

Poverty in Peel Facts at a Glance

1 INCOME*

(Source: Statistics Canada, Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (CFLIM-AT), 2022)

In Peel



198,930 or **13%** of the population live in poverty.



2 EMPLOYMENT

(Source: Peel Eco Pulse, 2023)

Unemployment rate in Peel is



higher than Ontario's rate of **6.0%**

(Source: Labour market report, September 2023 | ontario.ca)

Youth (15–24) Unemployment rate in Peel is



higher than Ontario's rate of **11.7%**

3 INCOME SUPPORTS

(Source: Peel Region, Volume 1, Part A: Executive Summary & Budget Overview, 2024)

28,387 persons receive Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit (as of Dec. 2024)



• **25,000** or more of Peel's population are in receipt of Ontario Works (OW).



• **61%** were single person households

• **10%** of the overall caseload are youth

• **\$733** per month in Social Assistance benefits for a single individual

4 CHILD CARE

\$20,000 The Province's annual income cut-off for families to receive full child care subsidy.

(Source: Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014)

79% of families with children who receive subsidies get care for **\$10 a day or less**. Even with the **Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care (CWELCC)** program, many families will be unable to afford child care without financial assistance.

(Source: Peel Region, Volume 1, Part A: Executive Summary & Budget Overview, 2024)

5 HOUSING

(Source: Peel Region Council Report: March and June 2024)

- **1 in 5 households** — about **97,000** — in Peel have to choose between housing and other necessities
- Households need to **earn \$40 an hour** to be able to afford average rents.



- Households that **immigrated** to Peel within the last **5 years** are **150%** more likely to be in **Core Housing Need**.

6 LIVING WAGE**

(Source: Ontario Living Wage Network, 2024)

Peel Region's 2024 living wage rate is

\$26.00

7 FOOD

(Source: Household Food Insecurity Snapshot | Public Health Ontario, 2024)



In 2023, **22.9%** of residents experienced **marginal, moderate, or severe** food insecurity.

* The Census Family Low Income Measure, After Tax (CFLIM-AT) is a relative measure of poverty that defines poverty as below the median income of all tax filers. The thresholds are calculated at median (50%) income, adjusted for family size. If an individual or family's income is below 50%, or the median income for their family size, they are considered to be living in poverty.

** The hourly wage a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses and participate in their community.

Peel Poverty Reduction Committee 2025 Election Key Messages

Get involved and consider asking your local candidates about these topics:



More than 25,000 Peel residents receive Ontario Works (OW). Single individuals receive approximately \$733 per month in social assistance — a rate that has not changed since 2018. Yet, the cost of living in Peel continues to increase and many residents struggle to meet their basic needs.

How would you support increasing Ontario Works (OW) rates to meet the real cost of living for people in receipt of social assistance?



Housing in Peel is increasingly unaffordable. 1 in 5 households in Peel — about 97,000 — must choose between paying for housing and basic needs.

What will you do to ensure more affordable housing is built, maintained and supported in Peel?



Child care costs in Peel are among the most expensive in Canada. Currently, 79% of families with children who receive subsidies get care for \$10 a day or less. Even with the Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care (CWELCC) program, many families in Peel need financial assistance to afford child care.

What will you do to increase child care subsidy income limits, so that more low-income families will be eligible for child care subsidy?



Food insecurity is on the rise across Ontario. In 2023, nearly 1 in 4 Peel residents (22.9%) experienced food insecurity. In 2024, Peel food banks reported a significant increase in demand.

What will you do to improve access to affordable, culturally appropriate, and nutritious food in Peel?



Demand for mental health services in Peel is growing, but funding isn't. The impact of underfunding means long wait-lists for children and youth who desperately need these services.

How will you ensure that sustainable investments are made in mental health services so that everyone, especially children and youth, are supported?



Many low-income individuals and families struggle to afford transportation, despite it being essential for accessing school, appointments, employment and other services.

What will you do to ensure affordable and accessible public transit options for Peel residents?



Peel's community services and other stakeholders have rallied together to highlight the shortfall of \$868 million in annual provincial funding to Peel's diverse community.

Will you pledge to support the efforts of our municipal leaders and communities to call for solutions and work with them after the election to fix the funding gap?