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A newsletter from the

Social Planning Council of Peel

October 2026
spcpeel.com

Data to Decisions • Peel Region in Focus

Behind the Numbers: 50+ Communities Across Ontario



How we're turning census numbers into neighbourhood action

Wider provincial averages don't tell you what's actually happening where you live. A housing issue in Mississauga looks very different from family growth in Brampton or transit needs in Caledon. To build better local services, like childcare, youth programs, and seniors' care, we have to zoom in.

That's why the Social Planning Council of Peel (SPCP) launched **Data to Decisions**.

We created 50+ short, easy-to-read profiles covering regions across Ontario.

These reports are not just copy & paste lists of government statistics. They feature our team's own research and analysis. We take official 2021 Census stats from Statistics Canada and break them down into three simple levels of community action.

Micro
Individuals & Families
What residents are dealing with at home every day.

Mezzo
Neighbourhoods & Local Groups
How local organizations, schools, and community hubs can work together to help.

Macro
Towns, Cities & Policy
What city leaders need to address with long-term funding and policy changes.

Peel Region at a Glance

1.45M
people live in Peel
Up 5.0% between 2016 and 2021.

$1,580
median rent a month
Nearly 60,000 households face severe housing stress.

51.8%
of Peel residents are immigrants
Almost 430,000 speak a language other than English or French at home. Punjabi is the most spoken.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census Data & SPCP Analysis

Data to Decisions • Continued

What This Looks Like in Our Community

Putting our regional data into practice

Micro
At home



The Reality

Median rent in Peel has hit $1,580 a month, leaving nearly 60,000 households struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

The Action

Helping families with emergency rent support, eviction prevention, and finding safe places to live.

Mezzo
In our area



The Reality

Almost 430,000 Peel residents speak a language other than English or French at home, making it hard to get everyday help.

The Action

Creating local translation teams, neighbourhood clinics, and shared support hubs so no family gets left out.

Macro
In city policy



The Reality

High rent and rising food costs are big community problems that families cannot fix on their own.

The Action

Pushing city leaders for more affordable housing, easier access to government benefits, and adequate funding for local programs.

How We Used AI

A quick note

To build 50+ detailed profiles, we used AI as a tool to help group large sets of numbers, spot trends, and organize complex data.

AI was used to enhance our work, never to replace it.

Every single report was reviewed, checked, and written under the guidance of our team at the Social Planning Council of Peel. This ensures every insight remains accurate, and rooted in real localized needs.

EXPLORE PORTRAITS OF PEEL

Need local data for your city or region?

Get 7-10 page profiles packed with census stats on housing, iincome, and demographics for 50+ communites across Ontario.

Annual plans start at $60/year

Subscribe & download reports

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census Data & SPCP Analysis

The Shield of Belonging • Anti-Hate Project

Creating Safer Spaces Together

A community led anti-hate project in Peel Region

Data shows us where our community needs help, but people create the real solutions. We launched The Shield of Belonging to tackle hate, racism, and online harassment across Peel Region.

Supported by Canadian Heritage and led by the Social Planning Council of Peel, this initiative brings together young adults aged 25 to 30, with half coming from historically targeted communities and half from ally communities. Together, they are learning practical skills to make our neighbourhoods safer and more welcoming for everyone.

What Our Participants Are Learning

Safe Bystander Skills

How to step in safely & calm down situations when someone faces hate in public spaces.

Online Safety

How to spot, report and stop online bullying, fake news, and hateful messages.

Working Together

How to build trust and strong partnerships across different cultures and backgrounds.

Thrive • Volunteers for Community Harmony

Youth Leading Community Change

107 volunteer roles across Peel, Halton, and Toronto

Young people have the energy and ideas to make our communities better. Funded by the Canada Service Corps, Thrive: Volunteers for Community Harmony gives youth aged 12 to 30 a chance to create their own volunteer projects.

This program focuses on supporting Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+, and under-served youth. Over three years, we are supporting 107 youth volunteer positions focused on reconciliation, community involvement, and inclusion.



Upcoming free youth workshops

Join us. Tap a workshop to see its flyer! Or contact us at communityharmonyyouth@spcpeel.com

Nov. 7	**The Diversity Empowered Leader** with Jacinta Goveas	Nov. 14	**Visioning For Your Future: Building a Career That Aligns For You** with Laura Cocuzzi
Nov. 21	**Beating Burnout: Compassion & Care** with Daniel Kirilo	Nov. 28	**Your Story, Your Canvas: Imagining and Creating What Comes Next** with Bethany Osborne

Partner With Us • SPCP

We Can Build Stronger Communities Together

A the Social Planning Council of Peel, research and community programs work best when we collaborate. Whether you're a local non-profit, a school board, a funder, or a city planner, there are many ways to partner with us:

Explore Local Data & Fact Sheets

We translate complex census stats into simple fact sheets and reports. Non-profits, community groups, and local leaders use these tools to design better programs and strengthen their grant applications.

Strengthen Your Neighbourhood

We work directly with local groups to identify community needs, analyze neighbourhood data, and build practical programs that improve daily quality of life in Brampton, Mississauga, and Caledon.

Connect Your Network to Our Programs

Refer youth to our Thrive volunteer placement program, or connect your clients and community members to our weekly SPCP workshops and Shield of Belonging anti-hate training sessions.

Systems & Policy Advocacy

Partner with us to advocate for better city policies on local issues like affordable housing, food insecurity, and stronger support for every neighbourhood.

How Every Reader Can Take Action

Residents & Youth

- ☑ Attend a Thrive workshop if you're between the ages of 12-30.
- ☑ Join our Shield of Belonging cohort if you're between 25-30 years old.

Local Organizations

- ☑ Read your 2021 Census community report.
- ☑ Refer youth to Thrive or share our upcoming weekly workshops with clients.

City Leaders & Funders

- ☑ Review our macro level policy recommendations.
- ☑ Connect with our team to bring data driven planning to your council.

Let's work together!

Have a project idea, want to collaborate on research, or need custom support?

Reach out directly to us.

say hi :)

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