

# Poverty in Peel

## Facts at a Glance

### 1 POPULATION\*

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

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

**69%** of residents in Peel identify as racialized, comprising **18%** of Ontario's immigrant population.

(Source: Stats Canada 2021)

### 2 EMPLOYMENT

(Source: Peel Region-Economic-Dashboard, 2024)

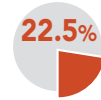
Unemployment rate in Peel is



higher than Ontario's rate of **7.0%**

(Source: Labour market report, June 2024 | ontario.ca)

Youth (15-24) Unemployment rate in Peel is



higher than Ontario's rate of **16.5%**

### 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 would still 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 Federal Election Key Messages

Peel is one of Canada's fastest-growing regions and a major economic hub. A large portion of Peel's economic activity is closely related to trade, and the threat of U.S. tariffs may have disruptive financial and economic impacts on residents, businesses and workers.

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



**Supporting Newcomers:** Peel Region is one of the most diverse communities in Canada, with 69 per cent of residents in Peel identifying as racialized and 18 per cent of Ontario's immigrant population calling Peel home. Newcomers to Peel are supported by community services yet these organizations face a significant funding shortfall compared to other municipalities as they work to support Peel's diverse community.

**Will your party increase funding for community service agencies to ensure newcomers are supported and thrive in their community?**



**Employment:** Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) system is a crucial protection for workers. Job loss due to the Canada/U.S trade tensions is a real concern for those in impacted industries. Having improved access and faster approvals for EI would help support workers experiencing job loss.

**How will your party strengthen and expand the Employment Insurance system and provide grants to ensure all workers affected by the trade tariffs are supported?**



**Child Care:** Stable federal funding is crucial for building a national child care system that supports working families in Canada.

**Will your party commit to expanding the licensed child care system by creating more spaces and making child care available to every family that needs it?**



**Housing:** Peel Region has a long waitlist for subsidized housing and one of the highest housing needs in Canada. Federal funds for affordable housing are at risk because tariffs on key materials like lumber and steel will increase construction costs, making projects harder to complete and worsening the housing crisis.

**How will your party ensure that affordable and deeply affordable housing is available to meet the real needs of our community?**



**Food Insecurity:** In 2023, nearly 1 in 4 Peel residents experienced food insecurity, and Peel food banks continue to report a significant increase in demand. While Canada's National School Food Program is a start and helps some, it cannot solve the root cause of food insecurity.

**What will your party do to ensure that all Peel residents have access to affordable groceries and safe, nutritious, and culturally diverse food?**