

BRANT

Vital Signs[®]

A PUBLICATION OF THE BRANT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



BRANT

VitalSigns®

Welcome to the Brant Community Foundation's 2018 Vital Signs® Report

Established in 1997, the Brant Community Foundation promotes community well-being by managing charitable gifts from donors creating permanent, income-earning funds. The proceeds from these funds are distributed to charitable organizations through our grant program. To date, the Brant Community Foundation has provided more than \$3.45 million in grants to strengthen our community.

Our Vision: The Brant Community Foundation is a trusted agent and a catalyst for philanthropy, benefiting our community – today and forever.

Our Mission: To attract and manage permanent funds from donors of all means, and provide grants to charitable organizations in Brantford and Brant County.



*David A.B. Bailey, Chair
Brant Community Foundation*



*Joanne Lewis,
Executive Director*

Message from the Foundation

Welcome to the inaugural Brant Community Foundation's Vital Signs® – a snapshot of our community at this point-in-time.

We are most fortunate to have community supporters who championed the report, working with us from the very beginning when it was just an idea. This report could not have been completed without their dedication. We thank them for their kind and generous support.

Our report looks at ten key areas that help shape the vitality of a community. The data provides a wide range of factual and relevant indicators and statistics.

The Foundation board wants to ensure that Foundation grants have the widest possible community impact and this report will prove to be a valuable tool in their decision making.

How can you use this report?

Start the conversation. Vital Signs® is a comprehensive report to help us understand and focus on the most pressing needs and challenges facing our region. Use this report as a catalyst and the data it contains to motivate action.

Pass it on. Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, neighbours or elected officials at any level.

Contact us. We know the issues and the organizations in our community. If you want to make a difference, we can help.


Brant Community Foundation
Building our Community. Investing in the Future.

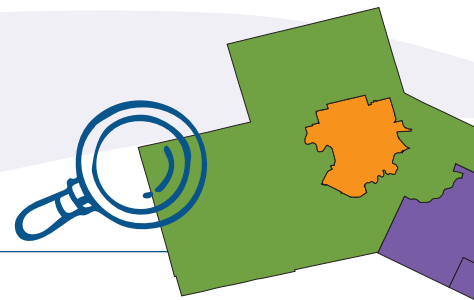
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Methodology



Overview

More than 400 community leaders, public figures, and citizens provided input to the Vital Signs® report. This information was collected through multiple measures, providing hundreds of comments and ratings that were used to inform each of the categories described throughout this report.

Telephone Opinion Survey

A telephone survey was conducted in October of 2017, reaching more than 400 randomly selected citizens from Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The participants were asked to assign a level of priority to each of the Vital Signs® priority areas, and to describe what they like most about their community in one or two sentences. Using this survey, we were able to incorporate the viewpoints from multiple communities into the Vital Signs® report. The telephone survey was conducted by the Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL) Survey and Group Analysis Laboratory, employing an equal probability of selection method (EPSEM) to contact residents. The SSRL randomly dialed mobile and landline telephone numbers to survey 400 residents in the Brant Community Foundation's coverage area. Their responses were then weighted to adjust for variations in age, gender, and geographic location. This data is accurate to +/- 5 percent, 19 times out of 20, which means that the answers reported here are very likely to represent the general public's opinion on a given matter.

Rating

During the telephone survey participants were read a brief description of each Vital Signs® area and asked to "consider to what extent each of these areas should be prioritized in your community." They were then provided with the following options: Not a priority, Low priority, Medium priority, or High priority.

Snapshot of Responders

Gender: 46% Male; 53.5% Female; *No Trans/Non-Binary Respondents*

Geography: 69.8% Brantford; 25.8% Brant County (incl. Towns); 4.5% Six Nations

Age: 17.5% 34 or younger; 47.5% 35-64 years; 21% aged 65 and up. *(Note: 6.7% refused)*

Demographics: 7.5% Indigenous (self-defined); 80.4% citizens by birth; 8.6% naturalized citizen; 2.7% permanent resident; 0.2% non-permanent resident. *(Note: Categories ARE exclusive)*

Household Income: 0-19k = 11.4%; 20k-59k=22.1%; 60k-100k=21.9%; >100k=20.5% *(Note: Combined income; 24.1% refused; 3.6% reported less than 10k)*

Average # of years in community: 25.7

Occupation: 9.9% government; 28.4% business/industry; 3.7% Non-profit/charity; 7.9% education; 7.9% student; 24.5% retired; 4.4% unemployed; 11% other *(Note: 2.4% refused)*

Focus Groups

In addition to the survey, focus groups were held to obtain further insights from community members. Six focus groups were held with a range of 3 to 6 participants. Each focus group was constructed to represent desired demographic/personal characteristics, including: community leaders; industry leaders; residents of communities outside of Brantford; seniors; youth; and newcomers.

Researchers asked each focus group open-ended questions relating to four Vital Signs® prioritized by the Brant Community Foundation for the Vital Signs® report: Community Safety, Community Belonging, Community Integration, and Community Recreation.

Secondary Data

Much of the information presented was collected from secondary data sources that were created by local service agencies, local governments/councils, and/or Statistics Canada. The source for each figure is included in this document. A comprehensive listing of data sources, as well as instructions for accessing them, will be available through the Brant Community

Profile Summary

Foundation website. Please note that some of the proportional figures may not sum up to 100 percent due to rounding.

A note on geography and data

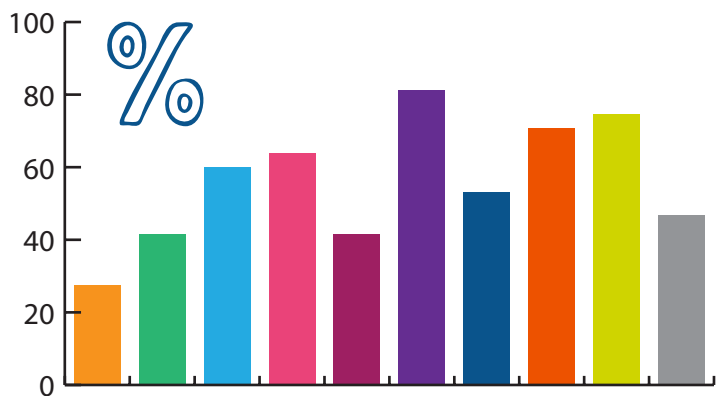
We frequently make use of data products created by Statistics Canada in this report. This information was restricted to the Brantford Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which includes Brant County, Brantford, and most of the Six Nations of the Grand River territory. This CMA does not include Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. When available, we incorporated figures representing New Credit from secondary sources.

For full methodology information please visit www.brantcf.ca.

Survey Results

When asked “to what extent would you prioritize” each area, citizen survey indicated what they rank as high priority.

Arts & Culture	27.5%
Belonging & Engagement	41.5%
Economy	59.9%
Environment	63.7%
Getting Around	41.5%
Health & Wellness	81.2%
Housing	53.1%
Learning	70.8%
Public Safety	74.6%
Standard of Living	46.8%



Population: 134,808 (2016)
Population density per square kilometre: **123.3**



Gender
Female: **51.3%**
Male: **48.7%**

(note: no data for trans/non-binary population)

Age

0-14 – 17.16%
15-64 – 63.23%
65 years & over – 17.18%
85 years & over – 2.43%

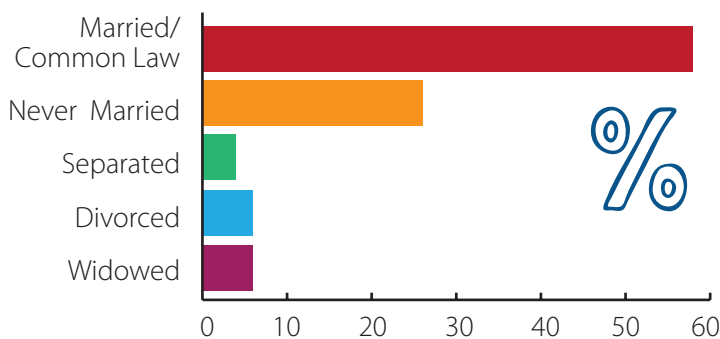
41.2
Average age

Household Income Before Tax 2015



Under \$20,000: 8%
\$20,000-49,999: 27%
\$50,000-79,999: 23%
\$80,000-99,999: 12%
\$100,000+ : 30%

Marital Status (age 15 & over)



Number of children per household



1 Child: 45%
2 Children: 38%
3 Children or more: 17%

(note: this includes both two-parent and single-parent households)

Arts & Culture



Point in Time:

Our vibrant arts and culture community boasts of cultural festivals, concerts, theatre performances and arts opportunities. Many free activities are available to the public year-round.



Community Work In Progress:

All local communities recognize the importance of celebrating the culture, history, people and locations that make our community unique. Brant Community Foundation grants support arts and culture programs for adults, children and youth, including youth-at-risk.



Things to Celebrate

- Many local celebrations of our diverse cultures with high level of community participation
- Many community wide events are free



Things to Improve

- Low earning potential in arts & culture
- More venues to showcase works (especially a mid-sized theatre)



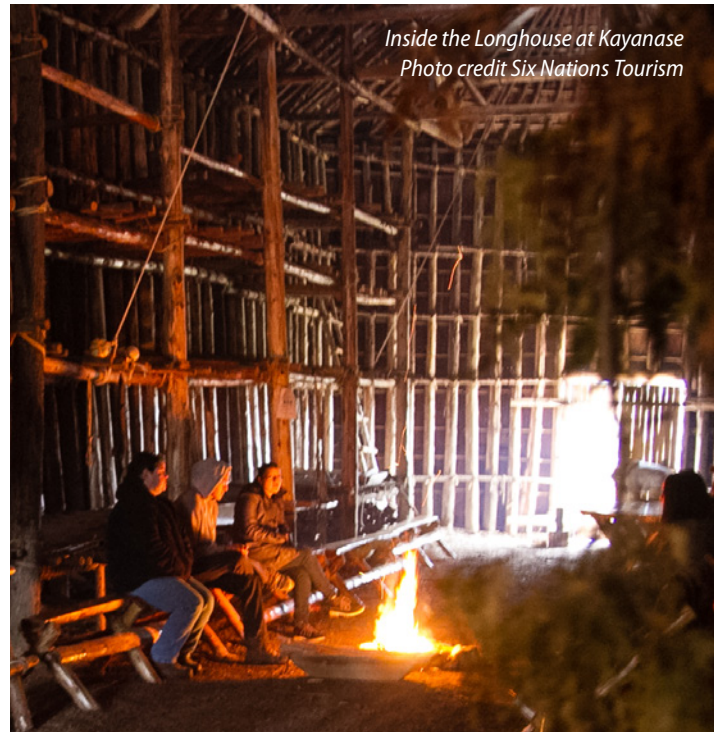
Did you know?

The Woodland Cultural Centre opens the doors to Southern Ontario's First Nations Art, both present and future. School and public programs offer visitors the opportunity to discover Indigenous Ontario.



What can you do?

- Visit a local museum, concert, play or exhibition with out-of-town guests
- Become a volunteer at a community event



Inside the Longhouse at Kayanase
Photo credit Six Nations Tourism



Neighbourhood library boxes by Alik Mikulich
Photo credit: Layne Beckner Grime



Data

Ontario Arts Council 2016/2017 funding:

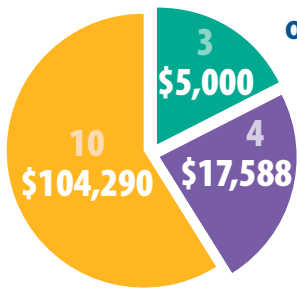
Total 17 grants: \$126,878

■ Brant County

■ Brantford

■ Six Nations

Source Ontario Arts Council, Dept. of Research, policy and Evaluation



Cultural Sites/Festivals

Our area boasts of a significant number of cultural sites and events

- Museums: 13
- Historic Sites: 5
- Art Galleries: 1
- Powwows: 2

Source Economic Development & Tourism - City of Brantford

Sanderson Centre:

The Sanderson Centre is a 1125 seat heritage theatre with superb acoustics, lighting and sound systems. In 2017 :



days open/active



83,814

total visitors



657,175

operating budget for 2017

Source Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts

Libraries



Literacy is critical to economic development as well as individual and community well-being. Library usage is one piece of the literacy puzzle.

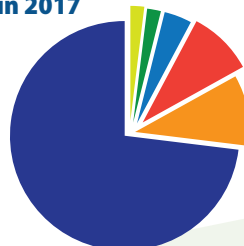
- Brantford: > 400,000 visits; 826,625 loans; 39,394 program attendance
- Brant: >154,000 visits; 622,212 loans; 23,725 program attendance
- Six Nations: > 21,000 visits; 4,649 loans; 981 program attendance
- New Credit: > 1,000 visits; 161 loans; 255 program attendance

Source Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Website 2016 Library Statistics

The City of Brantford provides support for cultural programs and facilities allocating a total of \$371,265 to 46 community cultural organizations and festivals.

Arts and Cultural funding distribution in 2017

- 2% Public Art
- 2% Bell Homestead
- 4% Administration and Programming
- 9% Sanderson Centre
- 10% Grants
- 73% Brantford Public Library

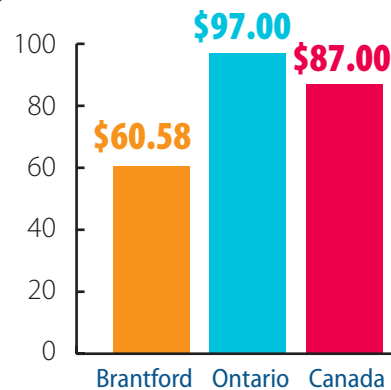


Source City of Brantford Municipal Cultural Plan 2017 Annual Report



Per Capita Spending on Culture

Total average investment in culture in Brantford has risen by \$1.75 since 2013 but remains well below the Provincial average.



Source City of Brantford Municipal Cultural Plan 2017 Annual Report

Harmony Square events

Having just celebrated its 10th anniversary, Harmony Square had 120 free events in 2017. Bookings are highest during summer months and already 104 events have been booked for July and August 2018.

Source City of Brantford Parks & Recreation



"I like the many opportunities to participate in arts and culture and outdoor activities"

Belonging & Engagement



Point in Time:

Most respondents feel their local community is safe. They feel connected to their neighbours, and also feel a sense of community through volunteering and attending community events.



Community Work In Progress:

Community based programs have been developed where residents can come together to engage in enjoyable, enriching experiences within walking distance in a number of areas. These activities foster natural networks, develop local leadership capacity, connect people to services and create healthier lifestyles. The Foundation supports youth leadership through grants to the Safety Patrol Appreciation Day and Paris Port Dover Pipe Band. A Youth Advisory Committee has been formed that adds a different lens to youth grant making.



Things to Celebrate

- Strong sense of belonging
- Many opportunities to get involved



Things to Improve

- Low voter turnout rates
- Increase participation rates of marginalized groups in decision making

Did you know?

Our sense of belonging drives behaviours such as donating and volunteering. The weaker the sense, the more likely the individual feels disengaged.



Did you know?

There have been two Premiers (Arthur Sturgis Hardy and Harry Corwin Nixon) and two Lieutenant Governors (Harry Cockshutt and William Ross McDonald) from this area.



What can you do?

- Vote in all elections
- Attend public meetings and express your opinions



Word in the Square



"I volunteer and attend different events. I meet people, and that's how I feel I am part of the community. If you want to feel that you belong, you need to do some of that stuff."





Data

Charitable Donations

Donors invest in ideas, causes and people they believe in.

	Number of Donors	% of Population	Median Donation Value
Brant	20,530	20.6%	\$320
Ontario	2,171,620	22.0%	\$360
Canada	5,495,900	21.0%	\$300

Source Statistics Canada, Table 1110001

Community Electoral Participation Brantford

Voter participation rates are low especially for municipal elections

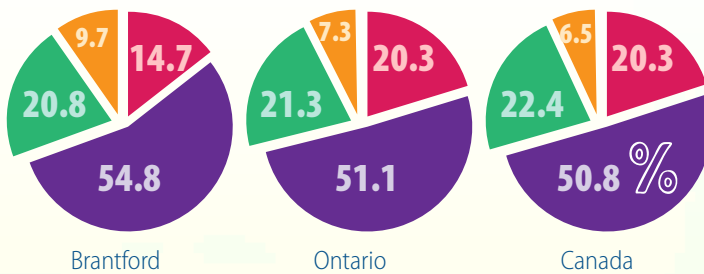


Source City of Brantford; Elections Ontario (2014 poll-by-poll results); Elections Canada (Brantford-Brant electoral district)

Sense of Belonging

Overall our sense of belonging is not as strong as the average reported for the province and country

Very Strong Somewhat Strong Somewhat Weak Very Weak

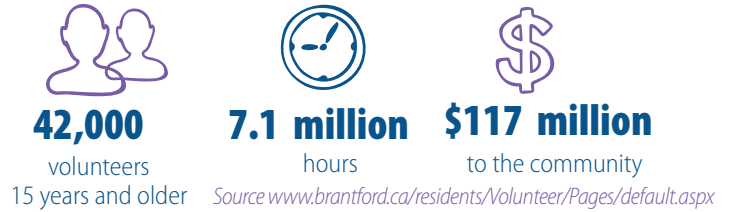


Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014



Volunteerism

Everyone has a unique gift that they can use to help others and improve the community.



Random Act of Kindness Day

Each year in November the community celebrates Random Act of Kindness Day. Since its inception volunteer numbers have increased by 500%.



Population Changes (all figures are for Brantford CMA)

Immigration 2011-2016 (gross # of official immigrant status)

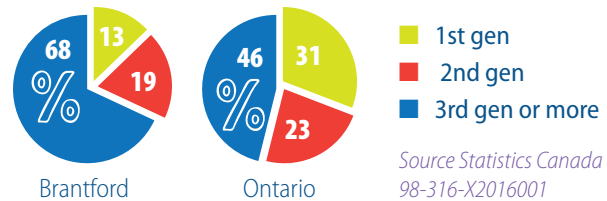
Brantford: 1105 (**0.8%** of pop) | Ontario: 472,170 (**3.6%** of pop)

Migrants 2011-2016; **Internal Migrants** (from within Canada); Brantford: 18,285 (**14.7%** of pop) | Ontario: 1,562,375 (**12.4%** of pop)

External Migrants (from outside Canada); Brantford: 1,355 (**1%** of pop) | Ontario: 549,965 (**4.4%** of pop)

Moved within city; Brantford: 25,035 (**20.2%** of pop) | Ontario: 2,545,875 (**20.3%** of pop)

Generational status



Community Asset Engagement Officer Initiative

Having community engagement police officers helps contribute to a sense of belonging.



Economy



Point in Time:

The area has a diversified economic base with thriving small businesses, manufacturing and farming. The unemployment rate is lower than the provincial average and there are fewer living below the poverty line than the provincial average.



Community Work In Progress:

With a skilled trades gap looming, community agencies are placing more emphasis on apprenticeship training. Local economic development departments are working to attract more businesses. Foundation grants have been instrumental in growing organizations such as Organized Kaos, an apprenticeship training program, and Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise which provides employment training to a special needs client group.



Things to Celebrate

- Diversified labour market
- Growth of local small businesses



Things to Improve

- Improve support for local entrepreneurs
- More training programs for jobs in growing labour sectors



What can you do?

- Support local businesses and farm markets
- Write a positive online review of your favourite local business



Did you know?

James Hillier, a Brantford native, is known for commercializing the electron microscope.

Did you know?

The County is in the second year of the Tour de Farm project to introduce residents to the agricultural community.



Electron microscope



Bowman Precision Tooling



"I believe Brantford now enjoys a diversified economy and has recovered beautifully from the loss of manufacturing jobs."





Data

Employment

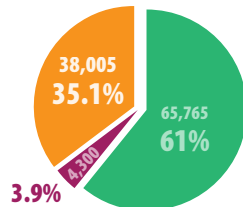
Strong and vibrant communities have a wide range of options for employment

Population in Labour Force

Total Population (15 years+) 108,070

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Not in labour market

Source 2016 Census Profile Brantford CMA



Local Occupation Classification

Our local statistics are reflective of provincial data with the main occupational area being sales and services.

Management	10%
Business, finance & administration	14%
Natural & applied sciences & related	5%
Health	6%
Education, law & social, community & government services	10%
Art, culture, recreation & sport	2%
Sales & Service	23%
Trades, transport & equipment operators & related	18%
Natural resources, agriculture & related production	2%
Manufacturing & utilities	10%

Source 2016 Census Profile Brantford CMA

Employment insurance beneficiaries receiving regular benefits (monthly)

1,380 in 2012

Source www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/labor03b-eng.htm

Farm size

From 2011 to 2016, the number of farms in Brant was down less than 1%, from 719 to 712.

Source Statistics Canada 2016 Census Report

Less than 10 acres	57
10 - 69 acres	214
70 - 129 acres	141
400 - 559 acres	38
760 - 1119 acres	20
1120 - 1599 acres	15
1600 - 2240 acres	9
2880 - 3519 acres	1
3520 + acres	2

Brantford Labour Force Characteristics

66.3 participation rate
4.9 unemployment rate

Source CANSIM, table 282-0129



Average weeks worked in the year

Source 2016 Census Profile Brantford CMA

Employment Highlights



25

new and/or expanding industrial businesses



826,000

square feet of occupied space



216

new jobs

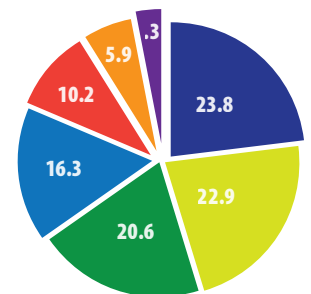
Business Resource Centre (BRC) completed **933** one-on-one business consultations resulting in **255** new business start-ups and **373** new jobs

Source Economic Development & Tourism Department 2017 Year in Review

Building Permit Activity City of Brantford

2017 Building Permits by Percentage

- Multiple Residential (new) 23.8%
- Single Family Dwelling (new) 22.9%
- Industrial 20.6%
- Commercial 16.3%
- Institutional & Government 10.2%
- Residential (existing) 5.9%
- Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex (new) .3%

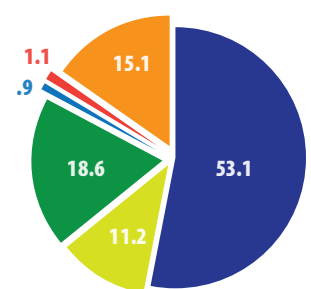


Source Economic Development & Tourism Department 2017 Year in Review

Building Permit Activity County of Brant

2017 Building Permits by Percentage

- Residential 53.1%
- Farm 11.2%
- Industrial 18.6%
- Institutional 0.9%
- Commercial 1.1%
- All Other Categories 15.1%



Source County of Brant Building Division



Environment



Point in Time:

Brant is an area rich in opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. There are many parks and trails available. Once labeled polluted, the Grand River and watershed is now home to over ½ the fish species found in Canada.



Community Work In Progress:

Since many of the local communities rely on the Grand River for water, programs to ensure that the river and its tributaries are protected are important. The Children's Water Festival, supported by the Foundation, is a program that stresses the importance of water conservation and protection. Efforts to increase the tree canopy have been regularly supported by the Foundation.



Things to Celebrate

- 40 kilometers of natural trails
- Access to farmers markets and locally grown food



Things to Improve

- Start green box collection
- Continue to develop environmental policies



What can you do?

- Use reusable water containers
- Use recreation areas responsibly



Did you know?

The Grand River was declared a Canadian Heritage River in 1998



Did you know?

The Six Nations Forest is the largest block of Carolinian woodland in Canada.



"This is a friendly, environmentally pleasant area with lots of trees and trails."



Rotary Club of Brantford - Tree Planting



Data

The River

The Grand River is an important environmental asset to the area.

Grand River accounts for **100%** of Brantford's drinking water



Source City of Brantford Website

Water Quality

Brantford and Brant contributions to restoration and preservation of water quality of the Grand River.

Contributions of **\$100,000** (50% from Brant; 50% from Brantford) Total investment **since 2002 - \$3,107,390**

\$1,187,867 in grants to Brant/Brantford landowners since 2002 (589 projects)

Source 2016 Brant Rural Water Quality Program Annual Report

Environmental Stewardship

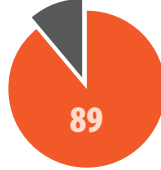
The majority of the population feels that environmental protection is important



Compost kitchen waste



Compost yard waste



Visit parks



Enviro volunteer unofficial

Source C2015 Households and the Environment Survey

Air Quality 2017



2.5 avg.

Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) Average

25

moderate or higher

0

smog warnings within the last 10 years

Source Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Air Quality Health Index

9

Grand River Conservation Authority **public events** in 2016

Source Grand River Conservation Authority

589

projects since 2002

Natural Resources

The area is rich in natural resources but a number are in need of protection.

Trees

In an effort to reach the optimum tree canopy a yearly tree plant takes place

78 acres of New Forest in the City
58,000 trees planted

11 schools greened

Source Brant Tree Coalition



Carolinian forests make up only 1% of Canada's total land area and boast a greater number of both flora and fauna species than any other ecosystems in Canada.

There are 2,200 species of herbaceous plants including:

64

species of ferns

110

species of grasses

130

different sedge species

70

species of trees

Source <https://caroliniancanada.ca/>

Species at Risk

The Grand River watershed is home to an amazing variety of plants and animals. However, there are **44** species officially listed as "at risk". At risk is defined as vulnerable to, or threatened by, extinction.

Invasive Species

Exotic species from around the world have the potential to wipe out native plants and creatures, reducing the biological diversity of our natural areas.

Invasive plants: purple loosestrife, giant hogweed, buckthorns and garlic mustard

Invasive insect: emerald ash borer

Invasive aquatic species: round gobies, sea lamprey and zebra mussels

Source Grand River Conservation Authority <https://www.grandriver.ca/en/index.aspx>



Getting Around



Point in Time:

Accessible transit options are extremely limited and there is no public transit system in much of the area. Reliance on a car affects the majority of the population especially in rural areas. 32% of those who are in the labour market are commuters.



Community Work In Progress:

The local governments are working to improve accessibility issues in their jurisdictions. Foundation grants have been awarded to update buildings by renovating entrances and washrooms to allow access to those with mobility issues.



Things to Celebrate

- City buses have bike racks
- Stretches of the Grand River are suitable for paddlers, kayakers and rafters of all skill levels



Things to Improve

- More disabled transit options especially outside of Brantford
- A regional bus system



What can you do?

- Ensure sidewalks are safe
- Pay attention to cyclists and scooters



Did you know?

Simply getting out and walking around your neighbourhood can increase your sense of community belonging.



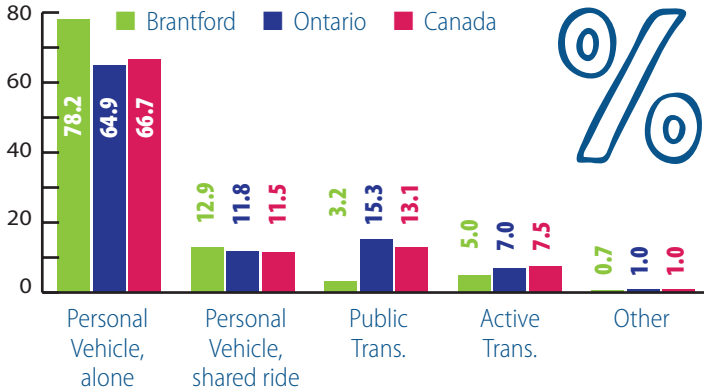
Photo: Brant Cycling Club



Data

Commuting Type of Transportation by Jurisdiction

Local percentage of type of transportation shows high use of personal vehicles for individual use for commuting.



Source Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98400X2016327

Active Transit to Work

Focusing on the environment, many people choose environmentally friendly modes of transportation.



2,250
walk

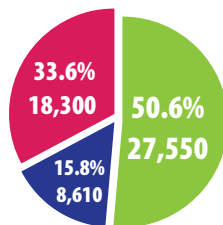


470
bike

Source Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98400X2016326

Brant Commuting Characteristics by jurisdiction

- Commute within - 7 km
- Commute to nearby - 7 to 15 km
- Commute to distant - over 15 km



Source Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98-400-201629



"Transportation is an issue in Brant County. It is very difficult to get to medical or other appointments if you don't have a car."

Brant Workers Destinations

Many workers travel to surrounding areas for employment.

Place of Work	
Brantford	36,600
Hamilton	6,175
Kitchener-Cambridge Area	4,730
Toronto	2,425
Woodstock	1,195
Norfolk	890
Guelph	530
London	340
Other	485

Source Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98-400-x2016327

Accessibility

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act identifies Transportation Standards as one of the 5 areas to remove barriers and improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

Brantford Accessibility Plan 2017

- No fee for storage of mobility devices on bus
- Storage space of Mobility Aids On Conventional Buses
- Any community that licenses taxi cabs shall ensure that owners and operators of taxi cabs are prohibited from: Charging a higher fare or an additional fare for persons with disabilities or charging a fee for storage of mobility aids

Source <http://www.brantford.ca/Accessibility/2017BrantfordAccessibilityPlan.pdf>



Health & Wellness



Point in Time:

The Province of Ontario appointed a hospital investigator to review the Brant Community Healthcare System's operations and patient care protocols on recommendation of the Local Health Integration Network. Lengthy wait times and overcrowding in the emergency department are concerns.



Community Work In Progress:

The community has expressed interest in building a new hospital and has received some political support for the idea. A number of initiatives that were given Foundation grants address prevention programs and healthy lifestyle choices including the Community Resource and Employment Services for the Good Food Box.



Things to Celebrate

- Access to doctors improving
- Age friendly community designation



Things to Improve

- Reduce ER overcrowding
- Improve access to mental health & addiction services



What can you do?

- Quit smoking
- Enjoy an active lifestyle

110%

Did you know?

The Brant Community Healthcare System occupancy goal in the emergency department is 90% (often it is over 110%).



"Something we need is accessible parking to get into the hospital. I'm a disabled person and cannot walk from the car park"





Data

Brant Community Healthcare System

There are 2 hospitals in Brant – the Brantford General Hospital and the Willet Hospital - to serve the needs of all residents.

In 2014

\$169,770,000 Annual budget; **262** Beds; **98%** Occupancy
8 Operating rooms; **99,130** Patient days; **90,000** Clinic visits;
9,513 Operations; **51,275** Emergency visits;
21,570 Urgent care visits; Average length of stay **1.13** days

Where your healthcare dollars were spent in 2014/2015

Total Expenses: **163,673,641**



Source Brant Community Healthcare System Annual Report 2014/2015

Access to Family Doctors

	Has family doctor		Consulted doctor		Unmet health needs	
	Brantford	ON	Brantford	ON	Brantford	ON
YES	284.4	280	233.3	234.1	37.3	27.7
NO	14.6	20	66.7	65.9	262.7	272.3

Source Canadian community health survey 2014

Wait Times (health care)

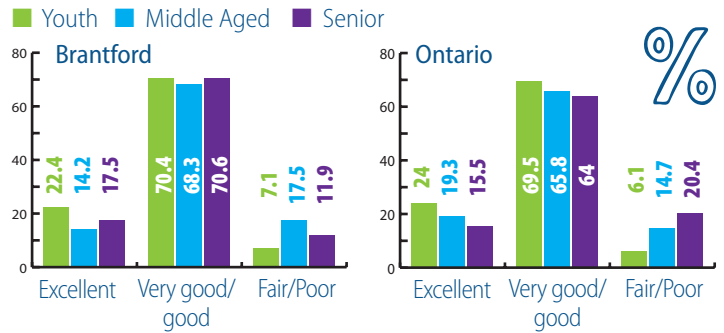
	Emergency (Hours)		Scans (Days)		Surgeries (Days)		
	High	Low	CT	MRI	Cancer	Orth acuity	Gen acuity
BGH	6.4	2.9	17	59	34	233	52
LHIN	7.3	2.8	16	55	29	132	52
Ontario	5.7	2.3	14	45	25	97	39

Source Canadian community health survey 2014

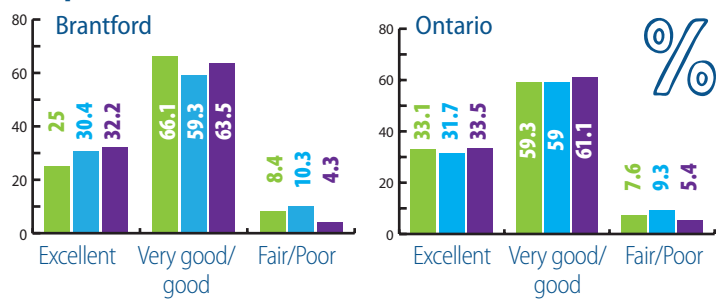
Individual Health Data

The health of individuals is affected by a number of factors such as access to services, healthcare costs and health behaviours.

Self-perceived physical health



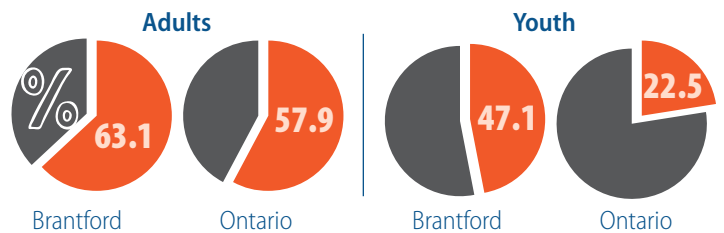
Self-perceived mental health



Source Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014

Healthy Living

Overweight/Obese



Sources Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014

Age statistics

Average age of population is **41.2**
17.6% of the population is **65** years and over
2.5% of the population is **85** years and over
 Life expectancy of today's youth is **5** years less than that of their parents



Source 2016 Census Profile Brantford CMA

Housing



Point in Time:

Housing prices in our community are lower than prices in neighbouring cities and many have opted to move here which, in turn, has made local prices rise. Rental costs are increasing as well. The wait time for subsidized housing continues to be lengthy and 9.5% of identified homeless are youth.



Community Work In Progress:

Both Welcome In and Nova Vita received grants from the Brant Community Foundation for programs which provide emergency shelter beds. Why Not City Missions is working to develop solutions for youth homelessness.



Things to Celebrate

- Increased beds in homeless shelters
- Sense of neighbourhood



Things to Improve

- Youth homelessness programs
- Alternative housing options



What can you do?

- Help build a Habitat for Humanity home
- Advocate for more help for the homeless population



Did you know?

For housing /shelter cost to be considered affordable it should not be more than 30% of your gross income.



Photo: Habitat for Humanity Brant - Norfolk



"Compared to surrounding communities, I think our area has a lot of amenities and an affordable housing market"



Data



Property Sales

399,331 average residential price
19% increase from 2016

2539

properties sold 2017

430,349 average single home price
15% increase from 2016

Source Ontario Realtors Association, Brant Regional Real Estate Association



Property Rentals

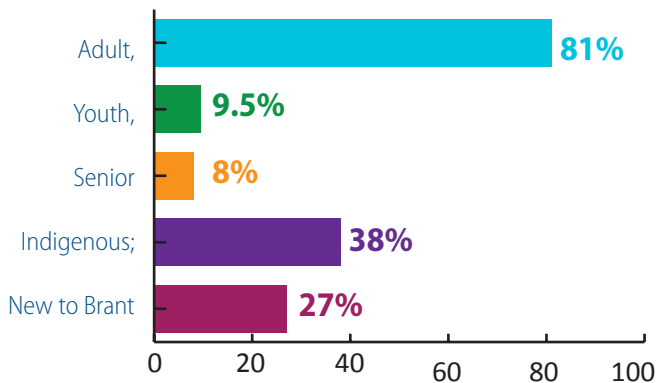
58 increase in units
1.3% vacancy
0% for bachelor; **1.2%** for 1 BR; **1.3%** for 2 BR
938 average rent – **3.1%** growth

4741

rental units

Sources CMHA

475 estimated homeless individuals in Brantford



Note: Can be identified in more than one category. Source P-I-T survey



3

Shelters

94



Beds



1
Emergency Women's Shelter

30



Beds

Sources Homeless Hub; Nova Vita; City of Brantford



25.7

25.7% live alone in private households
13,505 people

Source Census profile 2016 Brantford CMA

Wait times (long term care)

7

Longterm care homes in Brant CMA

837

Spaces (single, double & ward)

630

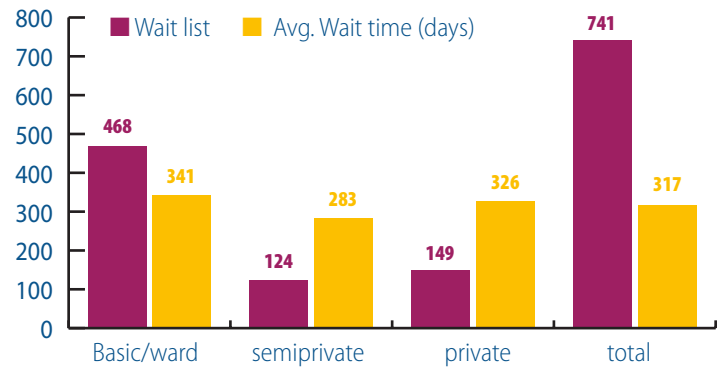
Approx people on waitlist

317

Average wait time (days)

20

Spaces become available each month



Sources <http://www.ontariowaittimes.com/>

95% of requests for **at home nursing** are filled **within 5 days**;
82% of personal support - **no significant wait times for at home services** (nursing; personal support; physio; occupational therapy; speech therapy; nutrition; social work)

Sources <http://healthcare.thome.ca/hnhb/en/OurPerformance/Wait/Times>

Social Housing Wait Times

Rent-geared-to-income is based on household's gross monthly income.

Units	Wait Times
Single Bachelor	3 to 4 years
Single 1 Bedroom	5 to 9 years
Family 2 Bedrooms	2 to 5 years
Family 3 Bedrooms	2 to 4 years
Senior 1 bedroom	9 months to 2.5 years

Source Brantford Access to Housing Application Information Guide



Learning



Point in Time:

At present there are four post-secondary institutions with enrollment numbers growing yearly. A number of courses are offered specifically geared to our community. High school graduation rates are improving.



Community Work In Progress:

Early learning programs assist youth with tools needed to succeed in school. *Strong Start*, a program to help children with reading skills, and *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*, providing age appropriate books for children from birth to age 5, encourage a love of reading. Both organizations are supported by the Foundation.



Things to Celebrate

- Early learning programs are available for children 0 to 5
- Volunteer reading support programs run at local elementary schools



Things to Improve

- Affordability of post-secondary education
- Adequate supplies for schools



What can you do?

- Become a lifelong learner
- Read to children and grandchildren



Did you know?

Since opening its doors in 1999, **5,430 students** have graduated from the Laurier Brantford campus.



"I really like having a university in town. It's done so much to lift up the downtown."





Data

Access to early education and lifelong learning are beneficial to the local quality of life, improving levels of employment and long-term occupational achievement.

Educational Institutions

Elementary		Secondary		Indigenous Language	Post Secondary
36	16	5	2	2	4
Public	Catholic	Public	Catholic		

Sources Grand Erie District School Board, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Six Nations of the Grand Education Committee

With school closings and amalgamations the number of students relying on busing continues to increase



6,716

Total number of transported students



231

Total number of school purpose vehicles used daily



16,182

Number of kilometers travelled daily:

Source : Service de Transportat Scolaire- Brant Haldimand Norfolk – Student Transportation Services

Students who go to school hungry have lower success rates than their classmates

Total number of universal student nutrition programs **53**

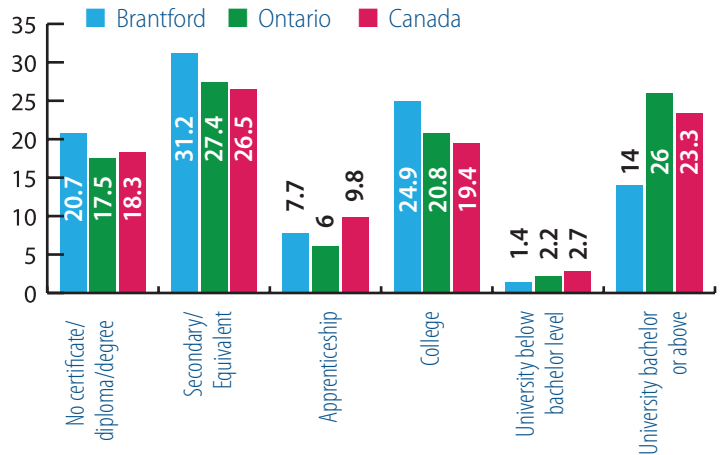
- Number of school-based programs 43
- Number of community-based programs 10
- Number of students served (elementary & secondary) 9,669
- Number of meals served 1,167,122
- Total cost of food and supplies \$390,280

Average cost per student per school year between \$150 to \$200

Source Hamilton-Niagara Management Consortium Web Tracker, Sept 2016 to June 2017

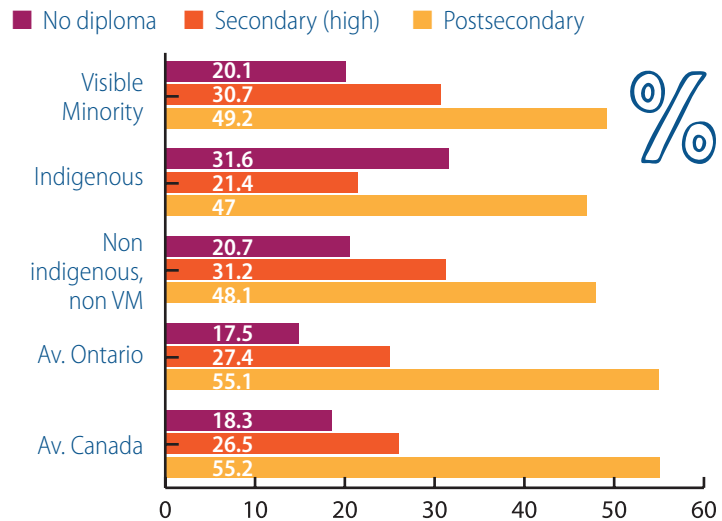
Laurier Brantford opened its doors in 1999 with only 39 students enrolled in its inaugural year. Currently it is home to **more than 2,700** students and offers **21** programs, some of which are unique to the area. There have been **5,430** graduates to spring 2018. It is one of the fastest growing university campuses in Ontario.

Locally the area has a higher percentage of residents with no certificate, and a lower level of residents with advanced certification.



Sources Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98304X

Qualifications/ethnicity



Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98400X2 01675, 98400X2 016263

Public Safety



Point in Time:

Brantford area crime severity index rose in 2016 ranking it second in Ontario for crime. Common prescription drugs such as opioid pain relievers like oxycodone, anti-depressants and stimulants usage is high.



Community Work In Progress:

The City implemented a Safe Brantford strategy to look at crimes and problems rooted in societal issues to find help for people in need who are committing crimes due to addictions or mental health issues. Grants from the Brant Community Foundation support programs at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Sexual Assault Centre and Victim Services.



Things to Celebrate

- Strong sense of community in neighbourhoods
- Many free fall-prevention programs available for seniors and vulnerable adults



Things to Improve

- Access to crisis support for youth
- Additional addiction support programs



Did you know?

According to the OPP, distracted driving is the number 1 cause of accidents on Ontario roads, even higher than drunk driving.

Did you know?

The BRAVE Committee is a collaborative effort of several different social service organizations dedicated to coordinating the community's response to gendered violence, domestic violence and sexual violence.



What can you do?

- Report suspicious activity
- Talk to your children about drugs & alcohol



"Our community still has a hometown feel. We have a viable downtown and healthy neighbourhoods where neighbours look out for each other."





Data

Public safety refers to local crime and security concerns, which affects the way we live and play in our community.

Local Police Data

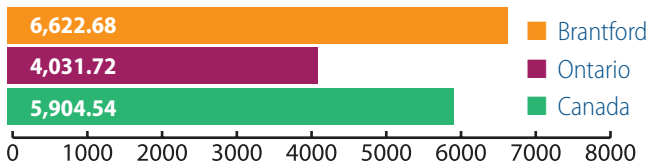


2016 Budget Brantford: **\$30,543,175**;
170 sworn officers; **80** civilians

Budget Brant County OPP: **\$6,510,738**;
56 sworn officers; **6** civilians

Sources Brantford Police Annual Report 2016; 2016 Progress Plan, Brant County Detachment OPP

Crime Data – Police Reported Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Sources Statistics Canada Crime Data 2520051

Change in Crime Stats

5.94%

Percentage change in crime rate 2015-2016

Source Statistics Canada Table 35-10-0177-01

Brantford Police Service Calls Re: Mental Health Issues

There has been a 22.1% increase in calls for services related to mental health issues from 2015 to 2016



715 2015
873 2016

Source Police Annual Reports for 2015 and 2016

Community Outreach Brantford Police Services

School Safety Officer Outreach

Presentations – **186** • Total student attendance –

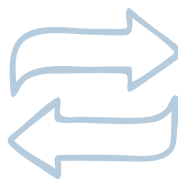
10,267 • Safety Patrollers trained – **1000+** •

Schools receiving programming – **43**

KIDS Programming (Knowledge Issues Decisions

Supports) – **8** Schools, **160** students

Source Brantford Police Services 2017



Fire protection is another component of public safety.

Brantford Fire Department

2015 Brantford budget: **\$16,563,926**



108 firefighters **23** staff

279

fires

101 structural
38 vehicles

53 property/outdoor storage

\$3,646,011 damage; **3** fatalities; **7** civilian injuries;

3830 incident responses; **685** false alarms;



1,281 “smoke alarms save lives” visits;

185 new smoke alarms installed; **203** CO alarms;

151 battery replacements; **15654** training hours

Sources Brantford Fire Department Annual Report 2015

Fire Protection 2015 Brant County

2018 budget **\$2,693,517**



full time **10**

part time **5**

volunteer **176**



8

stations

Source Brant County Annual County Budget 2018,

Ambulance Services



115 staff



4 stations



924



20,935



55

Source www.brant.ca/residentservices/ambulance

Drug Addictions –

Clients at Needle Exchange Program

■ Opioids ■ Cocaine/crack

■ Crystal meth/methamphetamine

■ Other

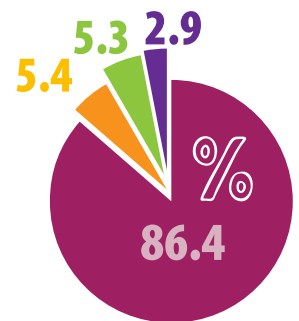
• Needle exchange program:

10% increase in clients between 2011-2016 (5186 to 5751 visitors)

• Number of new needles given out

increased **113%** from 2011-2016 (180,440 to 384,037)

Source Brantford Brant Community Drugs Strategy 2016



Standard of Living



Point in Time:

Although most residents enjoy a reasonable standard of living, there are individuals and families living with an income below the poverty line. Income needs to be at a certain level for an individual to feel secure. According to Statistics Canada youth and seniors are the main groups below the poverty line.



Community Work In Progress:

In our communities there are a number of programs that seek to address the issues associated with poverty. Foundation grants have been given to community meal programs that provide nutritious meals and to youth recreation and leadership programs to keep participation costs low for families.



Things to Celebrate

- Free or low cost access to summer camp experiences for qualified children
- Community garden projects



Things to Improve

- Address the needs of those at risk in rural areas
- Help the public to better understand the effects of poverty



What can you do?

- Donate used clothes and household items to local charities
- Volunteer at a local food bank ; time and/or food

Did you know?

The core inflation rate in Canada averaged 2.16% from 1984 until 2018, reaching an all-time high of 5.4% in January of 1987 and a record low of 0% in 1984.





Data

Our income is the amount of money earned and available to fund day-to-day expenditures. Income needs to be at a certain level for an individual to feel secure.

Income

Average employment income (full time workers) in 2015



Source Statistics Canada

Living wage info



The estimated living wage for Brantford is

\$14.85 hourly

Source Living Wage Canada

Percentage of low income population



Sources Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98400X2016149, 98400X2016150

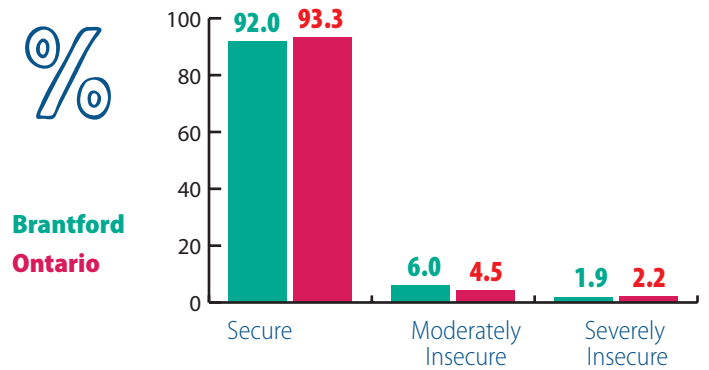
Social Assistance (Ontario Works)

5290 Brantford clients;
1137 with dependents;
average duration 27 months



Source 2016 Census Profile Brantford CMA

Food security



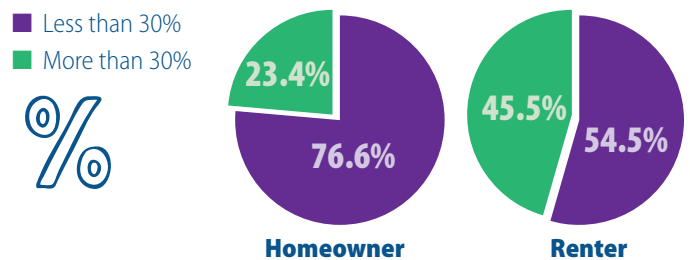
Source Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014

Percentage of low income families



Source Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98400X2016149

Housing costs spending to income ratio



Source Statistics Canada, Catalogue 98400X2016229

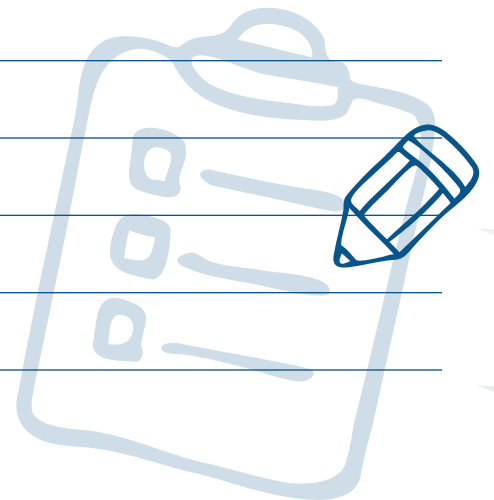


"Working in the developmental service sector, I see firsthand that there are not equal opportunities for people with disabilities to reach a sustainable income level."

Notes



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Thank You

Sincere thanks to our Brant Vital Signs® Supporters



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What is Vital Signs[®]?

Vital Signs[®] is a community checkup conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of the local community and identifies significant trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs[®] is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada with special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs[®] concept.

For more information visit: vitalsignscanada.ca

The Vital Signs[®] report will form the basis for identifying trends, measuring vitality and supporting actions. It will be a resource for donors and grant makers to ensure that our grants have the widest possible community impact.

For more information visit www.brantcf.ca



Brant Community Foundation

Building our Community. Investing in the Future.

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