

Richmond Hill Action on Poverty Profile

Provincial
Riding
Profiles

Story Behind the Stats

The Richmond Hill riding covers most of the Town of Richmond Hill with the exception of the Oak Ridges area in the north. The boundary between Richmond Hill and Oak Ridges is at Elgin Mills Road East.

Richmond Hill has the second highest percentage of residents living in poverty in the region. Low wage jobs and inadequate rates of social assistance are two main reasons for inadequate income levels. The situation is only getting worse, as the cost of living is increasing while wages and social assistance rates are not keeping pace proportionately. Adding to these challenges is the lack of affordable housing in Richmond Hill.

122,615 people live in Richmond Hill

20,386 live in poverty – 16.7%*

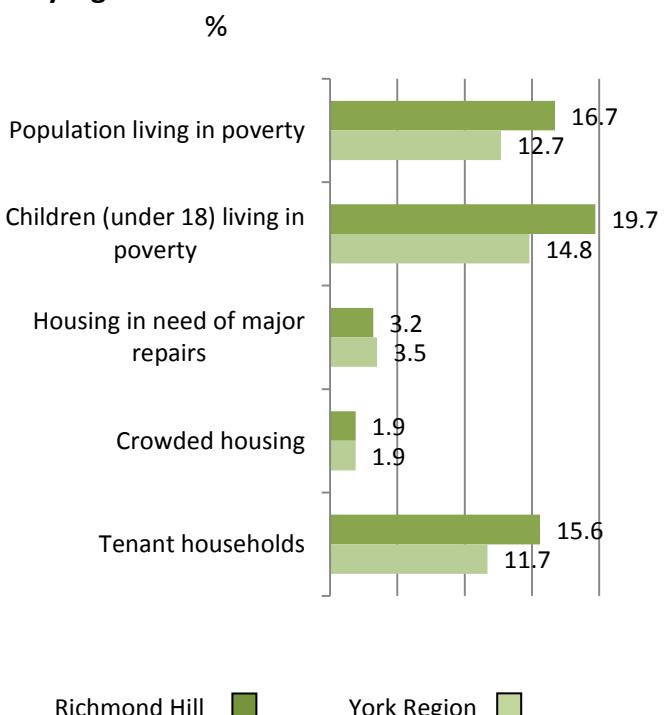
“I have been treated like a third class citizen especially when it comes to the Landlord and Tenant Act. And for someone like me I need connections to help deal with the stuff.”

**Single male with mental health issues
Social Audit Participant in Richmond Hill, 2010**

“At the Legal Clinic we support the rights of workers, tenants and individuals on social assistance. We witness on a daily basis the impossible challenges and vulnerability of surviving on a very modest income.”

**Dennis Bailey
Executive Director
Community Legal Clinic of York Region**

Key Figures



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

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



Taking Action in Richmond Hill

The Community Legal Clinic of York Region (CLC) serves residents across the Region but is located in the downtown core of Richmond Hill. The Clinic provides legal support for low income residents at no charge. Residents who require assistance in the following areas can call the Clinic and inquire about their services: tenant protection, social assistance, Employment Insurance, and/or wages/hours of work.

At 15.6%, Richmond Hill has the second highest percentage of tenants in York Region, so the tenant protection work of the Clinic supports a significant number of residents. Individuals who rely on social assistance in order to get by receive incomes that are inadequate for life in Ontario. They are also at the mercy of a system that continues to make cuts to essential benefits such as the Special Diet Allowance and the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit. As a result, the Clinic staff keeps busy supporting clients trying to navigate and challenge this system to ensure that their rights are not denied.

Given the ongoing erosion of workers' rights, the stagnation of salaries for low and middle income earners and the competition for a dwindling number of good jobs, the Clinic focuses on assisting workers with their understanding of employment rights, which is a first step to ensuring that they will be treated respectfully and fairly in the workplace.

www.clcyr.on.ca

Social Planning Council of York Region

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

Want to get involved?

Contact us at info@spcyr.com

www.spcyr.com

How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *David Barrow*, 905-771-8800 ext 3123, officemayor@richmondhill.ca

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Reza Moridi*, 905-884-8080, rmoridi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Costas Menegakis*, 905-770-4440, costas.menegakis@parl.gc.ca

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