Ontario had declared a state of emergency.

COVID-19 impacted York Region communities including increased reliance on government supports due to job and income loss, isolation, racism, increased domestic violence, opioid use, escalated incidence of homelessness, and increased stress and anxiety. Residents and communities in the southern part of York Region, including racially diverse residents, newcomers and people living in poverty, were among the hardest hit in Ontario. Given this context, the Plan reflects and includes strategies to address community needs that have been exacerbated by COVID-19.

The pandemic also underscored the need and value of collaborative community action in improving safety and well-being of residents. Together with United Way Greater Toronto, York Region created the COVID-19 Community Coordination Initiative, which helped community agencies exchange information, share resources and integrate approaches to address the evolving needs of residents through these unprecedented times. The insights gained through this initiative helped identify and better understand issues in the community, as well as possible strategies to address them. This helped inform the Plan and made it more responsive to residents' needs. It also provided an opportunity to test the collaborative place-based approach that forms the foundation of the Plan.



Young Creatives COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Tell us about yourself?

My name is Avery Lee. I'm a high school student from Vaughan, Ontario, with a passion for all types of art. In school, I like to focus on subjects such as Computer Science, Geography, and Visual Arts (duh). In my spare time, I like to draw, swim, crochet, and skateboard. I'm a competitive swimmer, so I also like to stay active. My parents are immigrants from China, and I was born in Florida before moving to Ontario. I like to seek out leadership opportunities and initiatives within my community on a regular basis in order to better connect with the people around me. For example, I completed several months worth of volunteer work last summer in crop farm maintenance, which was used to supply food to those who needed it. I also participated in an anti-Asian-hate protest in early 2021 at Nathan Phillips Square in an effort to, well, stop Asian hate. All in all I would say I'm very active in my community and am always looking for ways to chip in.

What does community safety and well-being mean to you?

To me, community safety and well-being means having people you can trust and talk to, whether that be in school, in the workplace, or in the general community. This sort of community bond is what really makes a safe and sustainable society. Additionally, community safety and well-being means listening to the people, to the voices of those who are most affected by societal issues. This way, we can all learn from each other and grow together. Well-being to me is all about connecting to those around you and working for the collective good.

Describe your piece

This art piece is titled "The Difference It Makes", 'it' being community safety and well-being. It depicts a city park in two different scenarios: one where there is no communal safety, and one where there is. The 'good' scenario is being caused by the (not literal) music that the girl on the park bench is listening to, where the music represents community safety and well-being. The overall message of the piece is that a sense of community and well-being makes all the difference. To create the piece, I used the digital software Krita as well as traditional pencil for the initial sketch. I hope you enjoy it!

— Avery Lee

PHASE 4

Identifying priority risks for action

Throughout the planning process we engaged residents and community partners in York Region to understand and prioritize the top risks in each focus area. Community consultations identified the following top priorities for action to improve safety and well-being:

Mental well-being



Housing stability



Economic stability



Mental Well-being



The World Health Organization defines mental well-being and health as “a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community^{vi}.”

Mental well-being influences how we think, behave, relate to and interact with one another. It shapes whether we feel like we belong and have opportunities to participate in civic life, and our ability to reach our full potential. Struggles with mental well-being can go undiagnosed and may result in higher risk for unemployment, poverty and homelessness, engagement in risky behaviours, and increased dropout rates among school-aged children and youth^{vii}.

A snapshot of mental well-being across York Region

In 2020, the York Regional Police Mental Health Support Team responded to **7,062** mental health-related calls, a 40% increase from 2016^{viii}

In 2017, the rate of selected mental illness-related emergency department (ED) visits increased to a 10-year high of **979** ED visits per 100,000 population, compared with 598 per 100,000 population in 2007^{ix}

Between 2011 and 2020, opioid-related harms, including ED visits, hospitalizations and deaths increased. In 2020, the rate was **25.1** ED visits, **5.4** hospitalizations, **5.5** deaths per 100,000 population, compared to 8.1 ED visits, 3.7 hospitalizations, and 2.3 deaths in 2011^x

What we heard from consultations:

- Mental health and well-being supports are not always available when needed
- There is a lack of awareness about what supports are available or where individuals can go to access support
- Many families have difficulty navigating the mental health system and they often feel ill-equipped to manage the mental health needs of their children/youth
- Mental health and well-being supports are not always offered in culturally appropriate or sensitive ways. There may also be language or cultural barriers to accessing services
- Stigma around mental health prevents some people from seeking help

York Region Mental Health and Addictions Hub

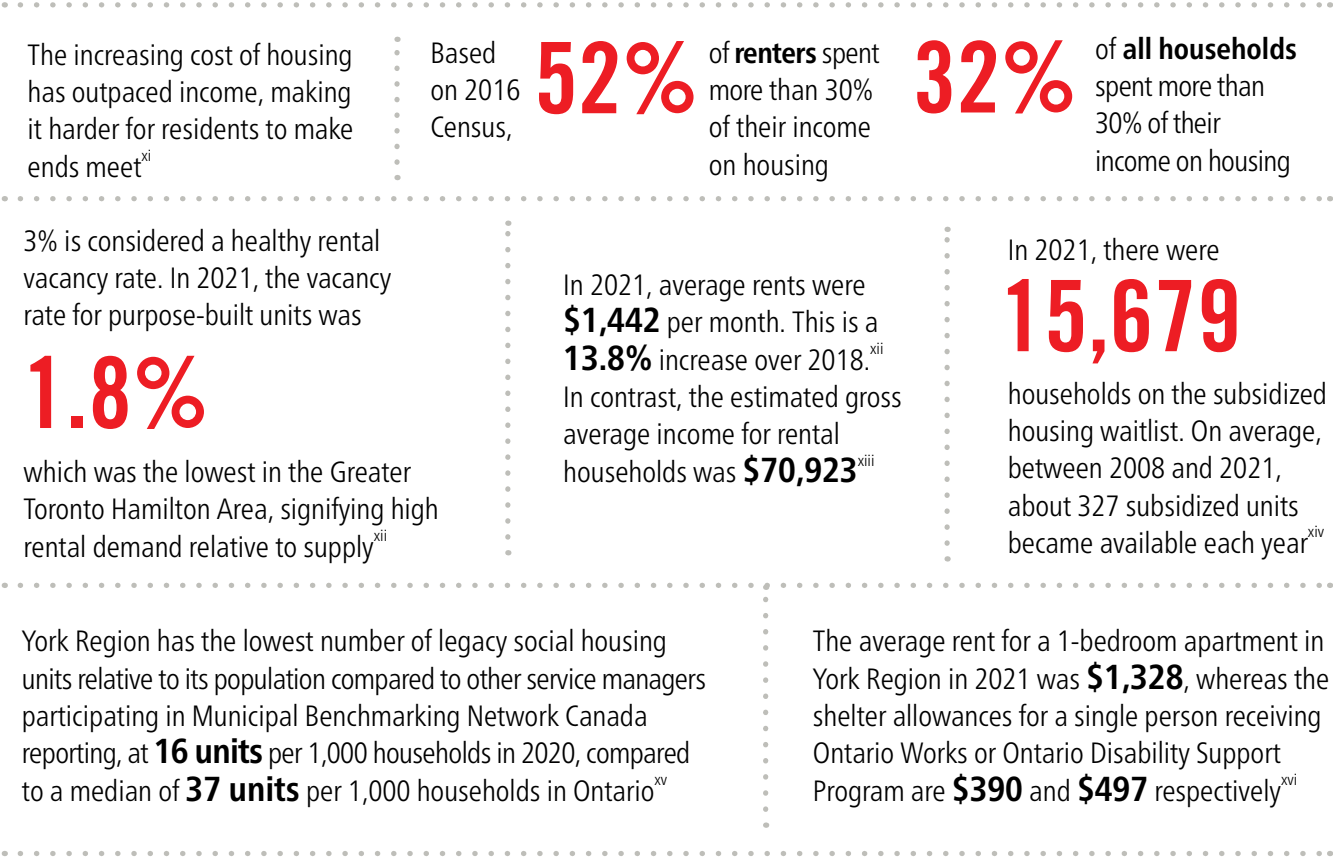
The Canadian Mental Health Association York Region and South Simcoe is working with local health and social service partners to establish a [York Region Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Hub](#). The first of its kind in York Region, the Hub will provide non-medical intervention to help stabilize and connect people to services. The Hub will play a crucial role in meeting the growing need for mental health and addiction services in York Region.

Housing stability

Housing stability means having an affordable place to live that is safe, secure, comfortable, and located in one’s chosen community. It also means a person can find or keep housing when their needs change. To be affordable, housing costs should not exceed 30% of income. York Region declared an affordable housing crisis in [February 2021](#), as the demand for affordable housing surpassed supply and the lack of affordable options made it difficult to meet the needs of all residents.



A snapshot of housing stability across York Region



What we heard from consultations:

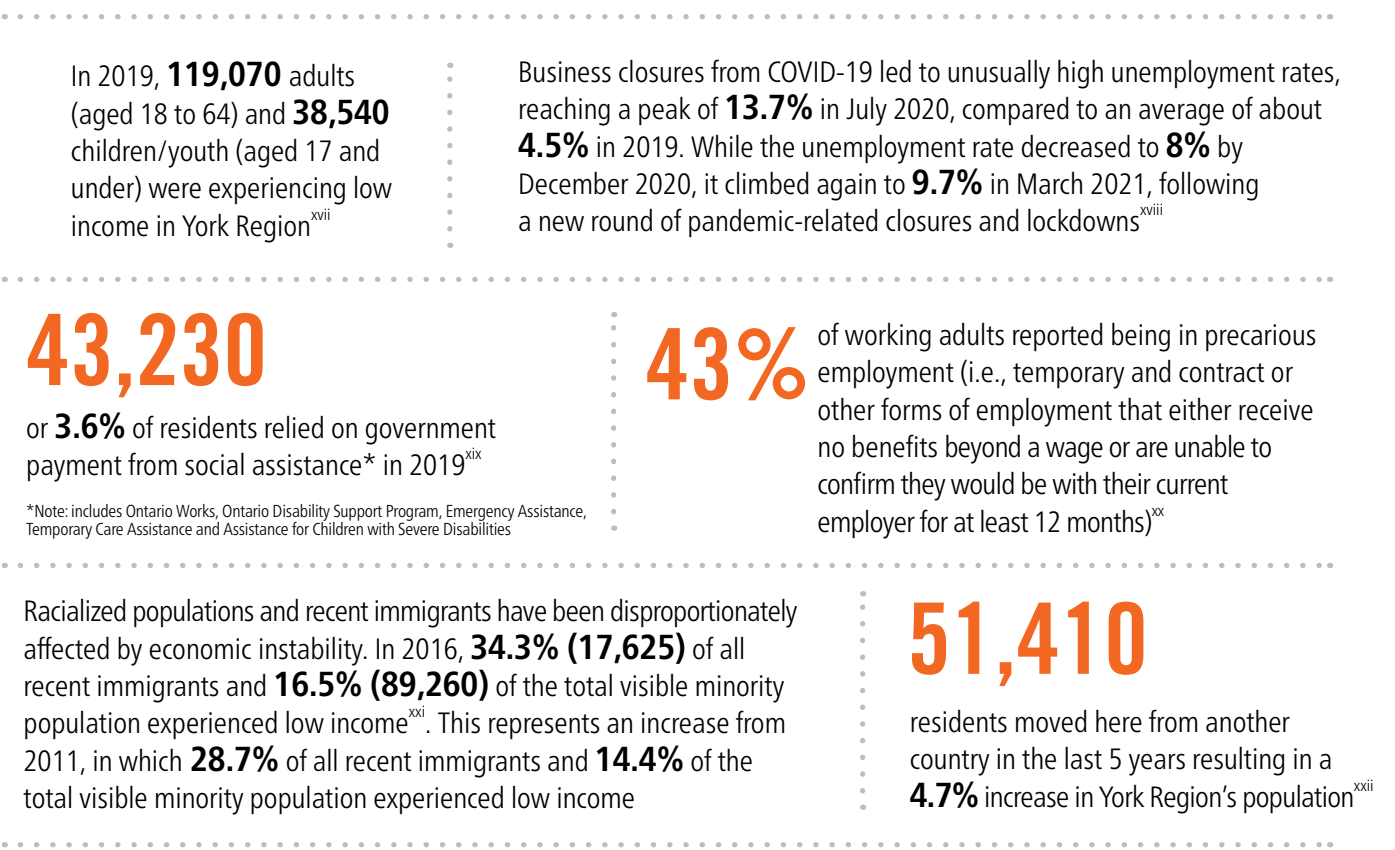
- Several factors impact housing affordability, including mortgage rates, energy costs, household incomes, job stability and the supply of affordable housing options
- The housing system leaves many residents in precarious housing situations, living in inadequate or unaffordable units, or unable to find suitable rental housing
- The cost to rent is out of reach for many people, particularly those who rely on government income supports
- Finding affordable housing is difficult and waitlists for community housing are long
- The unaffordability of housing causes many to relocate to areas far from jobs and support services and to endure substantially longer commutes with negative impacts to their health
- Many tenants do not know their legal rights. They fear eviction if they report sub-standard housing conditions or building code violations
- Multi-generational or multi-family households are becoming more common
- Overcrowding in the home can limit the availability of quiet space, causing distraction and disruption, and impacting children’s/youth’s ability to learn remotely or complete homework

Economic stability

Economic stability allows people to access resources essential to life, including financial resources, affordable, adequate and suitable housing, nutritious food, and stable employment that provides an adequate income. When people face income inequality, economic factors have a greater impact on their well-being, and capacity to adapt positively to life challenges.



A snapshot of economic stability across York Region



What we heard from consultations:

- There is a lack of employment opportunities for youth seeking to gain experience
- Many adults need to take multiple part-time jobs, meaning there are fewer entry-level opportunities for youth
- There is a dependence on government assistance. Employment opportunities that offer comparable or higher income and stability are lacking, which does not incentivize people to pursue employment over assistance
- Closures during the pandemic led to an increased reliance on government income supports
- Precarious employment and lack of full-time employment are issues
- Access to, and affordability of, transportation affects employment options and access to support services
- Living with a low income can negatively affect safety, mental well-being and housing stability

PHASE 5

Establishing Community Action Tables to help develop plans and drive change

What is an Ontario Health Team?

Ontario Health Teams were introduced by the Province in 2019. Their vision is to better connect different parts of the healthcare system by bringing together, as one team, parents, families, communities, providers and system leaders to deliver more coordinated care for people in a defined geographic area.

One clear and consistent feedback from community consultations was that solutions to address issues are most effective when developed by and alongside local communities. Solving these problems requires a collaborative, multi-stakeholder community development approach. This means bringing together a wide range of community members, including residents and partners, to develop and implement community-focused and locally-driven actions.

To help develop the Plan, we established Community Action Tables in each of the focus areas. The Tables are community-driven, and membership includes residents, service providers and representatives of York Region, local municipalities, York Regional Police, United Way Greater Toronto, school boards and the Ontario Health Teams. Community Profiles for each focus area can be found in Appendices 1 to 4.

The Community Action Tables have been working together, developing local, place-based plans to inform the work going forward. In implementing the Plan, the Community Action Tables will play an important role in making changes that strengthen communities.

Young Creatives COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Tahira, I am six years old and I am in grade 1. I like kitties and I want to win.

What does Community Safety and Well-Being mean to you?

It means to me everybody (The Complex) is being safe and friends and family are safe. When we are on the road, we are safe and everybody is happy.

Describe your art.

My art is about sunset. It is called "The Colourful Sunset." I like it because drawing art is fun and I want to win!

03 THE PLAN

Strategic Framework and Actions

The Plan aligns with and supports the achievement of [York Regional Council's Vision](#) of strong, caring, safe communities and is a key activity referenced in York Region's [2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results](#).

Inspired by York Region's vision, the goal and strategic objectives of the Plan are:



Aligned with the timeframe for other Regional plans, this first iteration of the Plan will take a four-year planning and implementation horizon.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Bringing partners together and strengthening community capacity

KEY ACTIONS



Placing communities at the heart of planning will enhance their capacity to identify and respond locally to the kinds of challenges that can impact safety and well-being. We will strengthen place-based community development by supporting Community Action Tables in each of the focus areas identified in the Plan.

What we have done and can build on:

- Four Community Action Tables were established in Fall 2021 to help develop the Plan. The Tables represent a key part of the community infrastructure to bring community members together to identify priority areas for action and develop solutions
- Each Community Action Table developed their own Community Action Plan, naming actions needed to reach their short, medium and long-term goals. The Community Action Plans reflect priority issues identified by residents and other stakeholders. They outline a mix of early actions to build momentum and enthusiasm in the community, and longer-term projects. The Community Action Plans for each focus area are included in Appendices 1 to 4.

What is community development?



The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems." It puts communities at the heart of making the decisions that directly affect them. Communities are engaged in identifying issues that are important to them, and in developing and carrying out actions to address those issues.

Community development recognizes that locally-developed solutions are often the best answer to local problems, as they build on community knowledge, expertise and resources.

Community development also helps build local capacity to act, which in turn can lead to stronger and more cohesive communities.

Figure 1.5 shows examples of common initiatives emerging from each Table.

Figure 1.5: Common Community Action Table initiatives

PRIORITY RISKS	COMMUNITY ACTION TABLE INITIATIVES
Mental well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve access and awareness of services available in the community• Strengthen culturally-relevant services by working with local service providers and people with experience• Use Service Navigators to help individuals and families access key supports and services• Create Youth Mental Health Peer Support Teams
Housing stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold education workshops on issues related to housing (e.g., tenancy rights, eviction prevention, housing options, financial literacy)• Develop mobile, multi-sectoral, integrated response models to support people experiencing issues related to homelessness• Explore developing a Roommate Connector Program to support safe and effective roommate matching
Economic stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsor job fairs in the community and attract local businesses to participate in them• Create a Pathways Program for Youth to explore higher education and pathways to employment• Host employment readiness workshops with a focus on transitional supports, coaching, interview skills, and resume writing

What’s ahead and how we will make progress:

- The Community Action Tables will be supported and strengthened to enable them to effectively develop and implement actions that they have identified. This involves pursuing sustainable sources of funding to support the operation of the Tables and specific projects driven by them
- The Region will work with partners, including York Regional Police and local municipalities, to provide strategic, logistical and operational support to the Community Action Tables, including setting the strategic direction through the Plan, ensuring a level of consistency in governance, measurement and evaluation of activities, facilitating and supporting knowledge exchange on promising practices, and offering training and development opportunities to those involved in the Tables
- As the Plan unfolds, we anticipate membership of the Community Action Tables will evolve and expand, as we strive for planning, action and decision-making to be inclusive and community-centred

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Leveraging strengths, and bridging gaps where they exist

KEY ACTIONS



Community safety and well-being planning builds on great work already happening across communities, including Regional and local municipal plans and strategies. This Plan leverages existing community assets – and will help build new ones, if needed – to understand and address issues and gaps.

What we have done and can build on:

- Community Action Tables have initiated asset mapping to identify existing resources and strengths within their communities. These maps will inform and support their solutions and actions
- There are existing navigation systems, such as York Region’s Access York and FindHelp Information Services (211), to connect residents to programs and services. We have heard through consultations that these assets can be strengthened further to address gaps in access and navigation

What is an asset map?

Asset mapping includes identification, data collection and mapping the locations of community assets, including local institutions, organizations, services and resident associations that serve as positive community resources in a focus area.

What are Children, Youth and Families Situation Tables?

Children, Youth and Families Situation Tables bring together diverse service providers to collaborate and mobilize appropriate short-term interventions to address situations of Acutely Elevated Risk (AER), which are situations that indicate a high probability of harm. These Tables aim to increase community safety and well-being by responding to situations of AER before crisis occurs.

Resources to implement these Tables, and participation at the Tables, come from a variety of sources (e.g., police, provincial government, local municipality, community agencies), in the form of funding and in-kind support.

What’s ahead and how we will make progress:

- Community Action Tables will continue to refine and leverage the asset maps they are developing, keep them current and distribute to residents, service providers and navigators that serve the focus area. These maps will help improve resident and service provider awareness of resources available in the community, making it easier to access them
- Under the Plan, the Region will work with partners to identify, promote and help strengthen service access and navigation tools
- Multi-sector planning and response tables, such as Children, Youth and Families Situation Tables, will be established to help improve service navigation and support residents who are experiencing vulnerability
- The Plan will leverage existing plans and programs to test and adapt services. For example, Regional and local plans and programs establish a strong framework and foundation for understanding and addressing the issues that are important to residents of the focus areas. Examples include:
 - York Region’s 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, [Housing Solutions: A Place for Everyone](#), [York Region Economic Development Action Plan: 2020 to 2023](#), [The Inclusion Charter for York Region](#) and [York Regional Police Business Plan: Our roadmap for 2020 to 2022](#)
 - Georgina’s [Economic Strategy and Action Plan](#)
 - Newmarket’s [Council Strategic Priorities](#)
 - Richmond Hill’s [Affordable Housing Strategy](#)
 - Markham’s [Diversity Action Plan](#)

Young Creatives
C O M M U N I T Y
SPOTLIGHT



ACUTELY - THE COMPLEX
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN. A
PLACE THAT WILL ALWAYS
FEEL LIKE HOME. WHERE MY
FONDEST MEMORIES RESIDE.
A CHILDHOOD LIKE NO OTHER.
A PLACE WHERE LIFELONG
BONDS WERE BUILT.
138 YORKLAND STREET
AKA CRESCENT VILLAGE
AKA THE COMPLEX

The Complex - Jamal Omar, 20, student, studying photography

- Community safety and well-being is about loving where you come from and embracing your neighbourhood and community members.

- My art is a photo & poem. Pictured in the photo is a lawyer, poet and community activist talking about how much his neighbourhood (Crescent Village Housing, 138 Yorkland St. Richmond Hill, ON) means to him.

- *Jamal*

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Targeting efforts to communities that can benefit the most

KEY ACTIONS

- Using data, advance place-based planning and actions in identified focus areas: northern Georgina, central Newmarket, south-central Richmond Hill and south-central Markham
- Working with partners and informed by data and evidence, scale up successful initiatives to other communities in York Region, where needed

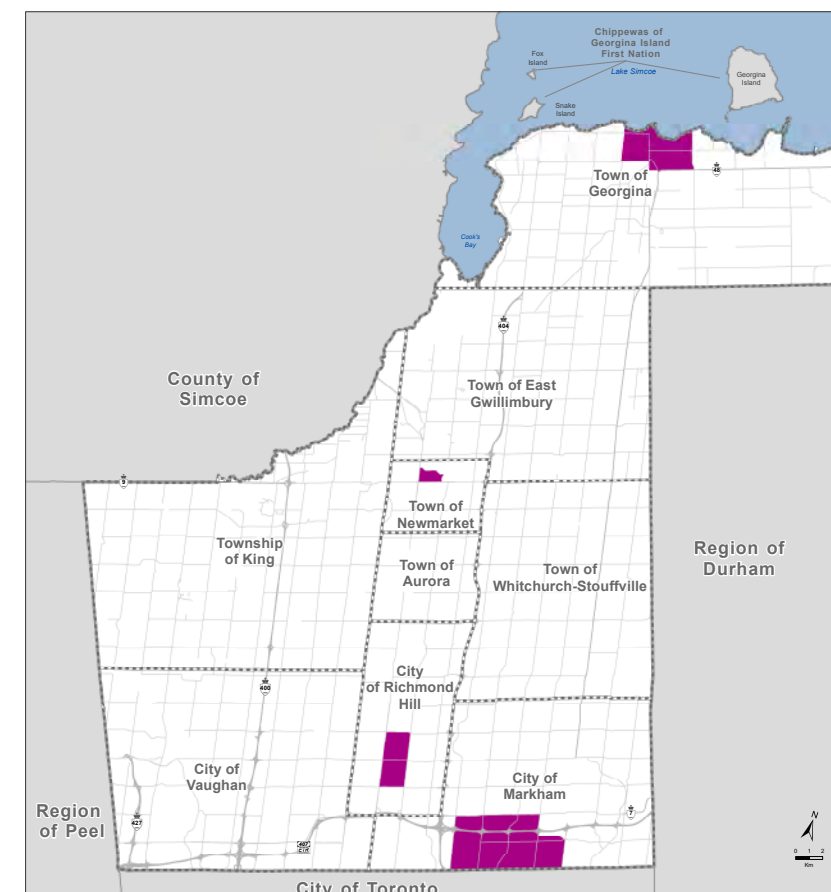
Place-based initiatives aim to achieve change by bringing cross-sector organizations together to address the underlying causes of complex social problems in a more holistic and collaborative way. Place-based planning is central to the Plan. It concentrates on areas of highest opportunity and shifts focus to communities that can benefit most from targeted planning and action.

We can leverage targeted actions we roll out in the focus areas, apply what we learn and scale up successful practices to other communities that may benefit most.

What we have done and can build on:

- We analyzed population and program data and consulted with the community to identify areas to focus on for the first iteration of the Plan
- The focus areas identified and approved by Council are northern Georgina, central Newmarket, south-central Richmond Hill and south-central Markham, highlighted in Figure 1.6. Information about these communities can be found in Appendices 1 to 4

Figure 1.6: Community safety and well-being focus areas



What's ahead and how we will make progress:

- Place-based planning and actions will be driven by the work of the Community Action Table in each of the focus areas, engaging with key partners and leveraging assets to address local issues
- As the Plan is rolled out, we will monitor the performance of place-based initiatives and look for opportunities to scale up successful projects to other York Region communities. This will help increase impact across the Region
- We will use evidence from data and community surveys, supported by consultations with community partners, to inform consideration of new focus areas for future iterations of the Plan

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Focusing on top opportunities for action, and prioritizing preventative initiatives

KEY ACTIONS



Address priority issues related to mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability through preventative solutions

Supported by data, consultations in the four focus areas provided opportunities to delve deeper into community concerns and obtain perspective on the issues residents felt were influencing their safety and well-being. Community members identified and prioritized the top risks of greatest concern in each focus area (Figure 1.7).

Figure 1.7: Priority risks by focus area



Mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability issues have long-term impacts on safety and well-being. The good news is these issues can improve with targeted actions, including initiatives designed to shift focus from response to prevention. Under the Plan, the first priority and set of actions focus on understanding and implementing preventative actions, to avoid more costly interventions down the road.

What we have done and can build on:

- The Community Action Tables engaged their communities to better understand the issues and factors influencing the priority risks for their focus areas
- The Tables identified preventative solutions based on local context and collective actions. Actions for each of the focus areas are in Appendices 1 to 4

What is ahead and how we will make progress:

- Community Action Tables will further develop, refine and implement their local plans, and measure the effectiveness of their actions. This process will involve engaging local stakeholders, including residents and service providers, to generate innovative ideas, and design and roll out initiatives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

Setting up for success by mobilizing resources and collaborating to drive change

KEY ACTIONS



For the Plan to succeed, dialogue and planning must translate into action. Leveraging existing resources is a good start, but Community Action Tables are identifying actions that require new and additional funding and policy supports. York Region will mobilize resources, including funding, so that actions, including those from the Community Action Tables, can be appropriately planned and successfully implemented.

What we have done and can build on:

- Changes to the Region's Community Investment Fund approved in Fall 2021 have enabled the program to serve as a funding source to support implementation of the Plan. The Fund is currently helping support the operation of the Community Action Tables
- Other partners have introduced resources to support the Community Action Tables. For example, United Way Greater Toronto has distributed Quick Action Grants for initial projects driven by local residents and agencies participating in the Community Action Tables
- Regional staff have been working with partners to actively pursue funding from different levels of government to support implementation of the Plan

What's ahead and how we will make progress:

- As specific projects are developed and finalized by Community Action Tables, the Region's Community Investment Fund can serve as a potential funding source
- The Region will work with partners to establish and manage a Funders Table, which will include other funders, organizations and community stakeholders, potentially including partners from the private sector where appropriate, to provide resources and align investments for greater impact
- Partners will continue to pursue additional sources of funding, from different levels of government, to support implementation of community actions and initiatives
- As required and where appropriate, the Region, Community Action Table participants and other partners will advocate to the provincial and federal governments for broad policy and program change to enhance community safety and well-being



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

Delivering the Plan and building on success

KEY ACTIONS



To support effective and coordinated roll-out of the Plan, the Region will play a critical stewardship role, working with partners to implement the Plan while taking the lead on coordinating overall strategic direction and providing management and oversight for the Plan. Through this, we will continue to work closely with partners and listen to what residents tell us, putting the community at the heart of safety and well-being planning.

What we have done and can build on:

- We engaged with and received direction from York Regional Council throughout the development of the Plan
- We also engaged the HSPB (the Advisory Committee for the Plan), York Regional Police, York Regional Police Services Board, and Mayors and staff of the four focus area municipalities
- We started to put in place Regional resources to support the implementation and evolution of the Plan, including evaluation, monitoring and reporting activities to track performance and outcomes
- The Community Action Tables that have been initiated reflect diverse membership, including key community partners and leaders. These partnerships will be critical in the successful implementation and evolution of the Plan

What's ahead and how we will make progress:

- The Region will steward and implement the Plan, including evaluating and reporting on progress, in collaboration with partners
- To help monitor performance of the Plan and identify areas of success that we can leverage, and issues we need to address, the Region will establish a multi-sectoral Evaluation Group to assess performance of the Plan and advise on possible improvements
- The Region, Community Action Table participants and partners will engage the community to raise awareness of the Plan, identify and foster opportunities for involvement, and build support for the Plan



04

Measuring Impact and Outcomes

Change does not happen overnight. Community development requires time, collective effort and commitment. Measuring progress is an important aspect of this work and imperative to the Plan’s success. It will tell us about issues across the Region that are negatively impacting safety and well-being and demonstrate progress in improving conditions across communities so everyone can thrive.

To assess whether the work is making a difference, we will use a results-based accountability framework, consisting of quantitative community (population) indicators and performance measures, and qualitative data from community surveys and consultations. Community indicators can measure the safety and well-being of the communities, while performance measures help us understand the performance and impact of specific programs/initiatives.

Community indicators – for safety and well-being broadly, and those related to the priority risks of mental well-being, housing stability and economic stability – are shown in Figure 1.8. The directions identified in, and driven by, the Plan should, over time, help move the needle on safety and well-being indicators, both within focus areas and across the Region.

Performance measures identified for specific programs/initiatives can be found in Appendices 1 to 4. The Community Action Tables will develop and refine performance measures as new actions are identified, and existing ones evolve, under their Community Action Plans.

What is results-based accountability (RBA)?

RBA is a disciplined way of thinking and acting to improve complex social problems. It consists of community accountability and performance accountability measures.



Figure 1.8 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region - Indicators

Domain	Indicator Title	Indicator	Data Source
Community Well-Being	Sense of belonging to local community	% of residents who report very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging to local community	York Region’s Annual Community Opinion Report
	Quality of life	% of residents who rate quality of life in York Region as excellent or good	York Region’s Annual Community Opinion Report
Community Safety	Crime rate	Crime rate per 100,000 population	York Regional Police’s Annual Statistics Report
	Hate crime	Total # of hate crime incidents % of total hate crime incidents where principal motivation factor is race/ ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation	York Regional Police’s Annual Statistics Report
	Perception of safety	% of residents who rate York Region as a very or somewhat safe place to live	York Region’s Annual Community Opinion Report
Mental Health	Self-reported mental health status	% of residents who rate their mental health as very good or excellent	Canadian Community Health Survey
	Mental health-related dispatched calls for York Regional Police service	# of calls related to mental health and share of all dispatched calls for service	York Regional Police’s Annual Statistics Report
Housing Stability	Housing unaffordability	% of tenant and owner households spending 30% or more of total household income on shelter costs	Statistics Canada’s Census
	Core housing need	% of tenant and owner households living in core housing need	Statistics Canada’s Census
	Perception of housing unaffordability	% of residents who report somewhat or strongly disagree that they can afford housing in York Region	York Region’s Annual Community Opinion Report
Economic Stability	Low income	% of residents who are living with low-income	Statistics Canada’s Centre for Income and Socioeconomic Well-being Statistics, T1 Family Files
	Unemployment rate	% of labour force who are unemployed	Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey
	Perception of personal financial situation	% of residents who report their personal financial situation is a lot or a bit better than last year	York Region’s Annual Community Opinion Report

*Note: Indicators may be revised (e.g., new metrics introduced that better capture progress and outcomes, both across the Region and in the focus areas) as the Plan is rolled out.

To follow progress and for more information, please visit York Region’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan [website](#).

05

Conclusion

York Region's first Community Safety and Well-Being Plan benefits from the valuable insights and experiences of several partners across the human services sector who recognize the important need for collaborative planning and efforts to enhance resident and community safety and well-being.

The Plan provides a solid foundation for proactive, locally-driven, targeted actions that respond to the unique and evolving needs and build on the strengths of York Region's diverse and thriving communities.

Looking ahead, the Plan includes an implementation pathway that leverages the momentum we have established for collective impact, bringing together partners and mobilizing resources to implement actions that will make a positive difference in York Region's communities. As we implement the Plan, we will monitor promising practices, learn from them and look to scale them up to other communities and contexts.

We will rely on data, evidence and results of the actions we and our partners undertake to review and update the Plan regularly, and make sure it continues to respond to changing needs as we continue to foster strong, safe, caring communities in York Region.



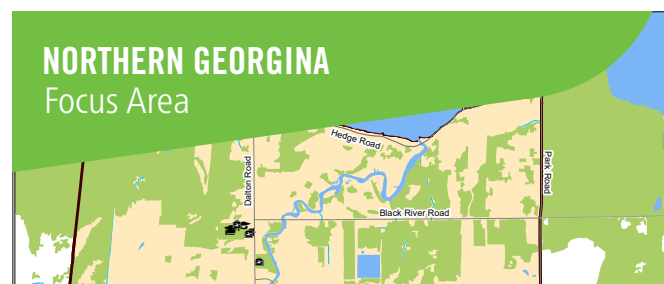
06 APPENDICES

Community Action Plans 2022 - 2026

Community Action Plans have been developed by each Community Action Table, which includes residents, community agencies, municipal and police staff, and other stakeholders. The Action Plans identify initiatives that can be implemented within each focus area. The initiatives are intended to address priority needs identified by the community, foster engagement, collaboration and partnerships, and improve quality and access to services residents need.

Some of the initiatives in the Community Action Plans will be implemented more immediately, building on planning and initial actions that are already underway. As community partners work together to move actions from the idea stage to the implementation stage, residents can expect to see and benefit from these early initiatives (identified as "Early Actions for 2022", towards the end of each Community Action Plan section), paving the way for more activities as the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan rolls out.

APPENDIX 1



Community Action Table Partners

ACCES Employment
CAYR Community Connections
Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
Family Services York Region
Job Skills
JVS Toronto
Routes Connecting Communities
Residents
Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region
Social Planning Council York Region
Southlake Community Ontario Health Team
The Town of Georgina
York Region District School Board
York Region Transit
York Regional Police
York University

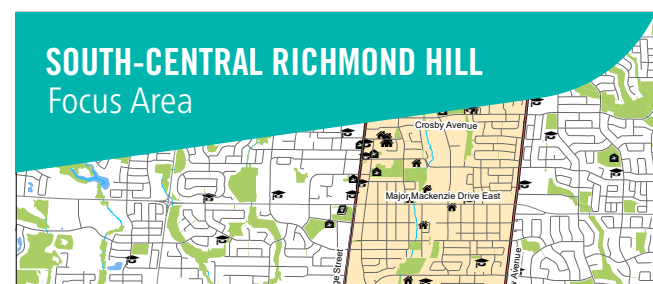
APPENDIX 2



Community Action Table Partners

Blue Door
Canadian Mental Health Association York Region and South Simcoe
John Howard Society of York Region
Krasman Centre
LOFT Community Services/Crosslinks
Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association
Newmarket Church of Christ
Maple Leaf Public School
Residents
Social Planning Council York Region
Southlake Community Ontario Health Team
The Town of Newmarket
United Way Greater Toronto
York Region District School Board
York Regional Police
York Support Services Network

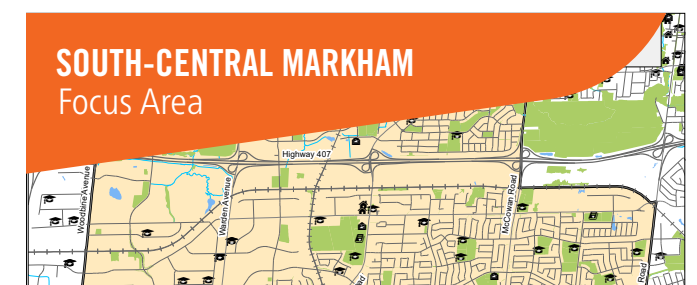
APPENDIX 3



Community Action Table Partners

360°Kids
Autism Ontario
Blue Door
Canadian Centre for Men and Families
Canadian Mental Health Association York Region and South Simcoe
Catholic Community Services of York Region
Centre of Equality Rights in Accommodation
CHATS-Community & Home Assistance to Seniors
Family Services York Region
Home on the Hill Supportive Housing and Services
Krasman Centre
L'Arche Daybreak
OnRichmond Hill
Residents
Richmond Hill Online Resident Community
Richmond Hill Umbrella Residents Group
Richmond Hill United Church
The City of Richmond Hill
United Way Greater Toronto
Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area
Welcome Centre Immigrant Services
York Region District School Board
York Regional Police
York Support Services Network

APPENDIX 4



Community Action Table Partners

105 Gibson Centre
360°Kids
Agincourt Community Services Association
Canadian Mental Health Association York Region and South Simcoe
Care First Ontario
Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
Centre of Equality Rights in Accommodation
Ebenezer United Church
Family Services York Region
John Howard Society of York Region
Markham Stouffville Hospital
Residents
Social Services Network
The City of Markham
The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association
United Way Greater Toronto
Volunteer Markham
Yellow Brick House
York Catholic District School Board
York Region District School Board
York Regional Police
York University





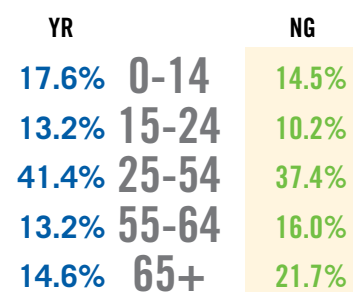
Northern Georgina (NG) is a community of 6,826 people. Data shows that there is a high population of seniors (65+). Residents tend to report poor overall health in this area, and it can be difficult to access health services without a car. There is a high percentage of Indigenous people compared to the York Region average. While residents in this area tend to have a diploma, certificate or degree, the percentage of residents living with low income is relatively high.

Population



All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

BY AGE



CITIZENSHIP STATUS



KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



	YR	NG
English Only	87.7%	94.5%
French Only	0%	0%
English & French	6.6%	4.8%
No English or French	5.6%	0.7%

TOP 5 NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SPOKEN MOST OFTEN AT HOME



Russian Mandarin Cantonese Tamil Gujarati

Housing



HOUSING OWNERSHIP

	YR	NG
Owned Households	85.8%	81.5%
Tenant Households	14.2%	18.5%

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

York Region	North Georgina
3.1	2.4

SELECTED FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

	YR	NG
Lone-Parent Households	13.8%	18.9%
Multiple Family Households	5.7%	2.6%

% PAYING 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING

	YR	NG
Owned Households	28.1%	27%
Tenant Households	51.8%	57%

	YR	NG
RESIDENTS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS	4.5%	7.1%

Income



	YR	NG
AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL INCOME	\$50,997	\$40,512

LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

York Region	North Georgina
16.9%	20.4%

Education



AGED 25-64 YEARS

	YR	NG
Less than High School	7.5%	14%
High School or Equivalent	19.5%	30%
Post-Secondary Certificate Diploma or Degree	73%	56%

All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

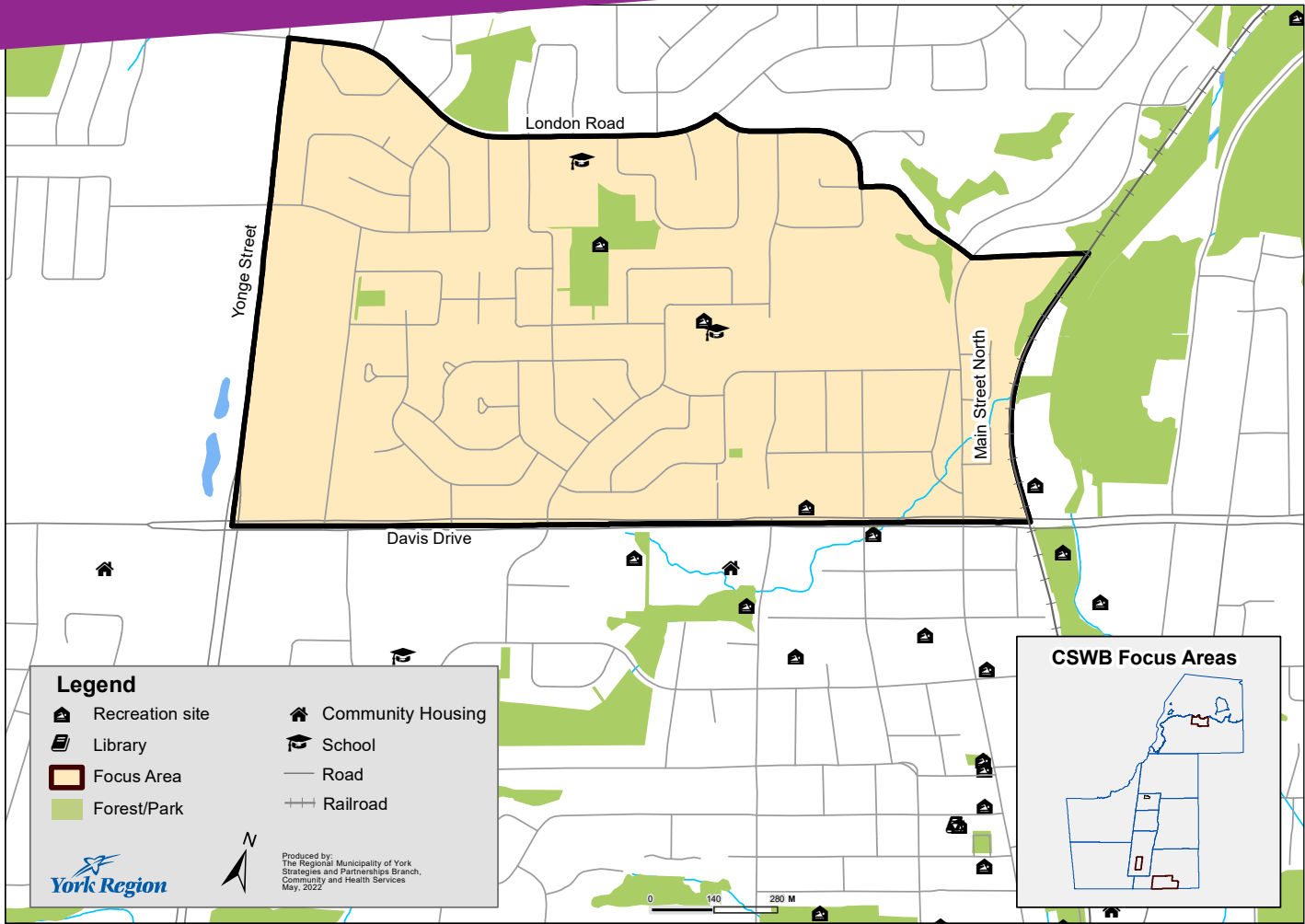
Northern Georgina - Community Action Plan 2022 to 2026

Actions*	ST	MT	LT
Mental Well-Being			
1. Conduct a resident mental well-being survey to inform community projects and service delivery	●		
2. Create and maintain a community resource Asset Map	●		
3. Share resources to increase access to information and connections to mental health supports	●		
4. Improve coordination and integration of services with established community networks	●		
5. Build partnerships across the focus area for referrals and supports	●		
6. Build Resident-led Ambassador Groups to encourage resident participation in CAT actions	●		
7. Host social and cultural inclusion activities (e.g., community kitchens, free tax clinics, festivals, peer-support groups, and coffee chats for parents)	●		
8. Create Youth Peer Support Teams in local high schools		●	
9. Partner with school boards to explore opportunities to address mental well-being			●
10. Offer Mental Health First Aid Training in a variety of community settings		●	
11. Create more in-person Substance Use and Addiction Workshops		●	
12. Explore opportunities to increase access to the Parent Support Program		●	
13. Explore opportunities to offer Grief Counselling Training to community and grassroot organizations		●	
14. Explore options to increase Mental Health Workers in the community			●
15. Explore alternative funding and service models for mental health			●
16. Develop a Food Program model that adapts to cultures, offering diverse foods		●	
17. Partner with local farmers to address local food security			●
18. Find more accessible spaces for communities (e.g., community gardens)		●	
19. Explore expanding accessible transportation in Georgina			●
Economic Stability			
20. Work with local service providers to review and strengthen culturally-relevant services, including delivery in multiple languages	●		
21. Host Employment Readiness Workshops with a focus on transitional supports, coaching, interview skills, and resume writing	●		
22. Develop Employment Training and Support Program for people living with developmental/mental health issues	●		
23. Conduct Employer Workshops with a focus on preparing the workplace for a diverse range of workers (e.g., youth, women, Indigenous, newcomer, etc.) and job shadowing/coaching opportunities	●		
24. Sponsor/support local Job Fairs	●		
25. Establish partnerships to promote local job creation including youth employment opportunities	●		
26. Create Pathways Programs for Youth to explore higher education and pathways to employment		●	
27. Develop Youth Peer Mentorship Program		●	
28. Explore developing Youth Business Program with partners		●	
29. Host Career Training Workshops targeted for young women		●	
30. Explore Paid Internship/Apprenticeship Program with schools and colleges		●	
31. Explore developing a program to support single mothers to obtain education and employment			●
32. Conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a Working Centre for Northern Georgina	●		
33. Advocate for work incentives/bonus to start work		●	
34. Advocate for a livable wage			●
35. Partner with stakeholders on transportation for employment reasons, incentives for hiring locally, training and apprenticeship programs for skilled workers, and subsidies for working mothers			●

*Short-term (ST) actions are intended to be initiated in the focus area within the first year of the 4-year planning cycle, medium-term (MT) within 2 years, long-term (LT) within the last 3-4 years. Once initiated, actions may be ongoing. Details on how the CAT will deliver some early actions in 2022 can be found on the next page.

Northern Georgina - Early Actions for 2022

Action	Action Description	Performance Measures
Mental Well-Being		
Mental Well-being Engagement Events	Through the provision of community kitchens, tax clinics, weekly community luncheons, and festivals, residents will receive resources to improve awareness of community services available throughout Georgina.	# residents and partners engaged # events
Youth Peer Support Teams in Schools	Through the identification, training and support of youth peer workers, the youth peer support teams will hold monthly awareness building sessions in the local community.	# peer workers recruited and trained # youth engaged # sessions
Enhanced Community Resource Asset Map	Raise awareness of resources and supports available in Georgina through the creation and maintenance of a resource asset map. Community ambassadors and other resident leaders will lead this project, including the development of a marketing strategy.	# resources identified # focus groups # surveys administered # sessions # residents engaged
Economic Stability		
Community Job Fairs	Coordinate with agencies hosting job fairs, collaborate to host a larger Spring and Fall job fair. Create and implement a marketing strategy using community ambassadors to promote the job fairs.	# employers recruited # residents participated # partners engaged - Surveys pre and post job fair – resident participants - Surveys pre and post job fair – employer participants
Employment Readiness Workshops	Host workshops for local residents focused on transitional supports, coaching, interview skills, resume preparation etc., to increase the likelihood of job seekers finding meaningful employment.	# residents trained # residents and partners engaged # workshops
Employers Workshops	Host workshops with a focus on preparing the workplace for a diverse range of workers (i.e., youth, women, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, mature job seekers). Local employers will gain an understanding of barriers and/or gaps in their workplaces.	# workshops # employers surveyed and trained - Greater than 80% of the employers participating in the workshop express a greater understanding of how to better prepare their workplace for a diverse range of workers
Feasibility Study	Conduct research (site visits and interviews) on Working Centre models across Ontario. The research will explore the establishment of a multi-service Working Centre in North Georgina that will provide a variety of services/programs to support socio-economic needs. Residents will provide input and develop ownership on the approach for a future organization aimed to assist them with their basic needs (food, employment, participation, training, advocacy, etc.).	# residents engaged Final report developed

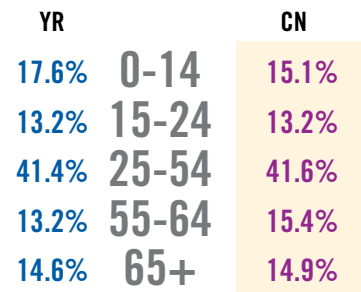


Central Newmarket (CN) is a community of 4,978 people. Data shows that the largest age group is adults aged 25 to 54. A high percentage of Indigenous people live in this area compared to the York Region average. The number of lone-parent families is higher than the York Region average. Renter households are three times higher (46.2%) than the York Region average (14.2%). Approximately 83% have high school or equivalent education..

Population



BY AGE

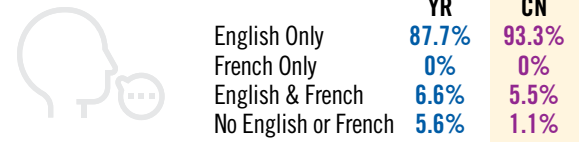


CITIZENSHIP STATUS

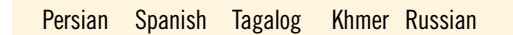


All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

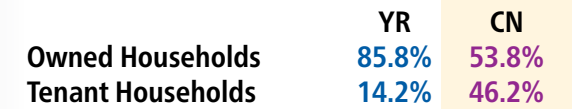


TOP 5 NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
SPOKEN MOST OFTEN AT HOME



Housing

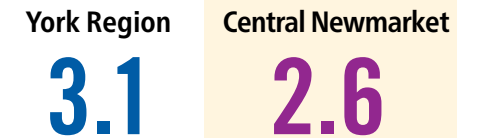
HOUSING OWNERSHIP



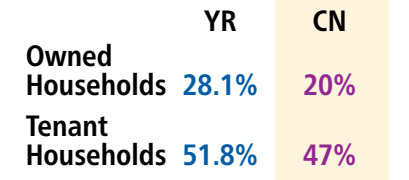
SELECTED FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS



AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD



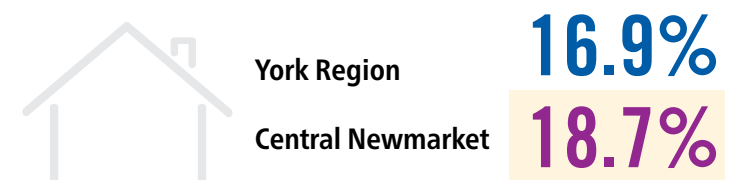
% PAYING 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING



Income



LOW INCOME RESIDENTS



Education

AGED 25-64 YEARS



All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

Central Newmarket - Community Action Plan 2022 to 2026

Actions*	ST	MT	LT
Mental Well-Being			
1. Create a Community Bulletin Board Program to provide frequent updates on community programs	●		
2. Create and maintain a community resource Asset Map	●		
3. Develop a Service Fair Roadshow to support access and awareness of services	●		
4. Develop a Resident Champion Program to provide education and mentoring for service navigation		●	
5. Develop self-serve program to improve service navigation (e.g., hotline, directory for mental health and housing, which are the priority risks in this focus area)		●	
6. Create community connections and host mental health events in collaboration with partners	●		
7. Create child/youth-specific community programming with schools to support after-school engagement		●	
8. Explore options to provide additional interpretation services (e.g., for parents to connect with teachers) and increase culturally-accessible information (e.g., translation services)	●		
9. Engage youth in opportunities to volunteer and offer support to the community		●	
10. Create peer/community mentorship opportunities to share skills, and encourage learning	●		
11. Host workshops to support skill building and community learning (e.g., CPR, financial planning, etc.)	●		
12. Adapt available spaces for multi-use (e.g., using school yard for community ice rink, parking lot for events)	●		
13. Increase access to recreation programming and space		●	
14. Increase access to green spaces to connect residents		●	
15. Explore using the Street Outreach Van to offer new services (e.g., clinician support)		●	
16. Increase affordable transit (e.g., funding additional routes to key community resources such as food pantry, community centres, etc.)		●	
17. Assess need and options to increase street lighting to promote safe pedestrian engagement	●		
Housing Stability			
18. Provide education/awareness workshops (e.g., legal clinic, financial literacy, tenant rights, etc.)	●		
19. Explore partnerships to support residents to understand their housing options	●		
20. Identify people at risk and make connections to them (e.g., referral system to support proactive outreach)	●		
21. Increase availability of Housing Support Service Workers to help residents navigate and access services		●	
22. Create a centralized community hub for social services which addresses short and long-term needs			●
23. Explore Roommate Connector Program to support safe and effective roommate matching		●	
24. Explore shared living space programs (e.g., with seniors and youth) and options to adopt and support symbiotic relationships			●
25. Explore options to help landlords increase building maintenance quality	●		
26. Explore options to support privacy in congregate living settings	●		
27. Collaborate with partners to understand barriers to increasing housing supply and Advocate for change (e.g., housing coalition, new affordable housing, by-laws to regulate accessible housing processes)			●
28. Increase safety monitoring of neighbourhood (e.g., implement Community Watch Program to complement police services)		●	
29. Explore opportunities to improve safer living and community spaces		●	
30. Enhance supports for vulnerable residents (e.g., childcare signup, meal delivery, Tool Lending Program)		●	
31. Partner with local farmers/grocery stores to create low-cost food access opportunities (e.g., farmers market at school parking lot)		●	
32. Support vulnerable residents by exploring options to increase access to cell phones with prepaid minutes and food gift cards	●		
33. Increase access to resources through additional mobility shuttles and service locations		●	

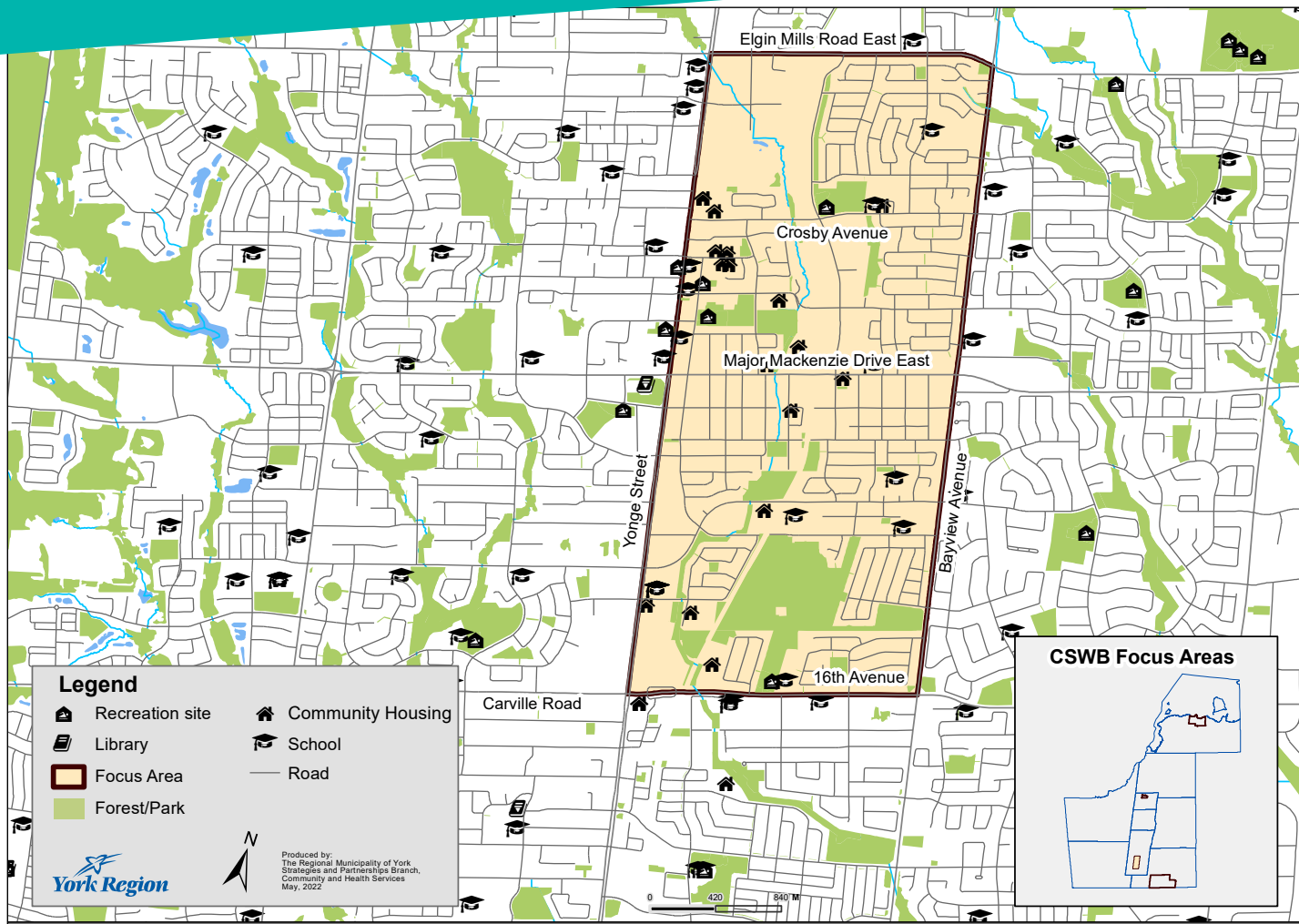
*Short-term (ST) actions are intended to be initiated in the focus area within the first year of the 4-year planning cycle, medium-term (MT) within 2 years, long-term (LT) within the last 3-4 years. Once initiated, actions may be ongoing. Details on how the CAT will deliver some early actions in 2022 can be found on the next page.

Central Newmarket - Early Actions for 2022

Action	Action Description	Performance Measures
Mental Well-Being		
Child Focused Mental Wellness Awareness Workshops	Organize and facilitate mental health workshops with accompanying resources (i.e., for service navigation) for students at local schools (e.g., Maple Leaf Public School and Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School).	# partners, children, teachers engaged # workshops
Adult Focused Service Navigation Workshop Series	Organize and facilitate a service navigation workshop series for community residents. Workshop will take place at upcoming community events and in existing community programs.	# partners, residents engaged # workshops # of different events and programs where workshops were held
Senior Focused Service Navigation Workshop Series	Organize and facilitate workshops for seniors with accompanying resources (e.g., for service navigation) at a location in the community (e.g., Newmarket Senior’s Meeting Place, Chartwell Alexander Muir Retirement).	# partners, residents engaged # workshops # of locations where workshops were held
Housing Stability		
Community-based Housing Supports Drop-Ins	Arrange community-based service providers to set-up a booth at upcoming community events and community programs to hold drop-in support sessions.	# partners, residents engaged # support sessions # of different events and programs where sessions were held
Housing Rights Community Information Session	Organize and facilitate multiple information sessions for residents about housing rights and options across the community. Through this initiative, there will be increased knowledge, understanding and access to relevant resources for community members related to housing information and essential needs through providing information as well as onsite direct referrals and connections to services.	# partners, residents engaged # workshops
Community Financial Literacy Education Sessions and Community Led Free Tax Clinics	Host education sessions aimed at increasing understanding of financial literacy and supports, to increase knowledge about existing community-based service providers as well as to assist people with tax filing and problem-solving with the goal of increasing household finances from tax benefits.	# partners, residents engaged # financial literacy workshops # tax clinics

SOUTH-CENTRAL RICHMOND HILL

Community Profile



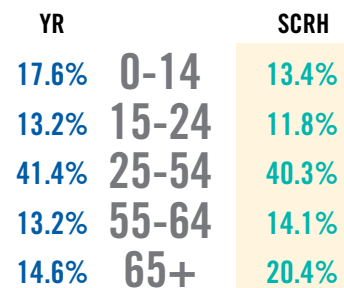
South-central Richmond Hill (SCRH) is a community of 25,988 people. Data shows that the largest age group is adults aged 25 to 54. There is a high population of seniors (65+), and the number of lone-parent families is higher than the York Region average. While residents in this area tend to have a diploma, certificate or degree, the percentage of residents living with low income is relatively high, suggesting that some residents may be underemployed.

Population



All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

BY AGE



CITIZENSHIP STATUS



KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

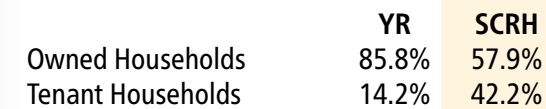


TOP 5 NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SPOKEN MOST OFTEN AT HOME

Persian Cantonese Russian Mandarin Arabic

Housing

HOUSING OWNERSHIP



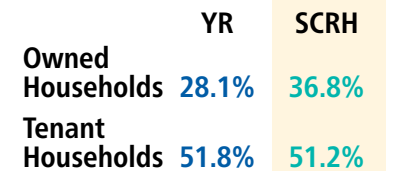
SELECTED FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS



AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD



% PAYING 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING



Income

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL INCOME



LOW INCOME RESIDENTS



Education

AGED 25-64 YEARS



All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

South-central Richmond Hill - Community Action Plan 2022 to 2026

Actions*	ST	MT	LT
Mental Well-Being			
1. Finalize and maintain a comprehensive asset map of services to share with residents and partners	●		
2. Examine and support how institutions and organizations are making their services culturally-relevant (e.g., race, language, ethnicity)	●		
3. Explore options for increasing culturally-accessible information (e.g., translation services)	●		
4. Create list of community spaces available for community use	●		
5. Create a Community Bulletin Board Program to provide frequent updates regarding community programs and services	●		
6. Develop Mobile Service Program to better coordinate services with partners and build resident awareness of resources and services	●		
7. Develop Little Libraries and arts programs to connect with residents	●		
8. Implement youth and other community engagement events about mental health and substance use	●		
9. Use community gardens and green spaces to connect with residents	●		
10. Increase low-cost/free Recreation Programming for youth and adults			●
11. Negotiate use of space to offer services (e.g., library, mall)	●		
12. Examine, co-create, and execute a culturally-relevant Campaign that can reframe mental health as health (e.g., public awareness/anti-stigma, education to support mental health literacy for all)			●
13. Increase availability and visibility of Support Workers within the community		●	
14. Expand Food Donation and Delivery programs to support food stability	●		
15. Identify local shower facilities for people experiencing homelessness	●		
16. Explore need for and possible locations of Safe Injection Sites and Needle Exchange	●		
17. Increase safety monitoring of neighbourhood (e.g., implementing trauma-informed Community Watch Program to complement police services)		●	
18. Examine options for increased Street Lighting at night	●		
19. Increase LGBTQ2+ signage throughout community	●		
Housing Stability			
20. Provide education/awareness workshops, and develop and deliver communication campaigns to improve awareness of housing supports (e.g., legal clinic, financial literacy, tenant rights)	●		
21. Identify people at risk and make connections to them (e.g., referral system to support outreach)	●		
22. Explore developing Roommate Connector Program to support safe and effective roommate matching		●	
23. Increase availability of Housing Support Workers to help residents navigate and access services		●	
24. Enhance supports for vulnerable residents (e.g., sign-up for childcare, meal delivery shifts, community Tool Lending Program)		●	
25. Collaborate with partners to understand barriers to increasing housing supply and advocate for change (e.g., housing coalition, new affordable housing options, by-laws to regulate accessible housing)			●
26. Explore options to work with partners to improve housing quality (e.g., Landlord Education and Maintenance Incentives)			●

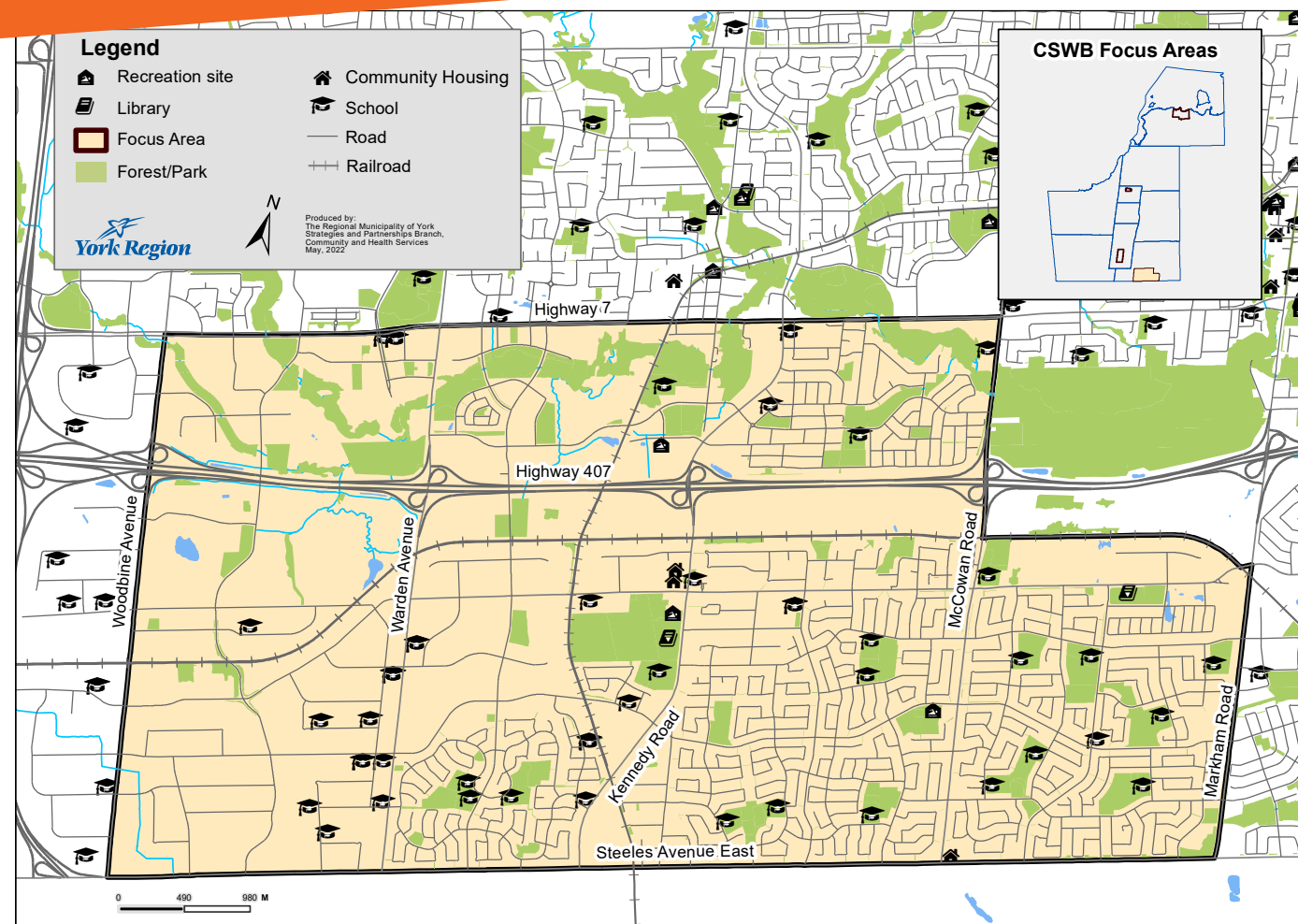
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South-central Richmond Hill Early Actions for 2022

Action	Action Description	Performance Measures
Mental Well-Being		
Community Photography Contest	<p>This project aims to promote connection to community and belonging through engaging residents in a photography contest within their neighbourhood, asking them to “show us what makes you feel at home in Richmond Hill”.</p> <p>This project will increase community resident engagement, connection to community and sense of belonging through participating in the contest via submissions, voting and experiencing displays. Ten viewing locations of submissions will be created with community partners.</p>	<p># submissions</p> <p># residents and partners engaged</p>
Youth Mental Health Workshop Series	Deliver Mental Health for Youth Workshops, to youth and school staff, to better support youth mental health. CAT partners will engage peer support/individuals with lived experience to support workshop content/delivery.	<p># partners, youth, teachers and community staff engaged</p> <p># workshops</p>
Housing Stability		
Housing Stability Education Week	Organize and facilitate multiple information sessions for residents about housing rights and options across the community. A locally driven marketing strategy will be created.	<p># partners, residents engaged</p> <p># support sessions</p> <p># of different events and programs where sessions were held</p>
Community-based Housing Supports Drop-Ins	Arrange community-based service providers to set-up a booth at upcoming community events and community programs to hold drop-in support sessions.	<p># support sessions</p> <p># residents and partners engaged</p> <p># of different events and programs where booths were set-up</p>
Creation of Language Friendly Housing Information Tools	Increase access to information about housing supports, options and rights by removing language barriers. Partners will identify top languages spoken in the focus area and utilize residents to identify trusted resources needing translation.	<p># residents engaged</p> <p># tools translated</p> <p># languages the tools were translated into</p>
Multi-Lingual Online Community Awareness Campaign	Community awareness campaign to inform residents where to find information about housing rights and options and connect with supports.	<p>Creation of Facebook advertisement campaign</p> <p># residents and partners engaged</p>

SOUTH-CENTRAL MARKHAM

Community Profile



South-central Markham (SCM) is a community of 79,561 people. Data shows that the largest age group is adults aged 25 to 54. Almost 93% of residents self-identify as visible minorities. The number of residents without knowledge of either of Canada's official languages is 12 percentage points higher than the York Region average, which may contribute to social/cultural isolation. Additionally, almost 29% of the population in this area lives with low income.

Population

York Region **TOTAL**
1,109,909

SOUTH-CENTRAL MARKHAM
79,561

All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

BY AGE

	YR	SCM
0-14	17.6%	14.6%
15-24	13.2%	13.7%
25-54	41.4%	42.4%
55-64	13.2%	14.3%
65+	14.6%	14.9%

% OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS

YR	0.5%
SCM	0.2%

CITIZENSHIP STATUS



SELF-IDENTIFIED VISIBLE MINORITIES 92.8%

KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English Only
French Only
English & French
No English or French

	YR	SCM
English Only	87.7%	78.8%
French Only	0%	0.1%
English & French	6.6%	3.5%
No English or French	5.6%	17.7%

TOP 5 NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES SPOKEN MOST OFTEN AT HOME

Cantonese Mandarin Tamil Urdu Punjabi

Housing

HOUSING OWNERSHIP

	YR	SCM
Owned Households	85.8%	81%
Tenant Households	14.2%	19%

SELECTED FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

	YR	SCM
Lone-Parent Households	13.8%	16.2%
Multiple Family Households	5.7%	15.5%

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

	York Region	South-central Markham
	3.1	3.5

% PAYING 30% OR MORE ON HOUSING

	YR	SCM
Owned Households	28.1%	36.4%
Tenant Households	51.8%	49.8%

RESIDENTS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

	YR	SCM
	4.5%	6.5%

Income

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL INCOME

	YR	SCM
	\$50,997	\$33,867

LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

	York Region	South-central Markham
	16.9%	28.8%

Education

AGED 25-64 YEARS

	YR	SCM
Less than High School	7.5%	27.1%
High School or Equivalent	19.5%	28.3%
Post-Secondary Certificate Diploma or Degree	73%	51.4%

All data covered in this profile is from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

South-central Markham - Community Action Plan 2022 to 2026

Actions*	ST	MT	LT
Mental Well-Being			
1. Conduct asset mapping to create an inventory of services and identify those that are culturally specific	●		
2. Implement a communication strategy to raise awareness of services and service navigation tools, such as FindHelp Information Services (211) and York Region’s Access York	●		
3. Engage residents of all cultures to better understand and address barriers to service access	●		
4. Explore the use of community space for programs and networking		●	
5. Help residents find services by creating a System Navigator role		●	
6. Find a centralized place where the System Navigator can connect residents to services		●	
7. Develop or enhance existing Student and Parent Ambassador Programs to support service navigation and build connections		●	
8. Enhance service coordination between community partners to support warm transfers			●
9. Host focus groups with service providers to develop new models of virtual/in-person service delivery	●		
10. Work with service providers to improve triage, reduce waitlists and provide rapid follow-up supports			●
11. Reduce stigma around mental well-being through public education and awareness		●	
12. Host events to bring people together and improve the community’s sense of belonging	●		
13. Identify and understand relationships across cultures (resident to resident) and develop a Culturally Diverse Stories Project about mental wellness	●		
14. Strengthen partnerships with faith-based and cultural organizations to better engage the community			●
15. Build resident civic engagement skills	●		
16. Advocate/create/support opportunities for community agencies and residents to participate in government decision-making			●
Housing Stability			
17. Create a platform to improve community outreach using social media		●	
18. Share information on resources and services at existing hubs, faith-based centres and libraries	●		
19. Educate tenants on their rights and build awareness of eviction prevention programs	●		
20. Host education and awareness building sessions on housing issues, (e.g., documenting lived experiences along the housing continuum)	●		
21. Examine service pathways to better understand and address barriers	●		
22. Initiate a Community Watch Program for vulnerable populations to complement police services		●	
23. Create opportunities for tenant-led initiatives and resident capacity building	●		
24. Conduct research to better understand issues surrounding second suite apartments	●		
25. Explore the use of spare bedrooms for temporarily housing community members		●	
26. Explore what is the long-term effect on infrastructure, revenue generation, etc. with illegal rentals			●
27. Examine how to integrate Community Action Table work with other organizations that have similar mandates (e.g., Affordable Housing Coalition)	●		
28. Advocate to implement the Rights to Housing Framework and bylaws to support housing affordability		●	

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South-central Markham – Early Actions for 2022

Action	Action Description	Performance Measures
Mental Well-Being		
Host focus groups with local service providers to develop new models of virtual/in-person service delivery	Engage residents and service providers to identify lessons learned and impacts of virtual mental health services. Create a best practice guide to support service providers in their planning as we transition out of COVID-19 response	# agencies engaged # residents engaged # of engagement sessions Development and distribution of best practice guide
Create an inventory and develop an ethno-specific service guide of mental well-being resources and services	Engage residents to learn about their experiences and knowledge of mental health and ethno-specific mental health services. Bring together York University research students/faculty, community ambassadors and agencies to support the creation of a community service guide	# of Outreach Activities # of residents engaged Development of Inventory, updated as appropriate # of residents engaged with service guide # of agencies engaged with service guide Development and distribution of service guide
Housing Stability		
Community Led Housing Stability Summit	Building off the annual City of Markham Housing Summit, host a Community Led Housing Summit, bringing together resident leaders, grassroots organizations for a day of action	# of grassroots organizations involved in planning # of grassroots organizations attended # of residents involved in planning # of residents attended # of agencies engaged/attending
Housing and Homelessness Awareness Building Campaign	Engage those with lived experience along the housing continuum through storytelling, where various materials will be created (e.g., videos, print, etc.) to raise awareness of these issues	# of Residents engaged in planning process # of residents reached # of materials/tools created and made available
Housing Support Workshops	Connect residents, partners and agencies to information about tenant rights and housing supports (e.g., eviction prevention and rent supplement programs)	# of workshops held # of residents reached # of partners engaged
Capacity Building to Support Civic Engagement	Build civic engagement skills to support community voices in informing policy decision making through workshops	# of workshops held # of residents reached # of partners engaged
Use community spaces, identified through asset mapping, for resident/ grassroots developed engagement tools in relation to housing supports	Consolidate resources and services into one large poster/flyer foldout/visual which supports housing knowledge without taking away multiple program flyers	# of spaces utilized # of resources consolidated # of residents reached



Regional Government Sector

- Wayne Emmerson**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Regional Municipality of York
- John Taylor**, Mayor, Town of Newmarket
- Mario Ferri**, Regional Councillor, City of Vaughan
- Jack Heath**, Regional Councillor, City of Markham, (HSPB Co-Chair)

Education Sector

- Eugene Pivato**, Associate Director of Education, York Catholic District School Board
- Cecil Roach**, Associate Director of Education, Equitable Outcomes and Schools, York Region District School Board
- Dr. Rhonda L. Lenton**, President and Vice-Chancellor, York University

Healthcare Sector

- David Stolte**, Vice President, Strategy and Redevelopment, Mackenzie Health
- Rebecca Shields**, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Mental Health Association York Region and South Simcoe, (HSPB Co-Chair)

Community Safety Sector

- Chief Jim MacSween**, York Regional Police
- Jennifer Fang**, The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Non-Profit Community Organizations Investment Sector

- Nation Cheong**, Senior Vice President, Community Opportunities and Mobilization, United Way Greater Toronto
- Michael Braithwaite**, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Door

Children, Youth and Family Services Sector

- Clovis Grant**, Chief Executive Officer, 360°kids
- Dean Rokos**, Chief Executive Officer, York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

Seniors/Healthy Aging Sector

- Christina Bisanz**, Chief Executive Officer, CHATS-Community & Home Assistance to Seniors

Training-Education/Labour Market/Business Community Sector

- Darryl Gray**, Director, Education and Training, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Chris Emanuel**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Newmarket Chamber of Commerce
- Al Wilson**, Executive Director, Workforce Planning Board of York Region

Community and Social Support Based-Services Sector

- Christin Cullen**, Executive Director, John Howard Society of York Region
- Medhat Mahdy**, President and Chief Executive Officer, YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Liora Sobel**, Executive Director, Women’s Centre of York Region
- Colleen Zakoor**, Executive Director, Community Living Central York

Advisors and Resources

- Charles Beer**, Principal, Counsel Public Affairs
- Debbie Gwilt-McPhail**, Service Delivery Manager (Acting), Ministry of Labour Labour, Training and Skills Development
- Daryl Chong**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Toronto Apartment Association
- Noor Din**, Chief Executive Officer, Human Endeavour
- Alfred Lam**, Executive Director, Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
- Nadia Venafro**, Affordable Housing Consultant, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation



APPENDIX 6

Key Social Determinants of Health



End Notes

- i Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General. Community safety and well-being planning framework: Booklet 3 – A shared commitments in Ontario. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/community-safety-and-well-being-planning-framework-booklet-3-shared-commitment-ontario>
- ii Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General. Community safety and well-being planning framework: Booklet 3 – A shared commitments in Ontario. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/community-safety-and-well-being-planning-framework-booklet-3-shared-commitment-ontario>
- iii The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology. (2009). Final Report of Senate Subcommittee on Population Health. A Healthy Productive Canada: a determinant of health approach. Retrieved from: <https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/402/popu/rep/rephealth1jun09-e.pdf>
- iv Created by Public Health Ontario in partnership with St. Michael's Hospital
- v Queensland Government, Place-based approaches. Retrieved from: <https://www.chde.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/place-based-approaches/place-based-approachesinformation-for-community-service-providers>
- vi World Health Organization. The Global Health Observatory, Health and Well-Being. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/major-themes/health-and-well-being>
- vii Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. (2011) Open Minds, Healthy Minds. Retrieved from: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/mental_health2011/mentalhealth_rep2011.pdf
- viii York Regional Police Annual Report 2020. Retrieved from https://www.yrp.ca/en/about/resources/2020_Annual_Report-AODA.pdf
- ix Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO
- x Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive Opioid Tool. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool>
- xi Housing Matters: A Review of the Housing Market in York Region. Retrieved from: <https://www.york.ca/support/housing/housing-solutions-place-everyone>
- xii Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market Survey Data Tables, Greater Toronto Area, 2018 and 2021
- xiii Estimated gross income for rental housing is calculated based on household income reporting in Statistics Canada, 2016 Census and the Bank of Canada, Consumer Price Index Release
- xiv York Region, Community and Health Services, Housing Services Branch, 2022
- xv Municipal Networking Network Canada. Social Housing. Retrieved from: <http://mbncanada.ca/practice/social-housing/>
- xvi Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2021 Rental Market Survey Data Tables
- xvii Statistics Canada, 2018 Tax filers database
- xviii Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2021 Rental Market Survey Data Tables
- xix Statistics Canada, 2019 Tax filers database
- xx PEPsO, McMaster University Social Sciences and United Way Toronto and York Region. The Precarity Penalty: The impact of employment precarity on individuals, households and communities and what to do about it. Executive Summary: York Region. 2016
- xxi Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population
- xxii Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population

