



THE 2018

COLOUR OF POVERTY

FACT SHEETS

Colour of Poverty



Colour of Change

**UNDERSTANDING THE RACIALIZATION OF
POVERTY IN ONTARIO, CANADA**

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION GROUPS LIVING IN POVERTY - IN SAMPLE ONTARIO COMMUNITIES CENSUS 2016

	Windsor	London	Kitchener- Waterloo- Cambridge	Hamilton	Toronto CMA	Ottawa – Ontario Only	Ontario	Canada
Total Population	17.5	17.0	12.2	13.0	15.6	12.2	14.4	14.2
Total Peoples of Colour (POC)	35.1	34.3	22.9	23.5	20.4	23.6	21.3	20.8
South Asian	26.0	33.5	17.9	18.0	17.8	15.1	18.0	16.5
Chinese	33.8	37.7	29.0	24.9	21.8	18.3	22.2	23.4
Black	38.2	29.8	24.2	25.4	23.4	28.2	24.1	23.9
Filipino	8.4	11.4	4.2	6.0	7.4	9.0	7.5	7.4
Latin American	22.3	26.1	16.2	17.5	20.3	16.8	19.9	19.8
Arab	51.0	51.2	48.6	49.4	36.4	39.8	40.6	36.2
Southeast Asian	15.9	17.8	13.3	23.2	19.1	16.5	18.4	17.6
West Asian	41.2	44.2	31.0	30.9	37.3	27.6	36.1	34.7
Korean	25.7	42.7	36.3	27.5	31.0	23.3	31.4	32.6
Japanese	0.0	10.7	13.2	12.2	12.7	9.6	12.1	12.9
POC (not included elsewhere)	43.1	39.3	20.9	26.1	16.4	22.4	18.1	18.5
Multiple identities of colour	32.6	28.3	18.5	20.3	16.3	17.9	17.1	16.7
Not a Person of Colour	12.9	13.7	9.6	10.8	10.5	8.4	11.5	12.2

Colour of Poverty



Colour of Change

The 2018 Colour of Poverty Fact Sheets: Understanding
the Racialization of Poverty in Ontario, Canada
© 2018 Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change
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our googlegroup List-serve - Colour of Change Network, Visit Our YouTube Channel - Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change

FACT SHEET # 1

ABOUT COLOUR OF POVERTY - COLOUR OF CHANGE

“ We at the Colour of Poverty-Colour of Change believe that it is both particularly timely and critical that we work together to focus needed attention on the growing inequality in the province. There is a “colour-coded” inequity and disparity that is leading to an inequality of learning outcomes, of health status, of employment opportunity and income prospects, of life opportunities, and ultimately of life outcomes. This needs to be acknowledged and addressed. ”

Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change (COP-COC) is a campaign made up of individuals and organizations working to build community-based capacity to address the growing racialization of poverty and the resulting experience of increased levels of social exclusion and marginalization of racialized communities (both Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour) across Ontario. COP-COC works to build concrete strategies, develop tools, and build community-based capacity through which individuals, groups and organizations work together to address the growing structural ethno-racial inequalities across Ontario and Canada.

COP-COC formally came together in 2007 with a view to raising public awareness around issues concerning and affecting communities of colour - understanding that in order to best bring about racial equality in Canadian society the work needed to be done in full relationship and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. In September, 2007, the network launched the hugely successful Colour of Poverty Campaign to highlight the growing racialization of poverty in Ontario. In the ongoing effort to make the facts about racialized poverty more accessible to individuals and organizations, we produce this comprehensive set of updated Fact Sheets.

COP-COC ACHIEVEMENTS

COP-COC is now working to best build on all of the gains that have been made over the past ten years - in a way that is fully consistent with the TRC 94 Calls to Action.

COP-COC has consulted the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which resulted in recommendations for a Canada Action Plan Against Racism (CAPAR), which the Canadian Government has now agreed to.

COP-COC pushed for and drafted the Anti-Racism Directorate and the Anti-Racism Legislation of Ontario.

COP-COC has pushed for a strong racial impact analysis into the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the National Housing Strategy.

COP-COC helped co-found both the Toronto area Good Jobs for ALL coalition and the Toronto Community Benefits Network, together maintaining a focus on provincial Employment Equity legislation as one of their shared advocacy priorities.

COP-COC recognizes that we operate upon the traditional territories of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation, Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee, Wendat, the Métis, Cree, and Huron Indigenous Peoples, the original nations of this land, who continue to demand justice, sovereignty, and full nation-to-nation relationship.

FACT SHEET OVERVIEW

Fact Sheet #1: About Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change

Fact Sheet #2: An Introduction to (Racialized) Poverty

Fact Sheet #3: Racialized Poverty in Education and Learning

Students of colour and Indigenous students face discrimination in schools. They are often streamed into lower level non-academic programs, and unfairly targeted for expulsion. Children from poor families are half as likely to attend university as those who are well-off, and some communities of colour and Indigenous groups have very low rates of high school completion.

Fact Sheet #4: Racialized Poverty in Health and Child Welfare

Poverty puts people at a much greater risk for poor health. Because many people of colour and Indigenous people are poor, they face health problems from stress, unsafe working conditions, polluted neighbourhoods, and inadequate food. Many have trouble accessing culturally appropriate healthcare, social services and other needed supports, and are over-represented in Child Welfare.

Fact Sheet #5: Racialized Poverty in Employment

Communities of colour and Indigenous groups are much more likely to be unemployed than others. They are over-represented in low-paying, unstable, and low-status jobs, in which their rights as workers are not fully protected. They are under-represented in professional positions, and immigrants' skills and credentials are often not recognized in Canada.

Fact Sheet #6: Racialized Poverty in Income and Social Assistance

Poverty among communities of colour and Indigenous groups is growing faster than for non-racialized groups. Social assistance in Ontario was severely cut back in the 1990s, and the minimum wage keeps people well below the poverty line.

Fact Sheet #7: Racialized Poverty in Justice and Policing

Poor, racialized communities - both Indigenous and communities of colour - are often over-policed, and Indigenous men and women, and men and women of colour are over-represented in jails and prisons. Racialized men are especially targeted for violence by law enforcement, including racial profiling at the Canadian border.

Fact Sheet #8: Racialized Poverty in Immigration and Newcomer Settlement

As the face of immigration to Canada has changed dramatically over the past few decades poverty rates among newcomers have risen dramatically and critical settlement support services remain severely under-funded. People without status cannot easily access healthcare, education, fair work or police protection.

Fact Sheet #9: Racialized Poverty in Housing and Homelessness

Communities of colour and Indigenous groups have higher levels of under-housing & homelessness due to poverty and unemployment, cuts to social programs, & lack of housing services. Racialized persons also face discriminatory & prohibitive demands from landlords. The majority of newcomers to Toronto live in unsafe, sub-standard housing.

Fact Sheet #10: Racialized Poverty in Food and Water Insecurity

Because communities of colour and Indigenous groups are disproportionately poor, they are less likely able to provide enough healthy and familiar food for their families, putting them and their children at higher risk for many diseases and chronic conditions. Social assistance rates & minimum wage do not provide adequate income to afford a health diet.

FACT SHEET # 2

AN INTRODUCTION TO RACIALIZED POVERTY

How are we measuring poverty?

Canada has most often used the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) to measure financial hardship though this is in the process of being changed to the much more internationally familiar and comparable Low Income Measure (LIM).

LICO's are income thresholds below which a household will likely devote 20 percentage points more of its income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family. The After-Tax Low-Income Measure (LIM-AT) is where households are considered low income if their income is less than half of the national median income for their category. In either case these cut-offs vary by population sizes of the communities in which people reside - this additional variability is intended to capture differences in the cost of living amongst and between community and family sizes.

Who are we speaking about?

The information in these fact sheets refers to Canadians of non-European background or heritage - both people of colour who are Canadian-born as well as those who are newcomers to Canada. We make equal reference to Indigenous Peoples in our fact sheets, who belong to a distinct category.

Our understanding of Indigenous Peoples follows the most commonly accepted definition outlined in the Constitution Act, 1982, that Indigenous Peoples are those who identify as First Nations (Status and Non-Status), Métis, and Inuit. As we recognize that Indigenous claims to justice are distinct and most often require unique strategies and nation-to-nation responses, we also understand that Indigenous Peoples are often among the worst affected by poverty and various of the other impacts and outcomes of the institutional, structural and systemic racism and exclusion all too prevalent in society.

The racialization of poverty

Racialization refers to “the process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political and social life.”

Racial categories are not based on science or biology but on differences that society has chosen to emphasize, with significant consequences for people's lives.

People can be racialized not only based on skin colour but also other perceived characteristics such as their culture, language, customs, ancestry, country or place of origin, or in close association with faithist bias as in Islamophobia and anti-Sikh faithism.



Racialized communities experience ongoing, disproportionate levels of poverty. In other words, people of colour and Indigenous People are more likely to fall below the LICO/LIM and to have related problems like poor health, lower education, and fewer job opportunities, than non-racialized people.

To recognize this does not in any way deny or devalue non-racialized individuals' experiences and adversities; while it is possible for anyone to experience low income and reduced opportunities, individual and systemic racism plays a significant role in creating disadvantaged conditions and barriers for people of colour and Indigenous People.

Discrimination means that they are less likely to get jobs when equally qualified and are likely to make less income than their non-racialized peers, they are more likely to live and work in poor conditions, to have less access to healthcare, and to be victims of police violence.

SYSTEMIC RACISM AND RACIALIZED POVERTY ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO ADDRESS...



Racism is real. Histories of slavery, colonization and institutions of our past continue to shape the present and create a further gap between racialized and Indigenous people and others. This is not acceptable.



- A Better Way Forward: Ontario's 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan

What is systemic racism?

Systemic racism occurs when an institution or set of institutions working together creates or maintains racial inequity. This can be unintentional, and doesn't necessarily mean that people within an organization are racist. It is often caused by hidden institutional biases in policies, practices and processes that privilege or disadvantage different groups of people. It can be the result of doing things the way they've always been done without considering how they affect particular groups differently.

Systemic racism can lead to the over-representation of Indigenous People. Black and other peoples of colour in our jails and child welfare system. It can lead to Indigenous youth facing unfair economic challenges, and being unable to access healthcare. It can explain why Islamophobia and anti-Black attitudes persist, and often intersect.

Acknowledging and understanding what systemic racism does and what it looks like is a first step toward effective advocacy for racial justice. It is important to note that doing so does not intend to detract from the personal experiences and adversities of individuals not targeted by systemic racism; acknowledging systemic racism allows us to identify in what ways certain people are privileged and disadvantaged, therefore addressing the systemic and contextual issues, biases, and barriers hampering equity and equality.



In 2016, the proportion of people of colour (Statistics Canada uses 'visible minority') in Canada was 22%. In Ontario the proportion was 29% (3,885,585 persons).

Racialized people in Canada are significantly more likely to live in poverty; 2016 Census showed that 20.8% of peoples of colour are low-income compared to 12.2% of non-racialized people.



In 2016, the income gap between racialized and non-racialized residents increased from 25% to 26%.



According to 2016 Census data, 80% of Indigenous people living on reserves in Canada live in poverty- 27 communities reported median total incomes below \$10,000.

41% of chronically poor (under LICO for 5 consecutive years) immigrants have degrees.

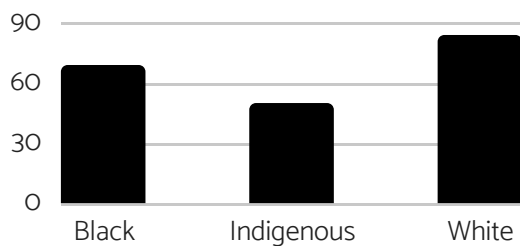


FACT SHEET # 3

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN EDUCATION & LEARNING

How are racialized people disadvantaged in education and learning?

In 2015, there was a 69% high school graduation rate for Black students and 50% for Indigenous students, versus 84% for White students.



- **Streaming:** Black and Indigenous students are more likely to be streamed into non-academic programs than White or some of the other racialized students. In 2015 the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) reported that 53% of Black students and 48% of Indigenous students, compared to 81% of White students, were enrolled in Academic programs of study; while 39% of Black students and 41% of Indigenous students, compared to 16% of White students, were in Applied programs.
- **Expulsion:** Black, Indigenous, and Eastern Mediterranean/Southwest Asian students were disproportionately expelled from TDSB primary/secondary school. Black students comprise only 12% of the TDSB's population; Indigenous students (0.3% of the TDSB population) represented 1% of all expulsions; and Eastern Mediterranean/ Southwest Asian students (4% of the TDSB population) represented 8% of all expulsions.
- **Policing:** Police presence is increased in schools deemed "vulnerable" – predominantly schools with relatively larger Black student populations. The introduction of counter-radicalization programs in Toronto, which involve the training of teachers to recognize signs of radicalization in students, will likely intensify the racial profiling and surveillance of Muslim students

- **Faculty:** In 2016, the Canada Research Chairs program (CRC), a Canadian federal agency for attracting and retaining top academics, issued a statement saying that they had failed to meet their annual national targets of hiring Canadian women, "visible minorities", people with disabilities, and Indigenous People in university faculties. A lack of diversity isolates Indigenous and students of colour; denies them role models and mentorship; and restricts the issues they are interested in studying.

AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

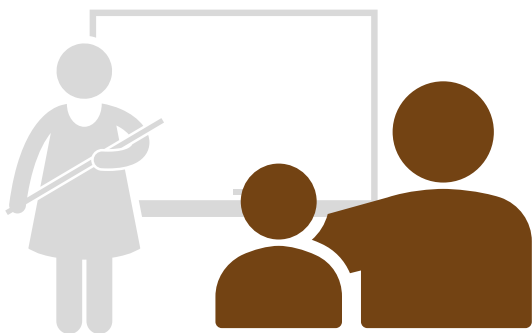
- In 2011, 27% of First Nations people aged 25 to 64, 17% of Métis and 27% of Inuit did not have a certificate, diploma or degree, versus 11% for the non-Indigenous population.



"Pregnancy/childcare responsibilities" was the reason reported by one-quarter of off-reserve First Nations and Métis women and 38% of Inuit women for not completing high school.

- 11% of Indigenous People had a university certificate, diploma, or degree at bachelor level or above, versus 29% for the non-Indigenous population.
- In 2017, 78.4% of Indigenous People with post-secondary education were employed, in comparison to 86% for non-Indigenous people.
- The 2016 Census found that since 2006, the Indigenous population has grown by 42.5%—more than four times the growth rate of the non-Indigenous population over the same period.
- 26% of Indigenous students – versus 47% of White students – applied to and were accepted by an Ontario university.

“ Parents also are treated with horrific disrespect by staff because not only are we African, we’re also living in poverty, and people seem to equate the skin colour combined with poverty to mean stupidity...it seems like they don’t think we know when we’re being disrespected and racially profiled. ”

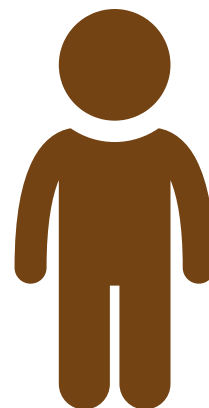


Quick Notes

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- When we refer to Indigenous Peoples, we speak to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons.
- In Toronto, 62% of all persons living in poverty are from racialized groups.
- 52% of Canada’s racialized people living in poverty reside in Ontario.
- Households that fall below Canada’s low income cut-off (LICO) or low income measure (LIM), spend a much larger percent of their income on basic necessities like food and shelter than the average family; this is how we measure poverty.
- Systemic racism is often caused by hidden institutional biases in policies, practices and processes that privilege or disadvantage certain groups of people. It can be the result of doing things the way they’ve always been done without considering how they affect particular groups differently.

- Reading: The TDSB found that 47% of students from the lowest income bracket (parents earning less than \$30,000/year) were meeting the provincial standard in reading, compared to 66% of students from the highest income bracket (parents earning \$100,000/year or more). (Remember, 62% of people living in poverty in Toronto are racialized).
- Higher Education: Children of families with the lowest income levels are about half as likely as those in the top income level to attend university.
- Literacy: 65% of people who receive social assistance are unable to read and write well enough to function in Canadian society.
- Curriculum: Curricula continue to be “White-centric”, marginalizing the histories and contributions of Indigenous groups and communities of colour.

Child poverty rates are higher for children of colour, Indigenous children and children of immigrants. Child poverty rates in Canada are 13% for White non-immigrant children, but 51% for Indigenous children (and 60% for Indigenous children living on reserve); 32% for children of immigrants; and 22% for children of colour when taken as a whole.



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

The Antiracist Multicultural Education Network of Ontario (AMENO) is a group of diverse educators, community members, and parents who are working to fight inequality and exclusion in Ontario schools. They provide a network to support advocacy and public education about equity issues and programs.
www.ameno.ca / info@amenoca

Canadian Roots Exchange is an Ontario-based Indigenous-led organization that offers Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth experiential learning opportunities such as exchanges and conferences where they come together to learn, define, and advocate for cross-cultural awareness and reconciliation.
www.canadianroots.ca / info@canadianroots.ca

FACT SHEET # 4

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN HEALTH & CHILD WELFARE

How are racialized people disadvantaged in health and child welfare?

- **Racism:** Studies suggest that a number of factors negatively affect the health of Indigenous People and people of colour in Canada, including: the psychological stress of living in a racist environment; unequal economic opportunities; poor housing; lack of food security; inequitable access to education and other social resources; disproportionate exposure to environmental toxins; employment in dangerous and precarious work; mistrust of the health-care system; and under-utilization of screening programs.
- **Cultural Access:** In a psychiatric system that is still Eurocentric in values, worldview and practice, it follows that there are systemic challenges at every stage of the system's interaction with people from racialized groups.
- **OHIP:** Newcomers to Canada need to wait 3 months for OHIP - leading to unaffordable costs or unaddressed health needs.



- **Racial Bias:** Despite white families having a rate of child maltreatment that is similar to families from racialized communities, a recent study concluded that: African Canadian children and youth are 40% more likely to be investigated compared to White children. Only Indigenous children showed greater disparities than African Canadians.
- **Over-representation:** Indigenous, Black, and other racialized children are heavily over-represented in the child welfare system. In Toronto, Black Canadians constitute 8.5% of the population, but 40% of the children in care.
- **Treatment:** Indigenous People and people of colour report being subjected to rude, disrespectful, harsh, or dismissive treatment by health care staff, due to racially discriminatory stereotypes. According to the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC)'s 2017 report, Under Suspicion, health workers often do not treat Indigenous Peoples' symptoms seriously because of assumptions that they are drunk or high. Similarly, Black patients' symptoms of sickle cell anemia are frequently dismissed as pain related to drug habits.

AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

- Indigenous Peoples experience the worst health outcomes of any population group in Canada. Indigenous women experience higher rates of hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, cervical and gallbladder cancer, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness, and suicide.
- Indigenous children are disproportionately more likely to die in foster care; and they represent 25.5% of children in foster care.
- Federal-provincial jurisdictional disputes deprive Indigenous children of funding for health services. While Jordan's Principle is meant to ensure that the government of first contact pays for the service without delay, the Principle has been restrictively applied by governments in practice, excluding many Indigenous children with health needs.



Suicide rates among First Nations youth are up to seven times higher than among non-Indigenous youth. This tragic reality was highlighted in April 2016 when five children tried to take their own lives on a Friday night in Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario.



- **Healthy Immigrant Effect Mortality** studies suggest that the healthy immigrant effect (a healthy immigrant experiences a decline of health after arriving to the host country) is stronger for immigrants from poor or culturally distant countries
- **Screening:** Women from lower income groups and racialized women are less likely to have clinical breast exams, mammogram X-rays to test for breast cancer, or PAP smears to test for cervical cancer.
- **Life Expectancy:** Nearly 70% of men living in wealthiest neighbourhoods will live to age 75, while only 50% of men living in the poorest neighbourhoods will reach that age.
- **Access:** In 2014, almost 13% of low-income Canadians, compared to 10% of middle- and high-income Canadians, had unmet health care needs, suggesting that they had difficulty accessing health care.

Quick Notes

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- When we refer to Indigenous Peoples, we speak to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons.
- In Toronto, 62% of all persons living in poverty are from racialized groups.
- 52% of Canada's racialized people living in poverty reside in Ontario.
- Households that fall below Canada's low income cut-off (LICO) or low income measure (LIM), spend a much larger percent of their income on basic necessities like food and shelter than the average family; this is how we measure poverty.
- Systemic racism is often caused by hidden institutional biases in policies, practices and processes that privilege or disadvantage certain groups of people. It can be the result of doing things the way they've always been done without considering how they affect particular groups differently.

Racialized children are vulnerable to racialized forms of abuse and culturally inappropriate treatment in foster homes.

For example, the 2016 One Vision, One Voice report, which documents the systemic anti-Black racism of child welfare services in Ontario, notes that White foster parents frequently shave off the hair of Black girls placed in their care, causing psychological harm.

A witness at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings spoke of how her foster parents were "adamant about Aboriginal culture being less than human, living as dirty bush people, eating rats."



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Across Boundaries provides a dynamic range of mental health supports and services and works within anti-racism/anti-Black racism and anti-oppression frameworks. These frameworks address the negative impact of racism and discrimination on mental health and well-being.

www.acrossboundaries.ca / info@acrossboundaries.ca

Community Health Centres (CHC's) such as - Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, Anishnawbe Health Toronto, Hamilton Urban Core, and TAIBU - and their sister **Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHAC's)** such as - Anishnawbe Mushkiki and Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre - are providing culturally safe, relevant, and responsive care in the communities where it's needed.

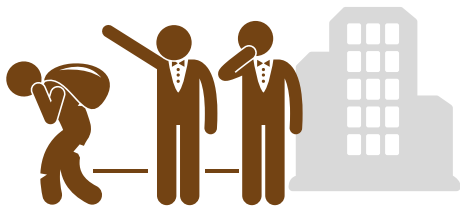
www.aohc.org / mail@aohc.org

FACT SHEET # 5

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN EMPLOYMENT

How are racialized people disadvantaged in employment?

There are significant racialized wage and employment gaps in Canada. Factors that are making the gaps deeper and wider are: systemic racism in hiring and promotion; de-skilling of immigrants due to non-recognition of international credentials and experience; and use of police record checks to discriminate against applicants.



- **Unemployment Gap:** For those who self-identify as Eastern Mediterranean/Southwest Asian/Arab in Ontario, the unemployment rate was 95% higher than non-racialized Canadians in 2016. The unemployment rate for African diaspora Ontarians was 73% higher than non-racialized Canadians.
- **Racialized Unemployment:** People of colour living in Ontario have higher unemployment rates than White residents. Racialized men are 24% more likely to be unemployed than non-racialized men. Racialized women are 48% more likely to be unemployed than non-racialized men.
- **Migrant Workers:** The number of temporary migrant workers in Canada has more than quadrupled since 2000. As of 2014 there were 567,977 temporary status workers in the country. Migrant workers in low-wage streams of temporary migration – disproportionately workers of colour from the global South – are exceptionally susceptible to exploitation and abuse.
- **Racism:** Migrant agricultural workers in Ontario, the majority of whom are Mexican and Caribbean, have little legal protection. One study found that 75% of migrant farm workers reported experiencing more racism in Canada than in the U.S.

- **Precarious Work:** Racialized people – both Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour – and immigrants are over-represented in part-time and precarious employment characterized by lower wages, absence of benefits, and job insecurity.

There has yet to be any government plan to address issues that have a disproportionate impact on workers of colour and immigrant workers such as: employers violating employment standards provisions with impunity; employees being unable to recover lost wages due to recalcitrant employers; and fear of losing one's job and being blacklisted in the community – a fear that is greatly exacerbated in Indigenous communities and communities of colour.



AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

- In 2015, Indigenous People were under-represented in most "knowledge occupations" – professional, managerial and technical occupations, which tend to require post-secondary education and receive better pay. They are less likely than non-Indigenous people to work in management occupations (7.1% vs. 9.5%) or business, finance and administration occupations (14.4% vs. 17.0%).
- In a 2018 health report, 63% of Indigenous People were unemployed compared to the 7% Ontario average; with 87% below LICO.
- Indigenous employees working full-time earned an average of \$26.00 per hour in 2015, while their non-Indigenous counterparts earned an average of \$27.41 per hour.



“ I lost my job, I am hungry. I need money for my children... I can't think well... The [claim] form they gave, it is so complicated... It took eight months until the investigation.
-Hassan, about a failed claim for \$7000 in unpaid wages ”



During the 5-year period from 1987 to 1992, 72% of the lowest-income earners (bottom 10%) moved up the income ladder, but by 2007–2012, this percentage fell to 60%

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- **Credentials:** Immigrants' credentials and work experience are often undervalued or devalued; 41% of chronically poor (under LICO for 5 consecutive years) immigrants have degrees.
- **Names:** Multiple studies have demonstrated that employers discriminate against job applicants with African, Asian or Muslim "sounding" names, even when applicants have equivalent education and experience. The same bias gets expressed based on ones neighbourhood of residence.
- **Policing:** Employers' use of police record checks in the hiring process entrenches the exclusion of over-policed Indigenous groups, Black and other communities of colour from the labour market.
- **Discrimination:** Several studies suggest that discrimination in the labour force, higher unemployment rates, more insecure/precarious employment, and lower wages and earnings are significant contributors to the growing number of racialized families living in poverty.



” Migrant workers who are injured on the job are routinely sent back to their countries of origin, preventing them from accessing needed treatment, treatment which may not be available in their own countries, and the workers compensation benefits to which they are entitled.

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) works to secure employment and apprenticeship opportunities in all public infrastructure projects for equity-seeking groups and historically disadvantaged communities in the Greater Toronto Area.
www.communitybenefits.ca / info@communitybenefits.ca

The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres is a network of centres that act as cultural hubs where Indigenous community members can seek support in employment and educational goals, family, health, justice, and many more services.
www.ofifc.org / ofifc@ofifc.org

FACT SHEET # 6

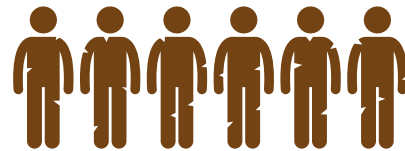
RACIALIZED POVERTY IN INCOME & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

How is the racialization of poverty actualized through income & social assistance?

- **Gender Pay Gap:** Recent immigrants (arrived in 2011-2016) face an income gap of 37% compared to non-immigrants. It is slightly lower than the 39% gap in 2005. However recent immigrant women face a 59% income gap compared to non-immigrant men. Racialized immigrant women likely experience the highest income gap.
- **Colour Code:** Racialized workers earn 81.4 cents for every dollar paid to non-racialized workers. The 'colour-code' in earnings persists for second generation workers of colour.
- **Differential Impact:** Data shows that racialized residents are over-represented in low-income statistics, with peoples of colour as a whole having a low-income rate of 21.3% in 2016 compared to 11.5% for non-racialized Ontario residents.
- **Immigration:** Recent immigrants had a low-income rate of 31.4%, which was more than twice the rate of 12.5% for non-immigrants. Racialized immigrants are most likely to experience the highest low-income rates.
- **Participation:** 40% of people on social assistance in Ontario often experienced limits on their participation in social and economic life.
- **Health:** Over 4 times as many people on social assistance considered suicide sometime in their lives than non-poor, and almost 20 times as many attempted suicide.
- **Precarious Work:** Racialized people - both Indigenous People and people of colour - and immigrants are over-represented in part-time and precarious employment characterized by lower wages, absence of benefits, and job insecurity.
- **Income Gap:** In 2016, the income gap between racialized and non-racialized residents increased from 25% to 26% nationally.

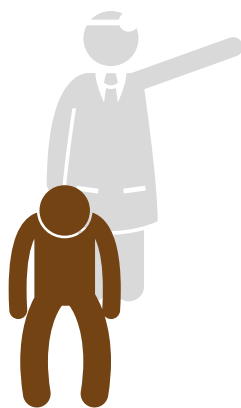
AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

87% of Indigenous people from Toronto surveyed in a 2018 health report live below the before-tax low-income cut-off, where a family generally spends 70 per cent or more of its income on food, shelter and clothing.

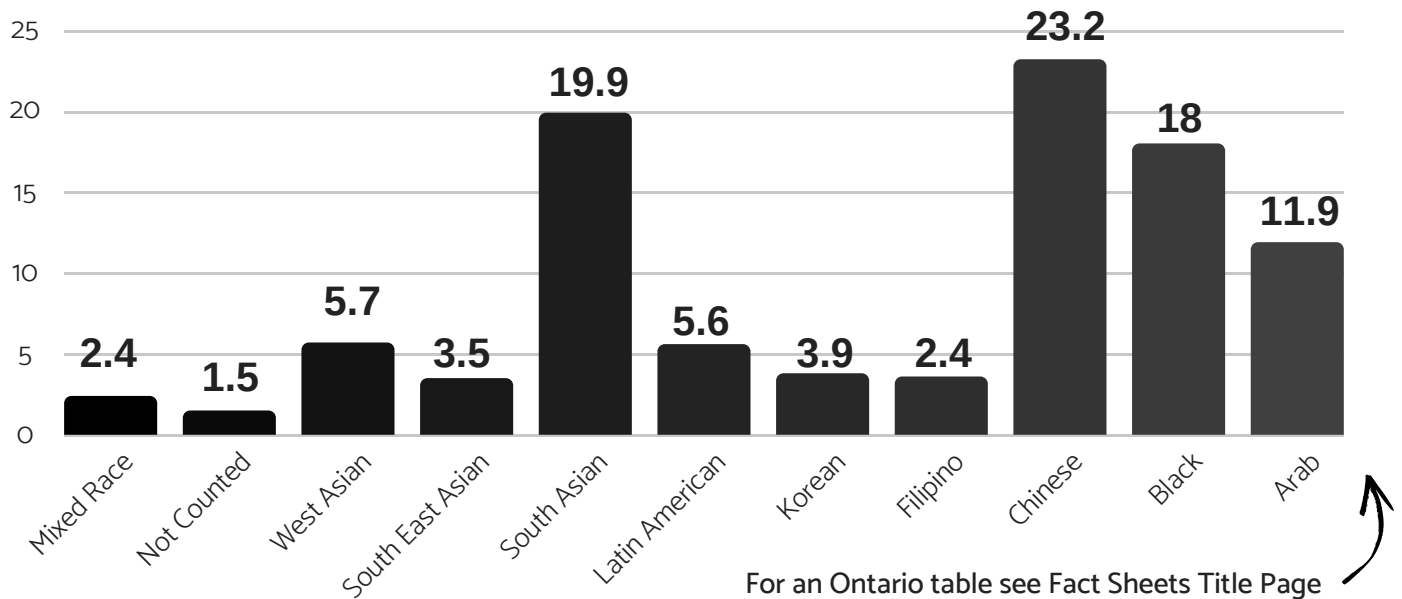


- Indigenous children experience poverty at a rate that is almost twice that of non-Indigenous.
- There continues to be a deep and persistent income gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The 2016 Census data shows a 45% income gap between Indigenous women and non-Indigenous men, while the average income gap between all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people was 33%.
- In 2012-13, 33.6 per cent of on-reserve First Nations peoples received social income assistance, compared to just over 5 per cent of the Canadian population. In some Indigenous communities, social income assistance rates are higher than 80 per cent.
- Income levels for Indigenous peoples are directly linked to educational attainment levels.

Many social entitlement programs (Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, health care, and child benefits) are denied to temporary foreign workers (TFW's) despite their contribution into these programs when they work in Canada.



All Peoples of Colour Living in Poverty in Canada - Percentage of Total by Select Ethno-Racial Groupings (Canadian Census 2016)



For an Ontario table see Fact Sheets Title Page

Quick Notes

- When we refer to peoples of colour we speak of Canadians of non-European background or heritage - both people of colour who are Canadian-born as well as those who are newcomers to Canada.
- When we refer to Indigenous Peoples, we speak to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons.
- In Toronto, 62% of all persons living in poverty are from racialized groups.
- 52% of Canada's racialized people living in poverty reside in Ontario.
- Households that fall below Canada's low income cut-off (LICO) or low income measure (LIM), spend a much larger percent of their income on basic necessities like food and shelter than the average family; this is how we measure poverty.
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- Indigenous Census: Low-income data for First Nations on reserve and people living in the territories, including the Inuit in Nunavut, is not published on an annual basis by Statistics Canada.
- Low-Income: For specific ethno-racial groups in Ontario the percentages of people who are low-income are - Arab (40.6%), West Asian (36.1%), Korean (31.4%), Black (24.1%), Chinese (22.2%), Latin American (19.9%), Southeast Asian (18.4%), and South Asian (18.0%) - as opposed to 11.5% for non-people of colour.

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) is a specialty legal clinic in Ontario's community legal clinic system with a mandate to improve the income security of people living in Ontario through community organizing, policy development and advocacy, and test case litigation.

iincomesecurity.org / isac@lao.on.ca

Sistering is a community-based service provider guided by principles of anti-racism & anti-oppression works to change social conditions and inequalities which endanger homeless, under-housed and low income women's welfare. sistering.org / general_info@sistering.org

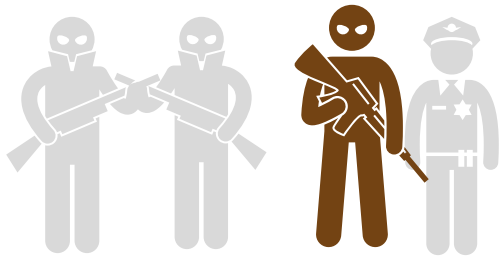
FACT SHEET # 7

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN JUSTICE & POLICING

How are racialized people disadvantaged in justice and policing?

- **Profiling:** From 2013 to 2015, Ottawa Police Services found that Black drivers were stopped 2.3 times more often than expected given their representation in the driving population; young Black men were stopped 8.3 times more; Middle Eastern drivers were stopped 3.3 times more; and young Middle Eastern men were stopped 12 times more.
- **Pre-Trial Detention:** A 2016 report on the bail system in Ontario observes that Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour "who are subject to over-policing practices and racial profiling are more likely to find themselves in pre-trial detention."
- **Segregation:** In 2016, 40% of inmates in segregation at the Toronto South Detention Centre were Black, while being 7.5% of the Toronto CMA.

Government reports on national security focus almost exclusively on Muslim individuals and organizations as a source of terrorism – ignoring the more real threat of the more than 100 extreme right-wing and White supremacist groups active across Canada.



- **Rates of Arrest:** As a result of higher levels of scrutiny "compared to white people, minorities are more likely to be arrested, convicted and punished", which has been identified as a significant contributing factor to the overrepresentation of Black males in the criminal justice system.

- **Incarceration:** In 2016, Black people comprise 3.5% of the general Canadian population, but make up 10% of the federally incarcerated population.

AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) acknowledged in a 2014 report that there have been nearly 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada between 1980 and 2012. Indigenous women's groups, however, document the number of missing and murdered to be over 4,000.
- Indigenous women 15 years and older were 3.5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women, according to the 2004 General Social Survey.
- Between 1997-2000, the homicide rate for Indigenous women was nearly 7 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous women.
- 14% of people in segregation in Ontario jails are Indigenous. Over half of the Indigenous women and men admitted to segregation in 2016 had a suicide risk alert.
- According to the RCMP, over 90% of trafficking victims are Canadian citizens, and 92% of victims are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. The majority of trafficking victims in Canada are Indigenous, and most are young.
- In 2016, 25% of the total federally incarcerated population – and 35% of federally-sentenced women – were Indigenous, despite accounting for only around 4.3% of the total Canadian population.
- Between 2005 and 2015, the number of incarcerated Indigenous People increased by more than 50%, while the number of incarcerated Indigenous women almost doubled.

- **Risk:** Racialized communities are over-represented among the low income population and face heightened risk of homelessness, incarceration, and human rights violations. This increases their likelihood of being over-policed, while diminishing their access to justice and security,
- **Access:** Access to justice, and the fair representation of racialized individuals before courts, administrative tribunals, and access to legal aid is made that much more difficult because of their race and immigration status on the one hand, and the lack of culturally and linguistically responsive and safe services in the justice system on the other.
- **Criminalization:** The Canadian bail system is one that “disproportionately penalizes – and criminalizes – poverty, addiction and mental illness” - exacerbating the colour-coded inequity.

Quick Notes

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In Canada, 2014, there were 611 crimes motivated by hatred against a particular racial group (primarily anti-Black racism: 238), and 429 motivated by hatred against a particular religious group (primarily Jewish: 213, and Muslim: 99). Hate crimes against Muslims doubled between 2014 and 2016. However, these statistics are incomplete because only a small proportion of hateful acts are reported, systematically recorded and tracked.

In 2013, section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which had made communication of hateful messages legal grounds for complaint, was repealed by the Harper-Kenney Conservative government. This has reduced the avenues available in Canada for addressing hate through the human rights system.

As of 2015, Thunder Bay, Ontario, experienced the highest number of reported hate crimes in Canada (nearly half targeting Indigenous People).



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Aboriginal Legal Services specializes in legal representation of Indigenous People from across Ontario. They house one of Canada’s largest Indigenous diversion programs.
www.aboriginallegal.ca / info@aboriginallegal.ca

Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) works to create a culture of human rights compliance and accountability by exposing, challenging and ending entrenched and widespread structures and systems of discrimination through education, policy development, public inquiries and litigation.
www.ohrc.on.ca / info@ohrc.on.ca

Canadian Arab Federation advocates for reform to anti-terrorism laws, and provides support for individual victims of hate crimes.
www.caf.ca / info@caf.ca

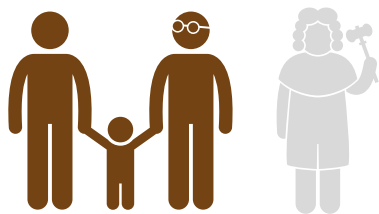
FACT SHEET # 8

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN IMMIGRATION & NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT

How are immigrants, refugees and other newcomers systemically disadvantaged?

- **Detention:** Canada does not impose a maximum time limit on immigration detention. In 2017, the Ontario Superior Court ordered the release of a West African immigration detainee held in a maximum-security jail for seven years (including 103 consecutive days spent in solitary confinement).
- **Family:** Canadian policies for family sponsorship can delay or prevent families from reuniting - as in: “family” does not include siblings or extended family; refugee children cannot sponsor parents or siblings; those living below the LICO or on social assistance are ineligible to sponsor.
- **Financial Eligibility:** Because members of racialized communities and recent immigrants are more likely to live in poverty, the financial eligibility requirements for family sponsorship have a disproportionately more negative impact on these communities.

Racialized asylum seekers from countries outside North America/Europe claiming persecution on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity are disadvantaged in the refugee process. Lawyers representing LGBTQ2S+ claimants have reported instances of clients being asked graphic and intrusive questions about sexual practices during hearings. These disadvantages are compounded by the frequent inadequacy of translation services.



- **Bias:** Data analyzed by the End Immigration Detention Network in 2014 found significant variance in the release rates between individual immigration detention board decision-makers, from 5% to 33%; and between regions, from 9% in Central Canada to 27% in Western Canada – calling into question the evident arbitrariness and unfairness of detention decisions.
- **Language:** There are not enough English as a Second Language (ESL) programs or translation services. School boards are unofficially allowed to transfer their ESL funds to other program areas as they need.

- **Economic immigrants** are workers and their families who are accepted into Canada because of their skills or education.
- **Family Class immigrants** are people who are sponsored by a family member who already lives in Canada.
- **Convention refugees** are granted protection in Canada because they face persecution in another country.
- **Refugee claimants** are people who are in Canada and have made a claim for protection. Over half have of such claims are denied.
- **“Non-status”, “undocumented” or “irregular”** refers to anyone who’s living in Canada for what ever reasons, cannot obtain legal status or had a status that expired.
- **Regularization** would mean that non-status, undocumented or irregular status individuals would be given the opportunity to apply for legal status in Canada.



A study of 404 Indo and Chinese immigrant professionals residing in the Vancouver area found only 18% of them at the time of the study worked in their own profession in Canada. Only 6% agreed that the provincial governments had conducted a fair recognition of their foreign credentials. When asked about the possible sources of discrimination in the accreditation process, 65% reported colour, 69% nationality or ethnic origin and 79% the inability to speak English. The situation is not too different in Ontario.



- Data: The Canadian Border Services Agency does not publish detention statistics disaggregated on the basis of race, ethnicity, faith/spirituality or country of origin.

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- Minors: According to data provided by the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), 6,251 people were held in immigration detention in 2016/2017, including 151 minors.
- Employment Insurance: Changes introduced into the program by the Harper-Kenney Conservative government dramatically reduced eligibility for people living in larger urban centres - disproportionately impacting peoples of colour and newcomers.



Many “non-status” people come from countries of extreme poverty and violence, but do not qualify as Convention Refugees. Not having status means that such newcomers: can't access health & social services, police protection; cannot work legally, so risk abuse and unfair wages; do not qualify for housing support; often cannot send their children to school; don't qualify for most language training programs, etc.

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) is a not-for-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees in Canada and around the world, and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada.

www.ccrweb.ca / info@ccrweb.ca

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) was formed to act as a collective voice for immigrant-serving agencies, to coordinate response to shared needs and concerns with a membership of more than 200 community-based organizations in the province of Ontario.

www.ocasi.org / generalmail@ocasi.org



FACT SHEET # 9

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

How are racialized people disadvantaged in housing and homelessness?

- **Inadequate Housing:** Just over 50% of people of colour households in Canada live in homes which are not affordable (leading to homelessness) and inadequate (require repair or maintenance) and unsuitable (overcrowded, among other issues). This compares to 28% of non-racialized households.



Affordable housing isn't being built for people of colour and newcomers with larger families - with "Inclusionary Zoning" now undermined by weak provincial legislation.

- **Over-representation:** Primary destinations for immigrants and refugees, larger urban centres in Ontario are also preferred homes for communities of colour - with all significantly over-represented in poorer quality housing.
- **Housing Cost:** One study found that most newcomers were spending more than 50% of their income on housing with 15% spending 75% or more of their income on housing.
- **Discrimination:** In addition to poor housing conditions, Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour face discrimination on the basis of source of income, credit history, access to guarantors and references, racial identity, immigration status, gender and age.
- **Newcomers:** In addition to poor housing conditions, newcomers also face discrimination on the basis of source of income, credit history, access to guarantors and references, racial identity, immigration status, gender and age.
- **Refugees:** Over half of refugees and asylum seekers stayed in a shelter at some point, which indicates that this group is at higher risk of homelessness.

AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

- In 2011, a federal evaluation of First Nations housing stated that 41.5 per cent of on-reserve households required major renovations, compared to only 7 per cent of non-Indigenous households. Mould, bug infestations, inadequate heating and contaminated water are just some of the issues.
- In 2016, the Toronto Star reported that Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario has about 2,100 residents but only 340 homes. This means that more than one family often reside in the same household. Some houses hold up to 13 people.
- 28-34% of the shelter population is Indigenous. Indigenous people are overrepresented amongst the homeless population in virtually all urban centres in Canada.
- According to a national report, those who reported an Indigenous identity were more than twice as likely (18%) to have experienced hidden homelessness as their non-Indigenous counterparts (8%).

Hidden homelessness is defined as people who live "temporarily with others but without guarantee of continued residency or immediate prospects for accessing permanent housing." This describes people staying with relatives, friends, neighbours or strangers because they have no other option.





Being on welfare, or being homeless basically, you have no references, and most landlords don't like that... I don't have [first and last months' rent]... and secondly, it's my colour, some landlord don't like that. I went to this lady and she said she has a problem with Black people.



- Canada's "Red-Lining": Racialized groups are often forced to accept housing that is unsafe, unhealthy, substandard and in neighbourhoods that have high crime rates and low average incomes.
- Hidden Homelessness: In addition to the visibly homeless, 450,000 – 900,000 Canadians represent the 'hidden' homeless.
- Race: Poverty and "minority race" are key factors that can lead to homelessness. Racialized people experience disproportionately higher levels of homelessness and poor housing. Immigrants and refugees in Ontario are at risk for homelessness due to poverty, discrimination, cuts to social programs, lack of housing services, and lack of information about rights.



In 2017, the average rent in Ontario for a one-bedroom apartment was \$994. The hourly wage needed for this rent to be affordable would be \$19.



The average rent in Toronto for a one-bedroom apartment was \$1,132 in 2016. The hourly wage needed for this rent to be affordable (30% of income or less) would be \$21.77.

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Even after an increase in minimum wage, housing will remain unaffordable for those making less than \$19 an hour.

Reforms introduced by the Ontario Government in May 2017 called for minimum wage to be increased to \$15 per hour by January 2019.

Implementing this increase is critical to helping racialized communities access affordable housing.

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Zhaawnong Gamik, Nishnawbe Homes provides for the many single Indigenous Peoples coming to Toronto for education or job opportunities. Nishnawbe Homes offers affordable housing that connects them to the community and reflects First Nations culture.
nishnawbehomes@rogers.com

Advocacy for Centre for Tenants Ontario (ATCO) works for the advancement of human rights and justice in housing for low-income Ontarians through legal advice & representation, law reform, community organizing, training and education.
www.acto.ca



FACT SHEET #10

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN FOOD & WATER SECURITY

How are racialized people disadvantaged in food and water security?



Ontario is worst off in Canada- as of 2011, the highest levels of food insecurity in Canada were reported for Toronto (10.1%) and North Ontario (9.7%).

- **Social Assistance:** As of 2011, 70% of households in Ontario whose major source of income was social assistance were food insecure
- **Housing:** Not owning a dwelling was related to higher rates of food insecurity. In this situation, 18.7% of households were considered food insecure, compared to 3.7% of households where the house was owned.
- **Income:** 20.2% of households living below the low-income cut off in Ottawa report being moderately to severely food insecure, compared to 3.5% of those above the LICO.
- **School:** Household food insecurity affects one in six Canadian children under 18, but unlike the US and many other industrialized nations, Canada does not have a national school food program.
- **Recent Immigration:** In 2011–2012, almost 1.1 million Canadian households experienced food insecurity; this food insecurity was higher among recent immigrants (19.6%) who are predominantly people of colour, compared to non-recent immigrants (11.8%) and the Canadian-born population (12.4%).
- **Social/Structural Determinants:** For Latin American immigrants in Toronto, three main correlates of food insecurity were found: social assistance as a main income, use of food banks, and limited literacy in English.
- **Culturally Appropriate:** Too few of the food items at food banks are culturally relevant or responsive to the ethno-racial and cultural diversity of Ontarians.

- **Immigrants:** Immigrants in Canada are two times more likely to be food insecure and tend to suffer declining health after they arrive.

AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

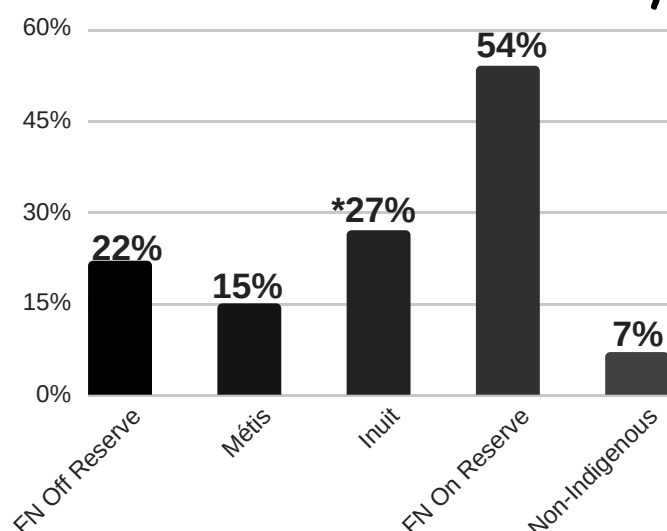
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In Ontario, 43 long-term drinking water advisories were in place in 22 Indigenous communities as of 2017.

- 90% of the population of Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations showed signs of exposure to mercury from the Wabigoon-English River system.
- 5.1% of Indigenous households experience marginal food insecurity, 14.8% experience moderate food insecurity, and 8.3% experience severe food insecurity. Being Indigenous in Canada is listed as a household characteristic that is associated with higher likelihoods of food insecurity.
- 20% of Indigenous adults in Toronto living in a household with at least one child indicated often not having enough to eat
- In 2011, an estimated 29% of Indigenous People aged 18 or older lived in food-insecure households.
- Access to and consumption of traditional foods are important methods for alleviating food insecurity and improving health among Indigenous Peoples. 74% of Indigenous adults in Toronto would prefer eating more traditional or country food than what they currently eat.



Percent of households in Canada with moderate to severe food insecurity (2007-2010), as per 2013 and 2015 reports



*Other surveys suggest that rates of food insecurity in Inuit households may be even higher, reaching over 62%.

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Food security means that all people in society have access to food they can afford and that is: healthy and safe; enough for their families; from local stores (instead of food banks and shelters); grown in ways that are safe for the environment; culturally appropriate, familiar and suitable.

Water security can be defined as the ability to access sufficient quantities of clean water to maintain adequate standards of food and goods production, proper sanitation, and sustainable health and well-being.



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Afri-Can Food Basket is a community-based, not-for-profit cooperative community development movement that is committed to meeting the nutrition, health and employment needs of members of the African Canadian community, in particular those who are economically and socially vulnerable.
www.africanfoodbasket.com /
info@africanfoodbasket.ca

Access Alliance works with food banks and advocates to increase newcomer access to food banks and to develop culturally appropriate service delivery models.
www.accessalliance.ca /
communications@accessalliance.ca

Foodshare suggests many policy changes and actions to promote food security such as setting basic minimum income standards and policies that promote equality in work, and making food a basic human right.
www.foodshare.net / info@foodshare.net



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Colour of Poverty | | Colour of Change

Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change (COP-COC) is a network in Ontario working to build concrete strategies, tools, initiatives and community-based capacity through which individuals, groups and NGO's (especially those reflective of the affected racialized communities - both First Peoples and peoples of colour) can begin to develop coherent shared action plans, including creating effective coordinated strategies for collaborating with mainstream policy analysts and institutions, anti-poverty advocacy groups, governments, funders and the media so as to best work together to address and redress this disturbing and growing structural or systemic ethno-racial inequality.

The COP-COC Steering Committee membership currently includes Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, the African Canadian Legal Clinic, the Canadian Arab Federation, the Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic, the Chinese Canadian National Council – Toronto Chapter, the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians, the Hispanic Development Council, Karuna Community Services, La Passerelle - I.D.E., Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto, Midaynta Community Services, the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario, the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office – together with an academic member – Professor Grace-Edward Galabuzi from Ryerson University in Toronto.

Visit www.colourofpoverty.ca for more information.

