

CFUW Perth and District Social Justice Committee

# RESEARCH ON POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

## Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to present some data regarding poverty and homelessness in and around Perth and the Lanark County in order to educate ourselves and the Perth CFUW members and to provide a concise knowledge base in order to determine our next advocacy steps.

## Population

Perth (2020): 6,407  
Lanark (2021): 75,760  
Ontario (2022): 15,007,816  
Canada (2022): 39,292,355

## Income:

### Median Household Income per year:

Perth (2016): \$52,429  
Lanark: ?  
Ontario (2016): \$74,287  
Canada (2020): \$96,220

### Median After-tax Household Income per year:

Perth (2016): \$46,966  
Lanark: ?  
Ontario (2016): \$65,285  
Canada (2019): \$62,900

### 2020 Census Population Median After-tax Income:

Perth: \$56,800  
Lanark: ?  
Drummond North Elmsley: \$85,000  
Tay Valley: \$78,000

Note 1

Gathering recent data proved to be difficult sometimes and was not always available for our research so we listed the year the data represents.

Note 2

Data validity is difficult to establish as different sources provide different data for same data points.

Note 3

Definitions of terms are inconsistent and therefore becomes issues open to debate e.g., "affordable" and "poverty".

Note 4

Where data was not available, a "?" was entered for that category



### Unemployment Rate:

Perth (2016): 8.1%  
Lanark: ?  
Ontario (2017): 6.0%  
Canada (2017): 6.3%

### Median Household Income 2020 by Gender

Perth:	Men: \$46,000	Women: \$42,800
Ontario:	Men: \$57,200	Women: \$46,800
Canada:	Men: \$57,200	Women: \$46,400

### Low Income Based on Low-Income Cut-Off After Tax (LICO-AT) 2016

Perth: 7.5%    Lanark County: 4.5%    Ontario: 9.8%

### Households in receipt of Government Transfers:

Perth: 21%  
Lanark: 14.6%  
Ontario: 11.1%

## Housing:

### Percentage of Households Living in Subsidized Housing (2018)

Perth:	14.2%
Lanark:	15.3%
Ontario:	15%

### Average wait time for social housing in years:

Perth (2017):	>3 years
Lanark (2015):	2.46 years

### Rent Geared to Income (RGI) wait list (2021):

16-23:	4%
24-59:	52%
60+:	44%

One-bedroom units are in greatest demands average wait time 6 to 8 years. Carleton Place has the longest wait list followed by Perth then Smiths Falls. Housing waitlist as of February 2023: 475 households.

Note from Emily Hollington, Director of Social Services, Lanark County: "While the waitlist is an indicator of demand on a service it is not reflective of need in our community".

There are five non-profit housing providers that offer Rent Geared to Income (RGI) housing options in Lanark:

- Carebridge Community Support Corporation (Almonte and Pakenham); # of RGI Units: 118
- Clayton Seniors Housing Corporation (Clayton); # of RGI Units: 13
- Tayside Community and Residential and Support Options (Perth); # RGI Units: 18
- Carleton Place Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation (Carleton Place); # of RGI Units: 15
- Tay Valley Non-Profit Housing Corporation: (Perth); # of RGI units: 18
- The 2016 Census reports 48.7% of renters and 16.2% of homeowners spends more than 30% of income on housing.

**This is not considered affordable.**



## Poverty and Homelessness

In Lanark County, 27 individuals were identified as homeless in the 2018 enumeration (homelessness is also something which can be hard to define as there are many people couch surfing or in over-crowded and precarious situations; unsure if the total number quoted includes those)

### Poverty Rate Overall:

Lanark:	14.3%
Ontario:	18.1%

### Among Children:

Lanark:	16.7%
Ontario:	18.8%

### Elderly

Lanark:	1.7%
Ontario:	6.8%

### Lone Parent Families:

Lanark:	25.6%
Ontario:	32.4%

### Homeless Population by age distribution (Lanark 2018)

16-24:	22%
25-49:	30%
50-64:	26%
65+ :	22%

### Gender:

Male:	52%
Females:	44%
Trans:	4%

### Reasons For Homelessness (2018)

Unable to pay rent or mortgage:	20.6%
Conflict with parent/ guardian:	11.8%
Experienced abuse by spouse/ partner:	11.8%
Unsafe house conditions:	5.9%
Addiction or substance use:	5.9%
Incarcerated (jail or prison)	2.9%
Conflict with spouse/ partner:	2.9%
Other:	35%



## Disabilities and Poverty

According to the most recent Canadian Survey on Disability (2017), nearly 917,000 (23%) working-age Canadians with disabilities live in poverty. Persons with severe disabilities (28%) and very severe disabilities (34%) are particularly vulnerable and experience a high rate of poverty. The same survey found that Canadians with disabilities—including women, men, LGBTQ2 people, racialized people and Indigenous people—are more likely to be financially insecure than other Canadians:

- 25 percent of Canadians with disabilities spend more than 30% of their total income on shelter costs;
- Fifty-nine percent of Canadians with disabilities aged 25 to 64 have gainful employment, compared to 80% of Canadians without disabilities; and
- Canadians with disabilities aged 25 to 64 earn less than Canadians without disabilities (12% less for Canadians with milder disabilities and 51% less for Canadians with more severe disabilities).

(Senator Brent Cotter has recently sponsored Bill C-22 in the Senate. Bill C-22 is the creation of a Canada Disability Benefit; MPs voted unanimously to pass it.)

## Food

### Food Insecurity

<https://youtu.be/2YgxG6tyaXs>

### Public Health Food Basket

Each year, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit conducts Nutritious Food Basket costing. This means we look at the cost of a variety of nutritious foods across several grocery stores in Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark, and determine the average cost of eating a balanced diet for those living in the tri-county.

### Nutritious Food Basket Findings for Leeds, Grenville and Lanark

North Grenville Times found that the average monthly cost of a nutritious food basket in LGL for a family of four consisting of two adults (1 male and 1 female each between 31 and 50 years), a female aged 4-8, and a male aged 14-18 was \$1109 in June of 2022. For a household with a monthly income of \$2760, minus their rent, which is an average of \$1561 in LGL, they have \$1199 for everything else, before accounting for the cost of food. After subtracting the average cost of food, which is \$1109, they are left with \$90 for all other expenses, including hydro, transportation, insurance, basic phone and internet, childcare, clothing and footwear, household supplies, toiletries, and over-the-counter medications, extracurricular activities for children, minimal recreation and entertainment, and school supplies.

**Food Banks coverage area:**

Great Food Bank: Perth, Tay Valley, & Drummond North Elmsley 1/2 way to Smiths Falls.

The Table CFC: Lanark County

**Numbers of Seniors accessing Food Banks:**

Great Food Bank: 137 people over the age of 60

**Accessing all programs:**

47% of the 50 adult program participants surveyed in The Table annual program survey were over 65, so seniors make up a high percentage of their meal, garden and social justice program participants. The survey doesn't include under 18 or ask about household make up so it underrepresents children.

**Documentation Sources:**

- Foundations for the Future - Lanark County 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - December 2019
- Lanark County & Town of Smiths Falls 2021 Housing & Homelessness Report
- StatCan - Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population - Housing
- StatCan - Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population-Income
- Lanark County Municipal Tools to Support Affordable Housing - Stakeholder Sessions - October 26-29, 2021.
- Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls Municipal Tools to Support Affordable Housing - Final Report March 2022
- Stephanie Corrin, Social Justice & Advocacy Coordinator - The Table Community Food Centre, Perth North Grenville Times
- Emily Hollington, Director of Social Services, Lanark County
- TVO "What is food Insecurity."

**Numbers of Distinct Individuals served at Food Banks 2022:**

Great Food Bank: 1,212/ year

The Table CFC: +2,000/ year

**Household Breakdown:**

Food bank total households: 504 in 2022. The graph below indicates the number of households which used the food bank that have 0, 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 children.

