



Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Research Theme #1: Income Inequality and Poverty Reduction

Income inequality is a serious issue that threatens the health and well-being of children and families across Toronto.

One in four children and one in five adults live in poverty in Toronto. Among recent immigrants to Toronto, the poverty rate is a staggering 46%.

Poverty affects people's present quality of life and their future life prospects. Children from low-income families are more likely to experience present and future ill health, and are less likely to finish high school or find employment.

The high cost of housing, the lack of access to affordable public services, and the decline in full-time jobs paying a living wage are some of the underlying causes of Toronto's high poverty rate.

In June 2015, the City of Toronto released its Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. The report includes 24 recommendations and 74 actions to create a more equitable and prosperous Toronto by 2035.

Toronto Public Library supports the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy in many ways, including:

- Offering free computer and WiFi access at 100 branches across the city
- Providing after-school clubs and youth hubs where school-aged children and youth can connect and learn in a safe and welcoming environment
- Promoting access to library services to children and teens in [Neighbourhood Improvement Areas](#) by forgiving fines

Question: What other programs or services should the Library develop to meet the needs of low-income Torontonians?

Let us know what you think at: strategicplanconsultation@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Further Reading:

TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

Drawing on the voices of thousands of Toronto residents from all parts of the city, TO Prosperity sets out to build an equitable city.

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=de8f727e05c79410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>



The Hidden Epidemic: A Report on Child and Family Poverty in Toronto

Highlighting the stark inequality in children's lives across Toronto neighbourhoods.

<http://www.torontocas.ca/app/Uploads/documents/cast-report2014-final-web71.pdf>

The Opportunity Equation: Building Opportunity in the Face of Growing Income Inequality

This United Way report addresses the impact of income inequality on Torontonians and what can be done.

<http://www.unitedwaytyr.com/document.doc?id=286>

The Working Poor in the Toronto Region: Mapping Working Poverty in Canada's Richest City

Toronto is Canada's richest city, but also has the fastest growing percentage of working poor in the nation.

<http://metcalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/WorkingPoorToronto2015Final.pdf>