

# **Building a Better Thunder Bay for All: A community action plan to reduce poverty**

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# 2017 Annual Report



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**"Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit." — Eli Khamarov, writer**

# Housing and Homelessness

In 2010, Ontario committed to establishing a long-term goal to end homelessness. The Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy was developed with the goal to end chronic homelessness in Ontario by 2020. The Federal government provides funding to the Municipality through the Provincially funded Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) to deliver housing initiatives in the City and District of Thunder Bay. It is this entity that is responsible for spending the funds that will lead to a reduction in homelessness and to "provide enhanced supports to at-risk individuals...through a collaborative multi-faceted approach. These endeavours are geared towards four priority populations: youth who are homeless, individuals who are chronically homeless, Indigenous people who are homeless, and those leaving provincially funded institutions and service systems." (TBDSSAB, 2017 Annual Board Report)

Home for Good was introduced in 2017 to support initiatives aimed at significantly reducing chronic homelessness and expanding homelessness prevention measures. The TBDSSAB along with St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care have partnered to deliver this program.

Long needed repairs and retrofits to social housing buildings in the District of Thunder Bay are being funded by a \$12.35 million grant from the provincial government that will improve living conditions and fight climate change. This investment is part of Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan and is funded by proceeds from the Province's carbon market.

Canada's first ever National Housing Strategy was developed by building on Federal budget initiatives delivered in 2016 and 2017, including Service Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), which is comprised of data collection methods to understand homelessness and the issues surrounding homelessness. The HPS also funds local Community Entities (CE's) to deliver funds that are aimed at reducing and eliminating homelessness. The CE's in Thunder Bay include the Lakehead Social Planning Council, which, in 2017, delivered \$150,000 in funds to Alpha Court's transitional housing units, a manager position at Shelter House Thunder Bay, the Social Navigator Position at the John Howard Society, and the Out of the Cold Program managed by Grace Place. The Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre is the CE that, in 2017, delivered funding in the amount of \$750,000 to housing and life-skills programs at Ontario Native Women's Association.

## Indicators

The following indicators are used as a guide to help those with lived experience, policy makers, service deliverers and community members to decide on initiatives and ideas that will help to reduce and eliminate homelessness. Many of these indicators point towards an epidemic of homelessness in Thunder Bay and the District.

### Social Housing Waitlist

The annual report from The Thunder Bay District of Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) showed that there were 1030 individuals on the housing wait-list at the end of the year 2017.

#### Number of Individuals on Social Housing Waitlists

Chronological	962
Special Priority	39
Exceptional	19
High Needs Homeless	10

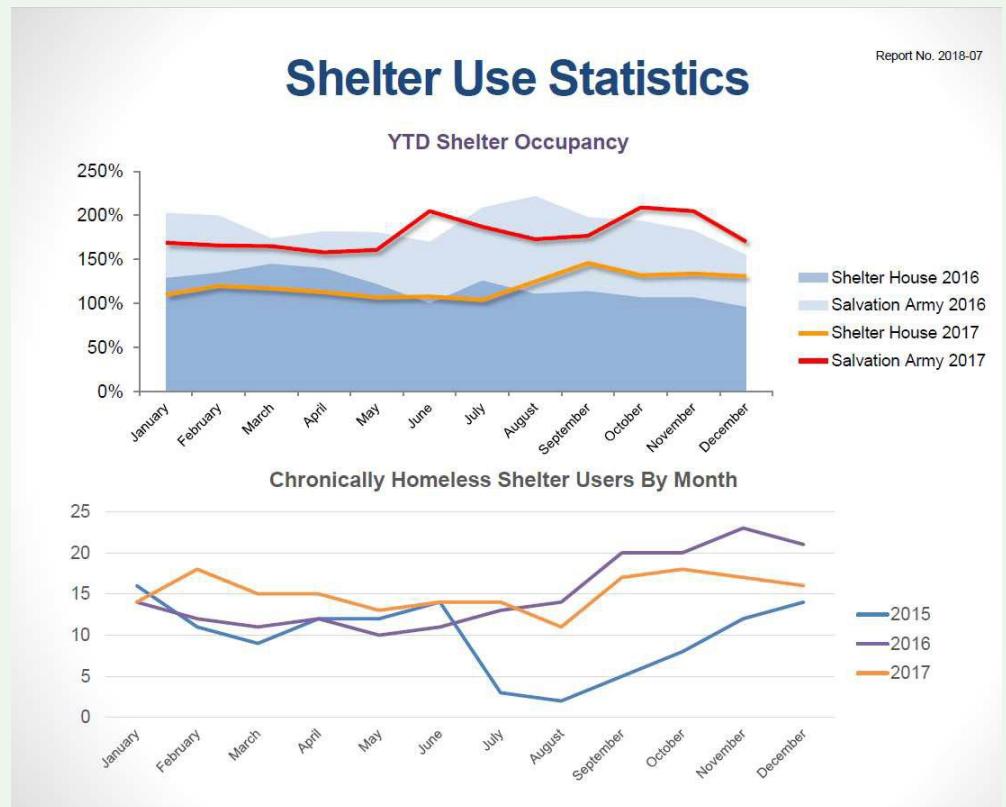
The CMHC Core Housing Need statistics shows approximately 6,195 households in the Thunder Bay CMA who qualify for affordable housing. Some of these individuals and families may be currently housed in social and affordable homes, but there is much greater need for additional affordable housing to meet current demand.

## Emergency Shelter Occupancy Rate

**137%**

Emergency shelter occupancy remains high throughout the year, with June 2017 peaking at about 200% capacity at the Salvation Army. Occupancy rates very rarely dip below 100%. Many of these individuals are chronically homeless, and have been seeking emergency shelter for years.

The average emergency shelter occupancy rate in 2017 was 137%. The 1st Quarter Operational Report from TBDSSAB showed Salvation Army to have a shelter occupancy of approximately 220% in March 2018, the highest percentage in the 1st quarter. Shelter House's occupancy rate has been steadily declining, but still greater than 125%. The number of chronically homeless shelter users for January-March 2018 is higher than the last three years (2015-2017).



## Vacancy Rate

**3.4%**

Vacancy rates are reported by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation annually. 2017 showed that vacancy rates for bachelor apartments remained high at 5.9%, but those seeking three bedroom units had very little to choose from, with 0% vacancy. One bedroom and two-bedroom units had a 4.3% and 2.4% vacancy rate respectively.

Due to an increased rental demand, the rental apartment vacancy rate in 2017 declined following two consecutive annual increases. The overall vacancy rate decreased from 5% to 3.2%. The vacancy rate for bachelor apartments was 5.9%, 4.3% for one-bedroom apartments, 2.4% for two-bedroom apartments, and 0.0% for three or more bedroom apartments.

<http://skyviewrealty.com/CMHCb/2017/ThunderBay2017.pdf>

## Point in Time Count

**474**  
**Individuals**  
**Surveyed**

One of the best methods of determining progress is through the use of Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts. PiT Counts are a measure of the number of homeless people on a specific day (hence the point in time reference). This type of counting is known as "taking a snapshot" of the situation. Thunder Bay collects statistics biennially using this method. 2018 will mark Thunder Bay's second biennial PiT Count. The survey also asks

people experiencing homelessness about their history, background and needs. This includes demographic questions such as age, gender, race, sexual orientation and veteran status. It also asks what services people need or use, whether they would like housing and how long they have been homeless. This indicator points to the causes of homelessness and can help to inform which solutions and initiatives will likely be beneficial.

During Thunder Bay's second Point-in-Time (PiT) Count in 2018, 474 people experiencing homelessness were surveyed. This is a 64% increase from the 289 people surveyed in 2016. Highlights include:

- 50.6% were couch surfing
- 63.5% were male
- 6.5% identified as LGBTQ
- 66% identified as Indigenous
- 61% first experienced homelessness before turning 25
- 37% spent time in foster care and/or a group home
- 33% identified addiction or substance abuse as a reason for housing loss
- 59% were chronically homeless
- 21% were episodically homeless
- 72% receive social assistance



# Income Security

There were many strides made by the Federal and Provincial governments in 2017 that aimed to help reduce and eliminate poverty. The Provincial government announced a 3% increase for those with social assistance earnings (Ontario Works, OW) and earnings from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Secondly, after committing to creating the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project (OBIP) and reviewing the Honourable Hugh Segal's report, community consultations were held from November 3, 2016 to January 31, 2017 in various cities across Ontario. In April 2017 the OBIP project was announced to begin in four communities, including Thunder Bay. Unfortunately, the Provincial government has recently discontinued the OBIP and has decreased the 3% increase to a mere 1.5% increase who receive income from OW or ODSP.

Another aspect of income security is access to identification. Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic has been managing the ID Bank for the last five years. With funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation's Poverty Reduction Fund in the amount of-----, the ID Bank has been able to host nine ID clinics in outlying communities. These include two at Whitesand First Nation, two at Gull Bay First Nation, two at Red Rock Indian Band, and one each at Fort William First Nation, Anishinawbe Mushkiki, and Geraldton Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic office. The ID Bank funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Poverty Reduction Fund will also enable the data collection and evaluation to take place to direct policy and management of the ID Bank.

Amalgamation with the Ontario Living Wage Network enabled Thunder Bay to complete a Living Wage calculation with the help of an economist and support from other communities that are building a network of Living Wage employers. The Living Wage of \$16.05 per hour was announced during Living Wage Week at the beginning of November 2018. A living wage is not the same as the minimum wage, which is the legal minimum all employers must pay. The living wage is a call to private and public sector employers to pay wages to both direct and contract employees that are sufficient to provide the basics to families with children. The living wage is calculated as the hourly rate at which a household can meet its basic needs, once government transfers have been added to the family's income and deductions have been subtracted. The living wage gets families out of severe financial stress by lifting them out of poverty and providing a basic level of economic security.

## Indicators

### Total individuals receiving Ontario Works

The annual report from the TBDSSAB showed that there were 3,065 Ontario Works Caseloads at the end of December 2017.

### Ontario Works Employment Assistance Rates

In 2017 the TBDSSAB showed that an average of 680 people attended classes related to employment assistance. There were 36 community placements, 53 employment placements, 21 wage subsidy placements, and an average of 137 Addiction Services Initiative cases (ASI).\*

\*This data does not include q4-2017.

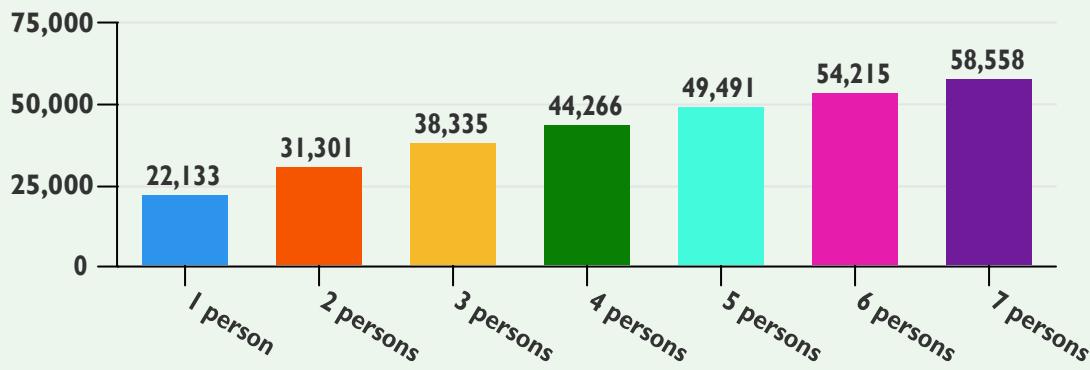
## Percentage of individuals living below the low-income measure

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Poverty rates of individuals living below the LIM helps to determine how many individuals and families are not able to meet all the social determinants of health. Lone parents, Indigenous people, seniors, unattached non-elderly, recent immigrants and those with activity limitations live below the LIM at a much greater rate than their counterparts.

According to the 2016 Census, 13.8% of the population in Thunder Bay is below the LIM-AT. The LIM-AT is set at \$22,133 in Canada. The prevalence of households living below the LIM-AT is 14.4% in Ontario.

### Low-income measures thresholds (LIM-AT) Census 2016



## Employment Rates for Individuals

9.6%

Employment rates are calculated as the ratio of the employed to the working age population. Employment rates are sensitive to the economic cycle, but in the longer term they are significantly affected by governments' higher education and income support policies and by policies that facilitate employment of women and disadvantaged groups. This indicator is seasonally adjusted and it is measured in terms of thousand persons aged 15 and over; and as a percentage of working age population.

The employment rate in Thunder Bay is 56.3% while the unemployment rate is 7.7%. In Ontario, the employment rate is 59.9% and the unemployment rate is 7.4%.

### Employment Statistics for Thunder Bay 2016 Census

Characteristic	Total	Male	Female
<b>Labour force status</b>			
<b>Total – Population age 15 years and over by Labour force status – 25% sample data</b>	78,220	37,765	40,450
<b>In the labour force</b>	46,685	23,585	23,105
<b>Employed</b>	42,980	21,320	21,660
<b>Unemployed</b>	3,705	2,265	1,440
<b>Not in labour force</b>	31,530	14,180	17,350
<b>Participation rate</b>	59.7	62.5	57.1
<b>Employment rate</b>	54.9	56.5	53.5
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	7.9	9.6	6.2

# Indigenous People

Northwestern Ontario's first Indigenous People's Court opened in February 2017. The court is situated in the Aboriginal Conference Settlement Suite at the Thunder Bay Courthouse. It is designed to assist in the healing of Indigenous clients in conflict with the law by using an alternative approach to sentencing aligned with Indigenous culture and traditions. The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of Indigenous people in correctional facilities.

From March to June 2017, NVision had the pleasure of conducting and reporting on a scan of Indigenous language programs and initiatives in Ontario. The team spoke to language keepers, learners, program providers, academics and administrators, taking Indigenous research protocols into account. Their findings were shared with Indigenous language speakers, program providers, administrators and researchers at an Indigenous Languages Symposium (ILS) entitled, 'Gidinwewininaanan, No lang,' ('Our Languages') held May 30 to June 1, 2017 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The findings are being used to inform an Ontario Indigenous Languages Revitalization Strategy, an important part of Ontario's Ministries of Education (EDU) and Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) efforts toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Ontario.

On September 6, 2017 the Full Moon Memory Walk, organized by a local community member, took place, and was dedicated to the MOTHERS of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Grassroots initiative such as this one are important

The Thunder Bay Public Library's Relationship Building and Reconciliation Action Plan passed by the Library Board in September 2017, is one of the key actions which has now been completed from this plan. The unveiling of their New Indigenous Knowledge Centres in all of their Thunder Bay locations. There are both adult and children sections with many great resources to learn about Indigenous culture, language, and history and to share that knowledge with all peoples. Also included are resources to learn about the Treaty relationships and Indigenous languages.

The City began to see various local efforts to eliminate racism and discrimination in 2017: Coming Together to Talk: A Local Film on Indigenous Realities was hosted by Redwood Church, Insiders & Outsiders - Working Towards Social Change - A discussion panel presented by the LUSU Multicultural Centre & facilitated by Dreeni Geer, the director of human rights and equity at Lakehead University, with Jagmeet Singh, Deputy Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, and Conversations on Becoming an Anti-Racism Ally, a 3-part series of accessible, educational, and honest community conversations designed for white residents of Thunder Bay seeking to understand colonization, racism, and our responsibility in addressing it.

## Indicators

### Poverty Rates of Indigenous People in Thunder Bay

Vulnerable populations represent more than half of the people in Ontario living in poverty. The percentage of Indigenous people living off reserve who have a household income of less than half the median is an indicator of poverty among this demographic.

The 2016 Census revealed that 37.3% of Aboriginal people are living below the Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT), compared to 10.5% of non-Aboriginal identity people living below the low income measure in Thunder Bay.

### Average Hourly Wage for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Individuals in Ontario

Hourly wages for Indigenous people in Ontario averaged at \$22 per hour in 2016, yet their non-Indigenous counterparts were earning \$26.23 per hour. In 2017, the average hourly wage for Indigenous people was \$24.05, while the average hourly wage for non-Indigenous people was \$26.22. Lower levels of educational attainment among Indigenous people largely explain their lower wages. Indigenous people with a post-secondary certificate/diploma or university degree earned at least as much as their non-Indigenous counterparts.

## Rate of Diabetes Among Indigenous People

The prevalence of type 2 diabetes among First Nations Peoples has been consistently reported as higher than the general Canadian population. Diabetes has been reported in 4.8 per cent of non-Indigenous population in Ontario, 6.7 per cent among First Nations people living off-reserve, and 21.6 per cent among on-reserve First Nations people. An Ontario study estimated that 8.1 per cent of Metis people were diagnosed with diabetes, compared with 6.5 per cent in the general population – an equivalent of about 25 per cent higher prevalence. First Nations and Metis children and youth have higher rates of type 2 diabetes, Indigenous women have higher rates of gestational diabetes, and type 2 diabetes is diagnosed at an earlier age in First Nations Peoples. They also experience high rates of complications and higher mortality rates among those with diabetes.

In a 2016 study, the lifetime risk of diabetes at 20 years of age was 75.6% among men and 87.3% among women in the First Nations group, as compared with 55.6% among men and 46.5% among women in the non-First Nations group. The risk was higher among First Nations people than among non-First Nations people for all index ages and for both sexes. Among non-First Nations people, men had a higher lifetime risk of diabetes than women across all index ages. In contrast, among First Nations people, women had a higher lifetime risk than men across all index ages. <http://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/16/1147>  
The burden of diabetes in Ontario's Indigenous Peoples requires urgent attention.

## Diabetes Education Programs in Thunder Bay

Anishnawbe Mushkiki - Diabetes Management Program

Fort William First Nation - Diabetes Program

Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation - Band Office - Diabetes Program

Matawa First Nations Management - Health and Social Services

NorWest Community Health Centres - Thunder Bay Office - Diabetes Mobile Services

Ontario Native Women's Association - Aboriginal Diabetes Education

Ontario Native Women's Association - Thunder Bay - Aboriginal Diabetes Education and Awareness

St Joseph's Care Group - St Joseph's Heritage - Diabetes Health Thunder Bay

# Children and Youth

The City of Thunder Bay proclaimed Monday May 1, 2017 - Monday May 8, 2017, Youth Week. It is an annual event that recognizes the positive contributions youth make in the community, and celebrates the valuable work youth and youth agencies/organizations do all year round. Youth Move, supported by the City is a year-round program for youth 12-18 years of age. It is a drop-in program that offers fun, active programming.

Leadership Thunder Bay in partnership with Thunder Bay Drug Strategy and Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council developed a Community Action Project (CAP) as an experiential civic leadership opportunity for emerging leaders in our community to become more aware of significant social issues that Thunder Bay faces. Promotion of the development of leadership skills for the 2017 Leadership Thunder Bay CAP took place through networking with community leaders, community members, and through creative opportunities to raise awareness about youth homelessness. The ultimate goal of this was to provide a platform for youth (13-24) impacted by homelessness to have a voice to share experiences, their hopes for the future, and to raise awareness of youth homelessness in Thunder

Funding from Way allowed The Drug Awareness Committee of the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy to administer a project aimed at educating youth about substance use, sexual health, and general harm reduction tips. This endeavour exceeded its goals and requests for more presentations from the committee continue.

In 2017, a Youth Engagement Coordinator Intern with U-Turn and Thunder Bay Drug Strategy. youth committees the way for the creation Council. This Council promotes the inclusion of youth voices to inform local mental health and substance use by the Children's Centre, in primary goal was to investigate current Youth Community Advisory

It is also very important highlight the successes continues to enhance the capacities and mobilize Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood. Together the volunteers resilience, healthy and clean community. Community Hubs like Evergreen. strengths of the people living in the Simpson- create a vibrant, prosperous, inclusive,

## Indicators

### Childcare Waitlist

The early child period is considered to be the most important developmental phase throughout the lifespan. Healthy early child development – which includes the physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive domains of development, each equally important – strongly influences well-being, obesity/stunting, mental health, heart disease, competence in literacy and numeracy, criminality, and economic participation throughout life. Implementing early child development programs can benefit children immensely. There are currently more than 1200 children on a waitlist for childcare in Thunder Bay and the District.

# Childcare Waitlist

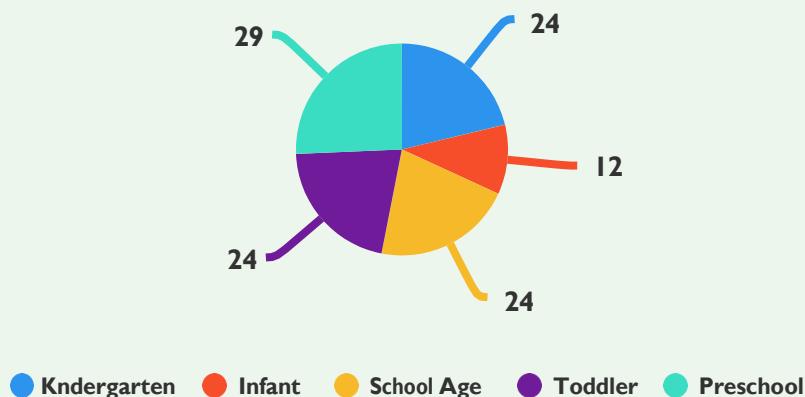


## Childcare Waitlist (Thunder Bay District of Social Services Administration Board [TBDSSAB]):

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By 2017 year-end there were 1432 children on the waitlist currently seeking childcare.

**Percentages of children on childcare waitlists**



In June 2017, the Ministry of Education introduced additional funding to service system managers to expand child care opportunities for children aged birth to 4 years, in their communities. TBDSSAB was eligible for a Provincial allocation of \$1,254,752 related to this Expansion Funding. In addition to the Provincial commitment, TBDSSAB was eligible for an allocation of \$784,179 from the Government of Canada. This Federal funding, the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement Funding, can be used for children aged birth to 12 years of age to further support additional fee subsidies and increased access to licensed child care. A total of \$4,648,600 is available to TBDSSAB for child care expansion plans (\$1,511,800 of Provincial and Federal funding carryover from 2017, and \$3,136,800 in new 2018 funding). TBDSSAB met with all Child Care Service Providers to discuss the possibilities for expansion in late 2017. In February 2018, an Expression of Interest (EOI) for expansion was issued to all current child care operators to identify any opportunities to expand within existing licensed capacity. In response to this request, TBDSSAB received six (6) submissions for possible expansion. The Province has provided TBDSSAB with an expansion target number of 170, of which Administration has to enhance the child care spaces to within 10% of this number, or 153 spaces, to utilize all of the funding. The total expansion possibility for 2018 is 137 new spaces.

## Birthweight

Babies born to low-income families are more likely to be below or above normal weight, and babies with birth weights outside the normal range may face risk factors that can increase their chances of poverty later in life. We measure this by examining the percentage of newborns born at what is considered to be a healthy weight.

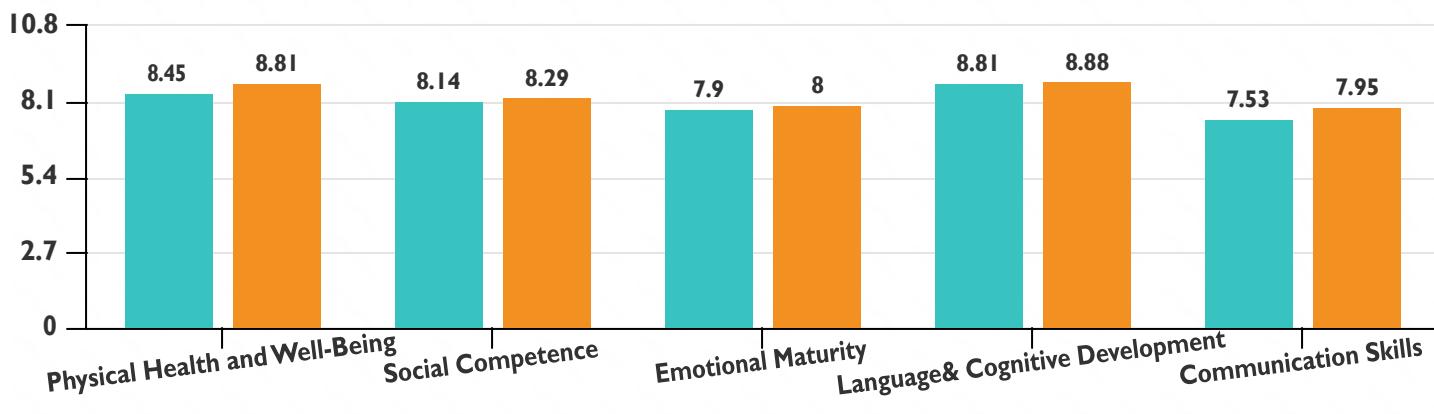
Low birth weight (LBW) is defined as a birth weight less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) regardless of gestational age. LBW has both short and long-term consequences for the health of the newborn at the time of birth and later in life. These include higher risk of childhood illness, delays in motor development, and chronic diseases in adulthood such as diabetes and respiratory disease. LBW babies include those who have not had adequate time to develop because they are born prematurely, as well as full-term or preterm babies who have weights below the norm for their gestational age because of restricted growth in utero. There are many risk factors for LBW including maternal ages under 20 or over 35, smoking or illicit drug use during pregnancy, low socioeconomic status and multiple births (e.g. twin, triplets). The low birth weight rate in Ontario in 2013 was 6.5% while the low birth weight rate in Thunder Bay (Public Health Unit) was 7%.

[https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/  
BORN\\_Information\\_System\\_Data\\_Quality\\_Assessment\\_2016.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/BORN_Information_System_Data_Quality_Assessment_2016.pdf)

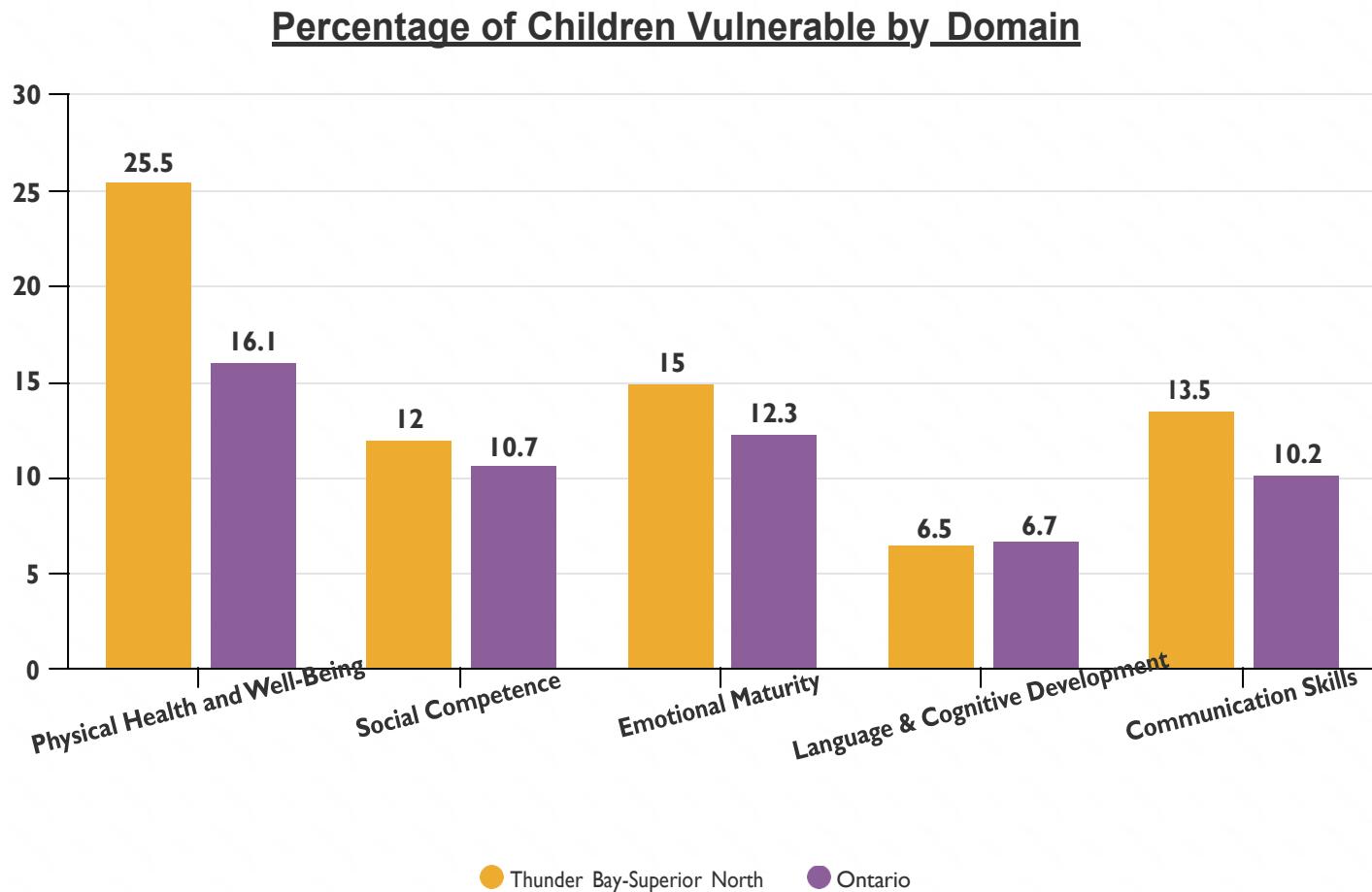
## School Readiness

Children have a better chance to succeed as students and later in life when they attend school ready to learn. The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures the percentage of children aged five and six who demonstrate they are on track across five domains of child development and are ready to learn at school. It focuses on the overall outcomes for children as a health-relevant, measurable concept that has long-term consequences for individuals and populations. The data from its collection helps monitor the developmental health of young learners. The following chart shows a comparison of EDI scores between school children in Thunder Bay as opposed to all school children in Ontario.

### EDI Scores in Thunder Bay-Superior North as compared to Ontario



"Vulnerable" describes the children who score low (below the 10th percentile cut-off of the Ontario Baselines population) on any of the five domains. Higher vulnerability indicates that a greater percentage of children are struggling. The following chart show the percentage of children vulnerable by domain.



## Educational Progress

Students who achieve early success in school are more likely to continue to perform well academically, go on to post-secondary education and secure meaningful employment. This measure indicates the percentage of students in Grades 3 and 6 who score in the highest two levels on province-wide reading, writing and math tests. EQAO is responsible for Ontario's provincial assessment program. EQAO's provincial tests assess student literacy (reading and writing) and math skills at three points in their kindergarten to Grade 12 education. <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments> The provincial assessment results for 2013 to 2017 of grade 3 and grade 6 students who met the provincial standard are shown on the following chart:

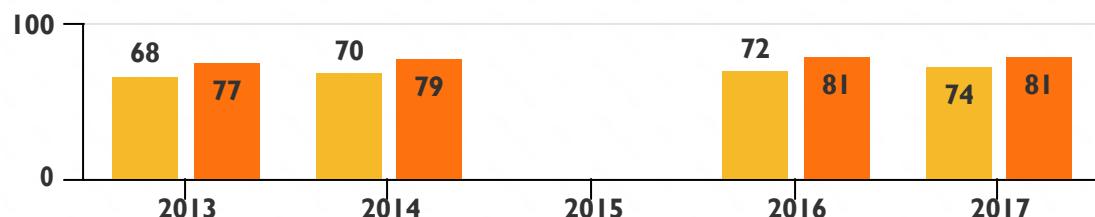
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<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments>

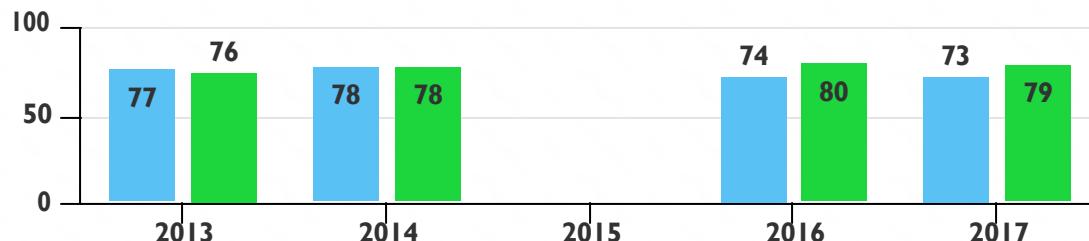
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### EQAO Test Results for 2013 - 2017 for Grades 3 and 6

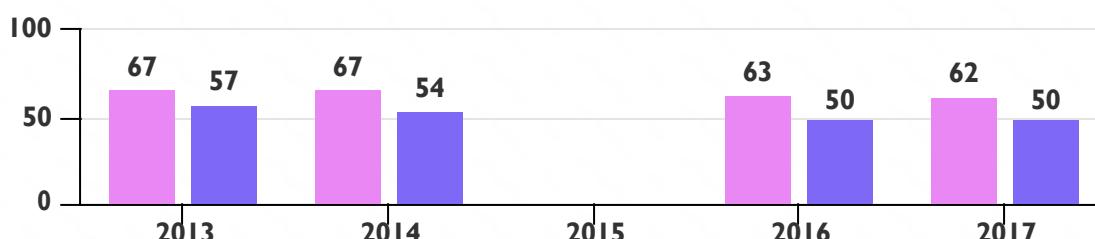
READING



WRITING



MATHEMATICS



### Highschool Graduation Rates

Students who graduate high school are more likely to find meaningful employment and will have greater earning potential throughout their lives compared to those who do not graduate. This indicator measures the percentage of students entering high school at the same time who graduate within five years of having started Grade 9.

In 2016, the five-year graduation rate increased to 85.6% in Ontario.

CSDC des Aurores boreales: 90%

Lakehead DSB: 75.3%

Thunder Bay CDSB: 84.7%

When ranked from highest to lowest graduation rate, CSDC des Aurores boreales is 25th, Lakehead DSB is 66th and Thunder Bay CDSB is 45th out of 70 school boards in Ontario.

<https://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2017/05/2016-graduation-rates-across-the-province.html>

# Health and Wellness

Health and wellness are imperative for anyone to be able to enjoy a happy life. Mental and physical health along with food security, and social inclusion are just a few of the social determinants of health that lead to good health and wellness. Empty Bowls/Caring Hearts is a grassroots effort to support the organizations in Thunder Bay who work diligently in response to issues surrounding poverty and hunger in Thunder Bay. The dedicated and creative volunteers work selflessly each year to raise valuable dollars for existing food programs which directly support individuals and families in need of a hand up. Their efforts are also geared to foster a conscious culture and heighten public awareness regarding food scarcity, hunger, and poverty in our own backyard. All annual proceeds raised through Empty Bowls/Caring Hearts in Thunder Bay are donated to the Thunder Bay Food Bank and Shelter House. In 2017, more than 230,000 dollars has been raised through this endeavour.

The Thunder Bay Situation Table, a community-driven initiative to help vulnerable individuals in the community, brings together more than 30 representatives from a variety of sectors – including mental health, addiction, justice, social services and education – to help those at acutely-elevated risk of imminent harm or victimization. This diverse table of service providers helps prevent negative outcomes from occurring by providing individuals at risk of criminalization, victimization and/or harm with rapid, wraparound intervention that is short-term and time limited. Referrals are brought to the Situation Table when an agency has exhausted all its resources and those available through existing community collaboration. Bringing together different sectors promotes collaboration and creates greater efficiencies of service.

The Incident Reporting and Referral Initiative, a partnership with the Anti-Racism & Respect Committee, launched on June 27, 2017. This initiative allows for anyone to call or text 211, or go online and register racist and/or discriminatory incidents. There is also a system for following up and a way of tracking incidents.

## Indicators

### Nutritious Food Basket

**\$866 per month for a family of four**

Monthly cost of a nutritious food basket for a family of four in Thunder Bay:

A nutritious diet is incredibly important for living a healthy life. People who eat lower amounts of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and more salt, sugar, and fat are at a greater risk of diet-related illnesses. This is a reality that affects the thousands of people in the area – young children, adults, and seniors – living on social assistance. The cost of a Nutritious Food Basket for the District of Thunder Bay, 2017 is \$866. This is based on a family of four consisting of 2 adults (male and female ages 31-50) and 2 children (boy age 14 and girl age 8).

<https://www.tbdhu.com/sites/default/files/files/resource/2017-12/The%20Cost%20of%20Eating%20Well%20in%20the%20District%20of%20Thunder%20Bay%202017.pdf>

## Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

The percentage of people in Thunder Bay consuming fruit and vegetables, five times or more per day is 34.9% in 2014.  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310046401&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.110&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.1&pickMembers%5B2%5D=3.1>

In the Thunder Bay Food and Agriculture Market Study, prepared June 2017, the 2013-2014 self-reported consumption of fruit and vegetables five times or more per day in Thunder Bay was 33.8% and in Ontario, it was 38.9%. When further divided into age-specific proportions, the rate is at 28.5% for people aged 12-19 years.

Document can be found in the folder "LSPC STUDENT 2018" under the title "CHS Data Request – Thunder Bay Food and Agriculture Study (June 2017)".

The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP) is serving the District of Thunder Bay!

Since 2006, the NFVP has been wildly successful with children in the northeastern region of Ontario, and is now expanding to our region. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and distributed by the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, this program will provide students from JK to grade 8 twice-weekly servings of fresh fruit and vegetables, starting in May, and running until the end June 2018. Over the expansion during the next two years, almost 16,000 students in 86 schools from Thunder Bay to Manitouwadge to Fort Severn and every elementary school in between will be enjoying fresh fruit and veggies!

<https://www.tbdhu.com/health-topics/healthy-eating/northern-fruit-vegetable-program>

## Use of food banks and emergency meal providers

Use of food banks and emergency meal providers:  
 Shelter House, Grace Place, Salvation Army, etc. locally will be reported as an indicator of food security in Thunder Bay. In the Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB) Hunger Report 2017, Thunder Bay had 17,401 unique food bank clients. 16% of the population was served by food banks in Thunder Bay, the highest in the list of cities in the table. The Ontario average for percentage of the population being served by food banks is 4%.

<https://oafb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Hunger-Report-2017.pdf>

The RFDA served an equivalent of 1.2 million meals (1,202,256) in 2017 based on modified hunger count data and was 300,000 meals short. More than 7100 people used the services of RFDA on a monthly basis.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/rfda-report-card-1.4521250>

Free daily meals are provided at the following locations: St. Andrew's Dew Drop Inn (serves about 200 clients each day), Shelter House Soup Kitchen (serves 150-300 people for lunch and dinner daily), Salvation Army Soup Van (serves 80-100 people daily), Grace Place (serves approximately 1000 hot meals per week) and Refreshing Waters Community Church Soup Kitchen.

# Collective Impact

## What is Collective Impact?

The idea behind collective impact is to create lasting solutions for critical social issues. It can be applied to areas as diverse as health, healthcare, education, poverty reduction, homelessness, youth development, community support, and many more.

Collective impact collaboration can be at neighborhood, regional, national and international levels. The Internet, with its wide reach, has become an essential tool in collective impact.

Some examples of collective impact collaboration in Thunder Bay include .....



**It has a Common Agenda:** All participants have a shared vision for change that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving the problem through agreed upon actions.

**It fosters Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** Engagement of a diverse set of stakeholders, typically across sectors, coordinating a set of differentiated activities through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.

**It encourages Continuous Communication:** Frequent and structured open communication across the many players to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.

**There is Strong Backbone Support:** Ongoing support by independent, funded staff dedicated to the initiative, including guiding the initiative's vision and strategy, supporting aligned activities, establishing shared measurement practices, building public will, advancing policy, and mobilizing funding.

**There are Shared Measurements:** Agreement on the ways success will be measured and reported, with a short list of common indicators identified and used across all participating organizations for learning and improvement.



# Conclusion

This report highlights many positive accomplishments that have been made in Thunder Bay to help reduce poverty. Research and data shows that poverty is one of the major issues that needs to be addressed to ensure that the social determinants of health are met. Without a secure income that allows for a healthy life, including basic needs like clean water, nutrition, healthcare, clothing, food, and a safe place to live, poverty becomes a deadly issue that kills slowly. Poverty can lead to abuse of substances and abuse of other people. It can lead to homelessness, poor health, mental despair and stress. Poverty determines what opportunities and experiences we have. But the most important thing that we can all learn from this research is that poverty can be eliminated. To be able to stop it we must all support each other, and work collectively without discrimination, racism, hate or harm. We must rally everyone in the community together to understand the reasons behind poverty and work towards possible solutions. Advocacy can help to foster an understanding of the issues in the community and also help to lead to policy and program changes that will benefit community members. Education is also key. An understanding of the issues surrounding poverty as well as a knowledge of the social determinants of health can mitigate discriminatory attitudes.

## Additional Remarks

For more information please visit the Lakehead Social Planning Council website at [www.lspc.ca](http://www.lspc.ca)

If you would like to find out more about local poverty initiatives please contact Bonnie Krysowaty at the Lakehead Social Planning at [bkrysowaty@lspc.ca](mailto:bkrysowaty@lspc.ca) or 807-624-1725.

## References

The annual fundraiser is not the only event we coordinate during the year, but it is the most significant in terms of donor impact. This year our donor list grew by 4%, and we received some of the largest one-time donations we've ever received!