Selecting Community Level Indicators for Thunder Bay Counts: Technical Report

Updated April 2016

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Selecting Community Level Indicators for Thunder Bay Counts
Revised April 10, 2016

The purpose of this technical report is to review community-level data currently available to track progress on each of the Benefits for People in the Thunder Bay Counts Shared Agenda for Change. This report draws on research reports completed by a number of organizations in Thunder Bay, and aims to make recommendations about the indicators that should be used by Thunder Bay Counts to track progress over time. The indicators recommended here are those that

- provide information about the population of Thunder Bay as a whole (rather than the clients of a particular service). For example, we have not included data on the number of food bank users or the number of users of Employment Ontario.
- provide local information as opposed to provincial or national trends.
- generate data on a regular basis so that comparisons over time are possible. In some cases, a single year of data has been reported but there is reason to expect that this indicator will be reported regularly (e.g., the homeless count and the number of schools with food gardens were both reported for the first time in 2015).
- link logically to the benefit in question.

This technical report will be used as the basis for creating a much shorter, more visual report that is intended for a wider audience. This report will share selected indicators intended to raise interest and prompt discussion. This technical report is intended to enable members of the Thunder Bay Counts network to participate in the creation of the messages for this public report.

People Are Safe

An inclusive, connected community is one that is safe. Crime rates and related statistics (such as police calls for service and clearance rates) track one element of safety. However, safety also means freedom from harassment and the knowledge that one will be treated with respect regardless of race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation or ability. A community that is safe is a community where people feel safe and secure in their homes and also feel safe while moving through their neighbourhood and the city as a whole.

Population Indicators for "People are Safe"

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison available?
% of residents who strongly agree or somewhat agree that they feel Thunder Bay is a relatively safe city	69% (2015) 70% (2013) 68% (2011)	2 years	City of Thunder Bay Citizen Satisfaction Survey	No
% of residents who strongly agree or somewhat agree that they feel safe walking alone in their own neighbourhood after dark	70% (2015) 64% (2013) 59% (2011)	2 years	City of Thunder Bay Citizen Satisfaction Survey	No
% of Thunder Bay residents who have been a victim of crime or had a member of their household be a victim of crime in the last year	15% (2015) 20% (2013) 27% (2011)	2 years	City of Thunder Bay Citizen Satisfaction Survey	No

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: These three questions, all taken from the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, suggest a positive trend over time. In 2015, 27% of respondents to the survey reported that they did not feel safe in Thunder Bay. When asked why, 70% mentioned crime, 12% mentioned feeling unsafe in certain areas, and 12% mentioned street people, homeless youth, or new transients.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison available?
Violent Crime Severity Index (for the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Police Service - City of Thunder Bay and Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge).	143.5 (2014) 115.1 (2013) 121.6 (2012) 127.1 (2011) 142.5 (2010) 140.6 (2009)	Annual	Thunder Bay Police Service website (local) & Stats Canada CANSIM table 252-0052 (provincial)	57.64 (2014) 61.72 (2013) 69.93 (2012) 72.7 (2011) 77.89 (2010) 81.89 (2009)
Non-violent Crime Severity Index (for the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Police Service - City of Thunder Bay and Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge). NOTE: "Thunder Bay" figures in the CANSIM table differ slightly from those reported by TBPS because they include some surrounding areas patrolled by the OPP).	73.3 (2014) 71.3 (2013) 77.7 (2012) 99.3 (2011) 102.6 (2010) 105.1 (2009)	Annual	Thunder Bay Police Service website (local) & Stats Canada CANSIM table 252-0052 (provincial)	47.12 (2014) 48.92 (2013) 54.84 (2012) 56.83 (2011) 60.85 (2010) 64.46 (2009)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: The Crime Severity Index (CSI) measures both the volume and seriousness of police-reported crime in Canada. The CSI was developed to address a limitation of the simple "crime rate" statistic, which is sensitive to changes in high-volume offences that are less serious. In order to calculate the CSI, each violation is assigned a weight that is based on the violation's average sentence handed down by criminal courts. Homicide, for example is assigned a score of 7000, while robbery has a score of 580 and theft of a motor vehicle has a score of 84. The severity index is then calculated by multiplying the severity of each crime by the number of times it occurred in a community. The final index is then standardized so that the Canadian average is a score of 100. Unlike the traditional crime rate, all offences, including Criminal Code traffic violations and other federal statute violations such as drug offences, are included in the CSI. While violent crime severity in Thunder Bay dropped steadily between 2010 and 2013, it rose again in 2014, and remains higher than the provincial average. This is true despite the fact that the total number of violent crimes actually dropped between 2013 and 2014, in part because there were more homicides in 2014.   Non-violent crime continued to fall in 2014.

TECHNICAL NOTE: "Thunder Bay" figures in the CANSIM table differ slightly from those reported by TBPS because they include some surrounding areas patrolled by the OPP.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison available?
Violent crime rate per 100,000 population (for the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Police Service - City of Thunder Bay and Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge).	1562 (2014) 1614 (2013) 1493 (2012) 1653 (2011) 1730 (2010)	Annual	Thunder Bay Police Service 2014 annual report	Not yet found
Violent crimes leading to charges against youth (note: age range of youth not specified in Thunder Bay Police Service annual report)	81 (2014) 79 (2013) 87 (2012) 119 (2011) 112 (2010)	Annual	Thunder Bay Police Service 2014 annual report	Not yet found

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: There is a public perception that crime rates are on the rise. We know that overall crime rates in Thunder Bay are on a downward trend, as they are in most of Canada. The rate of violent crime seems relatively stable for the population as a whole, but it has been dropping for youth over the last five years.

People are Engaged in Community Life & People Know They Belong

Sense of connection to community is a feeling that people in one's community matter to one another, and that they will help one another to succeed. Belonging is a social determinant of health. It can be expressed in many ways, through volunteering, charitable donations, participation in cultural events, or walks in the local park.   Building stronger, safer, and more welcoming neighbourhoods is one important way to create a community that is inclusive and connected. Many people do feel they belong in Thunder Bay, and they express this sense of belonging in a variety of ways. However, there are people who are excluded. Research suggests that seniors in Thunder Bay feel a stronger sense of belonging than young adults. We also know that a number of groups, including Aboriginal people, people living with low incomes, people with disabilities and people dealing with challenges related to addictions and mental health, face barriers when it comes to employment, housing, transportation and access to services. These factors get in the way of belonging. People cannot know that they belong when racism exists, or when they are discriminated against on the basis of other issues, such as ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age.

Population Indicators for "People are Engaged in Community Life and People Know They Belong."

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Trend	Prov. comparison	
% of population that has a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community (for Thunder Bay District HU).	73.8 % (2014) 74.4% (2013) 70.0% (2012)	71.5% (2011) 78.0% (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0501	–	68.2% (2014) 67.7% (2013) 68.2% (2012)	67.0% (2011) 67.7% (2010)
% of young adults (20-34) that have a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community (for Thunder Bay District HU).	64.2 % (2014) 66.2% (2013) 64.2% (2012)	61.4% (2011) 65.2% (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0501	–	58.3% (2014) 59.0% (2013) 58.5% (2012)	58.6% (2011) 61.0% (2010)
% of older adults (65+) that have a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community (for Thunder Bay District HU).	84.6 % (2014) 69.8% (2013) 79.9% (2012)	78.3% (2011) 86.3% (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0501	–	76.1% (2014) 74.8% (2013) 73.4% (2012)	73.8% (2011) 74.6% (2010)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: Compared to Ontario as a whole, people in Thunder Bay are more likely to feel like they belong and have been for years. However, 20% to 30% of residents do not feel like they belong, and this is a large number. Young adults are somewhat less likely to feel they belong, and there are likely to be other groups that feel this way that aren't captured in these statistics.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of residents that **strongly agree or somewhat agree** that racism and discrimination is a serious issue in Thunder Bay (not asked in 2011 survey)	81% (2015) 82% (2013)	Bi-Annual	City of Thunder Bay Citizen Satisfaction Survey	No
% of residents that **strongly agree** racism and discrimination is a serious issue in Thunder Bay (not asked in 2011 survey)	47% (2015) 51% (2013)	Bi-Annual	City of Thunder Bay Citizen Satisfaction Survey	No

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: Comments shared with Thunder Bay Counts suggest that, in past years, it has sometimes been a challenge in Thunder Bay to get some residents to acknowledge that racism is a serious problem. These survey responses suggest that perceptions are shifting in a positive way over time. Of course, acknowledging that the problem exists is only a first step towards taking action. This statistics does not tell us anything about whether these steps are taking place. It doesn't tell us how often racism is perpetrated, in what settings, or by whom. It does not tell us about the impact of racism on the direct victims, their families, or the community as a whole. Better information about racism in Thunder Bay is needed. Ideally, statistics exploring the experience of non-status and status aboriginal people should be included here. It would also be helpful to access data on inclusion for other marginalized groups, including people with disabilities, women and children, and youth.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Police Reported Hate Crimes per 100,000 population in Thunder Bay	21.4 (2013) 16.6 (2012)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 252-0091	Provincial comparisons not relevant, given inconsistency in reporting between police forces

WHAT THIS STAT MEANS: It is important to track hate crimes, for obvious reasons. However, Thunder Bay Police Services (TBPS) has pointed out that these stats have only begun to be tracked recently. Changes from year to year may reflect differences in the way Police Services track hate crimes. For similar reasons, provincial comparisons are challenging because data is not collected consistently everywhere. For this reason, no provincial comparison data has been included here.

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison	
% of tax filers who donate in Thunder Bay	24.9% (2013) 25.4% 92012) 26.0% (2011)	25.5% (2010) 25.2% (2009)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 111-0001	22.8% (2013) 23.5% (2012) 24.1% (2011)	24.5% (2010) 24.1% (2009)

WHAT THIS STAT MEANS: Not everyone in Thunder Bay is in a position to make donations to charities. However, many people do. The fact that people in Thunder Bay donate more often than the provincial average suggests that people are engaged in community life.

People Can Get the Help They Need

In order to create an inclusive community, and a community free from the negative effects of poverty, Thunder Bay needs to make sure that services and supports are accessible. However, people in Thunder Bay sometimes struggle to get the help they need. For example, access to a family doctor isn't as easy in Thunder Bay and wait times for Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) services have recently risen. We know from the Thunder Bay Counts community survey and from public meetings that people are concerned about lack of services, long wait lists, narrow eligibility criteria, or lack of information about where to go for help. Sometimes, they don't feel comfortable accessing help, due to discrimination or lack of cultural understanding.

Population Indicators for "People Can Get the Help they Need."

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of population with fair or poor perceived mental health, (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	7.5% (2013-14) 4.5% (2011-12) 5.6% (2009-10) 6.1% (2007-08)	Bi-Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	7.0% (2013-14) 6.2% (2011-12) 5.7% (2009-10) 5.4% (2007-08)
% of population with quite a lot of perceived life stress (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	20.8% (2013-14) 20.4% (2011-12) 21.5% (2009-10) 19.7% (2007-08)	Bi-Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	22.9% (2013-14) 22.8% (2011-12) 24.0% (2009-10) 22.4% (2007-08)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: We know that people who are struggling with mental health issues are one of the groups that face challenges in getting the help they need in Thunder Bay. These stats suggest that a significant portion of the population may be facing these challenges right now or at risk for the future.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Emergency Department Wait Time at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre	2.2 hrs (2013-14) 2.2 hrs (2012-13) 2.1 hrs (2011-12) 2.1 hrs (2010-11)	Annual	CIHI Health System Monitor	3 hrs (13-14) 3.2 hrs (12-13) 3.3 hrs (11-12) 3.4 hrs (10-11)

WHAT THIS STAT MEANS: Wait times in Thunder Bay are lower than the provincial average, but waiting two hours for help can be challenging for people who need help.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
90th Percentile Wait Time from Community Setting to First CCAC Service (excluding case management)[i]	35 days (2014-2015) 38 days (2013-14) 32 days (2012-13) 35 days (2011-12)	Annual	NW LHIN 2014 annual report p. 25	NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: This statistic is about the length of wait for CCAC home visits.   Rather than showing the average wait time, it shows the 90th percentile time. This means that 90% of clients got their first visit within 35 days of first contact in 2014-2015. The previous year, 90% of clients got their first visit within 38 days. These wait times are in line with the targets that the North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) set for itself, and seem stable over time.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Rate of Repeat Unscheduled ED Visits Within 30 Days for Mental Health Conditions	16.83% (2014-15) 17.9% (2013-14) 17.5% (2012-13) 18.2% (2011-12)	Annual	NW LHIN annual reports (e.g., see 2014 report, p. 25)	NA
Rate of Repeat Unscheduled ED Visits Within 30 Days for Substance Abuse Conditions (annual result)	40.7% (2014-15) 34% (2013-14) 29.5% (2012-13) 28.4% (2011-12)	Annual	NW LHIN annual reports (e.g., see 2014 report, p. 25)	NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: When people show up in Emergency Departments(ED) with concerns related to mental health or substance use, it is sometimes an indication that they were unable to get the help they needed anywhere else. We know (from the Canadian Institutes of Health Information) that people with low incomes in Thunder Bay are much more likely to visit emergency rooms with concerns related to mental health or substance use. In these situations, where appropriate, ED staff try to redirect patients to more appropriate community based supports. If someone with this type of concern makes a second emergency room visit shortly after their first visit (within 30 days), this can suggest that they were unable to follow up on referrals made, and that they have been unable to get the help they need.   The rates of return visits are high for people who the LHIN describes as having "substance use conditions," and they are rising over time.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of population with access to a regular medical doctor (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	84.5% (2013-14) 84.9% (2011-12) 84.4% (2009-10) 87.4% (2007-08)	Bi-Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	91.8% (2013-14) 91.1% (2011-12) 91.1% (2009-10) 90.8% (2007-08)
Active households on RGI waiting lists as of December 31	1340 (2014) 1185 (2013) 1790 (2012) 1420 (2011) 1226 (2010)	Annual	ONPHA 2015 Waiting List Survey, p. 22	NA
Child Care Waitlist (Infant, toddler & preschool) (data from previous years not yet accessed)	903 (2014)		TBDSSAB Annual Report	NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: *This cluster of stats about very different types of services highlights the fact that waitlists for health care, housing and child care can be long in Thunder Bay. Family doctors are important allies in getting referrals to a wide range of different kinds of supports. Access to family doctors in Thunder Bay lags behind provincial averages, and has dropped slightly in the last 8 years.*

NOTE: *the RGI waitlist stat also appears in the "People are Appropriately Housed" result.*

People can Get Where they Need to Go

An inclusive, connected community is one where people can move around freely. It is difficult to find work, care for your children, access services, or participate in community events if you can't access transportation. Easy access to affordable public transportation that serves all residents, including seniors and people with disabilities, is important. Streets and neighbourhoods that are designed to encourage walking and cycling are important too. Communities that are designed to be bike-friendly and walkable bring shops and supports closer to the neighbourhoods where people live. They promote physical health, and they make the community more accessible to people who have physical disabilities. They improve safety and air quality and they make it possible to use low-cost methods of transportation.

Population Indicators for "People Can Get Where they Need to Go."

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of population very or somewhat satisfied with public transit	79% (2015) 67% (2013) 66% (2011) 68% (2009)	Bi-Annual	City of Thunder Bay Citizen Satisfaction Survey	NA
Number of transit rider trips per capita	34.66 (2014) 33.39 (2013) 33.61 (2012) 33.01 (2011)	Annual	Thunder Bay Transit data shared with Thunder Bay Counts	NA
Annual Lift+ Ridership (a door to door service for residents who, due to a disability, are unable to use the accessible, conventional bus service for all or part of the trip).	75,568 (2015 unofficial) 74,602 (2014) 74,823 (2013)	Annual	Thunder Bay Transit data shared with Thunder Bay Counts	NA
Proportion of workers commuting to work by public transit, on foot, or by bicycle in Thunder Bay CMA	9.9% (2011) 10.7% (2006) 9.4% (2001)	5 years	Stats Canada Commuting to Work table 1a	9.4% (2011)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: These indicators related to use of public transit suggest steady use over time, coupled with improved satisfaction.   Although these stats don't cover all the issues, they do suggest that it is becoming easier to get around Thunder Bay over time.

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Number of collisions involving cyclists	33 (2013) 52 (2012)	43 (2011) 46 (2010)	Annual		NA
Number of traffic injuries to pedestrians	59 (2015) 26 (2014) 33 (2013)	52 (2012) 43 (2011) 46 (2010)	Annual	Communication from City of Thunder Bay Mobility Coordinator	NA
Number of km of paved sidewalks	502 km (2015)		Annual		NA
Number of KM of bike lanes and shoulders	33.6 (2014) 31.7 (2013) 29.8 (2012)	20 (2011) 10 (2010)	Annual		NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: *Healthy community design is safer and more accessible for all modes and abilities. Statistics on collisions involving pedestrians or cyclists are a reflection, in part, on how well Thunder Bay has done in designing the community to make this kind of travel easy. Both figures are moving in a positive direction.*

People have Enough Healthy Food to Eat

In order to create a community free from the effects of poverty, Thunder Bay needs to make sure that people have access to adequate, affordable, nutritious, safe and culturally appropriate food in a way that maintains dignity. Action in this area was flagged as a priority in the last section. People who live in poverty often don't get enough healthy food to eat, and this can lead to a wide range of problems with physical and mental health.   This is especially true for children who live with low incomes.

Population Indicators for "People have Enough Healthy Food to Eat."

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Fruit and vegetable consumption, 5 times or more per day (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	34.4% (2013-14) 34.5% (2011-12) 37.8% (2009-10) 34.9 % (2007-08)	2 years	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	38.7% (2013-14) 38.9% (2011-12) 43.2% (2009-10) 41.3 % (2007-08)
Percentage of adults (18+) who have diabetes (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	8.8% (2013-14) 8.1% (2011-12) 6.7% (2009-10) 6.8% (2007-08)	2 years	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	7.0% (2013-14) 6.6% (2011-12) 6.8% (2009-10) 6.1% (2007-08)
Percentage of adults (18+) who are overweight or obese (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	65.5% (2013-14) 61.7% (2011-12) 60.2% (2009-10) 57.8% (2007-08)	2 years	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	53.9% (2013-14) 52.6% (2011-12) 52.0% (2009-10) 51.6% (2007-08)
Percentage of children age 12-17 who are overweight or obese (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)[ii]	25.3% (2013-14) 34.2% (2011-12) 22.6% (2009-10) 17.0% (2007-08)	2 years	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0502	22.8% (2013-14) 21.1% (2011-12) 20.5% (2009-10) 20.1% (2007-08)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: Fruit and vegetable consumption is important, because research tells us that people who are not eating enough food in this category probably don't have a healthy diet overall. Rates of obesity are also important, because people who can't afford healthy food are more likely to eat foods that are processed or high in sugar, sodium or fat. In all four of these categories, Thunder Bay's figures are less healthy than the provincial average, and moving in a negative direction over time.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Prevalence of moderately food insecure persons (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	4.4% (2011-12) 5.7% (2007-08)	2 years	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0547	5.5% (2011-12) 5.1% (2007-08)
Prevalence of severely food insecure persons (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	3.5% (2011-12) 3.2% (2007-08)	2 years	Stats Canada CANSIM table 105-0547	2.2% (2011-12) 2.6% (2007-08)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: The proportion of people in Thunder Bay who are severely food insecure is above the provincial average and rising over time.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Cost of a nutritious food basket in Thunder Bay (family of 4) (for Thunder Bay District Health Unit Catchment)	$874 (2014) $794 (2013) $827 (2012) $795 (2011) $790 (2010)	Annual	Thunder Bay District Health Unit Cost of Eating Well report	NA
Percentage of income required to eat healthy food for a family of four on Ontario Works (for Thunder Bay District Health Unit Catchment)	40% (2015)		Thunder Bay District Health Unit Cost of Eating Well report	NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: The cost of healthy food in Thunder Bay is cause for concern, especially since it has risen in recent years. Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) presents the cost of a healthy food basket as a proportion of the income of a family on Ontario Works, in order to highlight how difficult it is to eat well when living with a low income. Thunder Bay Counts has not yet been able to access this ratio for years before 2014.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Number of schools with a food garden (Thunder Bay CMA)	24 (2015)			NA
Number of community gardens (Thunder Bay CMA)	25 (2015)			NA
Number of community kitchens available to the public	24 (2015)		2015 Community Food Security	NA
Number of organizations engaged in urban agriculture as a way to build community	19 (2015)		Report Card	NA
Number of schools with student nutrition programs	52 (2015)			NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: *Although the presence of things like gardens and nutrition programs does not guarantee that healthy food is reaching the people who need it the most, these new statistics will provide a picture of how Thunder Bay's infrastructure for growing and sharing food is improving over time.*

NOTE: *The tables in this section include all of the indicators used in the "consumption and nutrition" and "food accessibility" sections of the 2015 Community Food Security Report Card prepared by the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy, with the exception of cost of transportation figures 9which are included elsewhere in this report). The Food Security Report Card also includes many more indicators in domains including forest and freshwater foods, food infrastructure, procurement, and production.*

People are Appropriately Housed

Lack of adequate, affordable and accessible housing is a challenge that many in Thunder Bay have identified. In the 2015 Citizen Satisfaction Survey, for example, 91% of respondents supported the City funding services related to homelessness. In order to create a community free from the effects of poverty, Thunder Bay needs to create a continuum of housing options that meet the needs of all residents, including people with disabilities, seniors, people living with addictions or mental illnesses, Aboriginal people, and other groups.

Population Indicators for "People are Appropriately Housed."

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Vacancy rate for private apartments (apartments with at least three units in Thunder Bay CMA, measured in October)	2.3% (2014) 2.6 % (2013) 1.1% (2012) 1.7% (2011) 2.2% (2010)	2.3% (2009) 2.2% (2008) 3.8% (2007) 4.9% (2006) 4.6% (2005)	Quarterly	CMHC Housing Market Outlook Fall 2014, p. 7	2.3% (2014) 2.6 % (2013)
Number of unique individuals accessing emergency shelters in District of Thunder Bay (NOTE: this indicator not included in 2013 and 2014 annual reports)	1267 (2011) 1252 (2010)		Annual	TBDSSAB Annual Report	NA
Homeless shelter average occupancy rates (Shelter House + Salvation Army Shelter)	140% (2014) 123% (2013) 86% (2012)			TBDSSAB Annual Report	NA
Active households on RGI waiting lists as of December 31	1340 (2014) 1185 (2013) 1790 (2012)	1420 (2011) 1226 (2010)	Annual	ONPHA 2015 Waiting List Survey, p. 22	NA
% of tenant households spending 30% or more of household total income on shelter costs in Thunder Bay CMA (earlier data not available since the census changed in 2011).	38.6% (2011)		5 years	Stats Canada National Household Survey 2011	42.3% (2011)
Average cost of renting a 2 bedroom apartment in Thunder Bay CMA (measured in October)	$917 (2015) $888 (2014) $785 (2013)		Annual	CMHC Thunder Bay rental Market Report (fall 2015)	NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: Taken together, these stats make it clear why Thunder Bay is so concerned about making sure people are appropriately housed. More than 38% of people who rent are spending a large portion of their income on housing. Emergency shelter use is growing, waitlists for subsidized housing are growing, and rents are on the rise. Vacancy rates remain low, although they have improved slightly.   In 2014, the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB)'s Housing and Homelessness Plan found that the housing needs of local residents were changing. Demand for seniors housing had fallen due to the creation of new units, while demand for smaller units among non-seniors had risen. There was a shortage of larger units, suitable for larger Aboriginal families, and 14.6% of Aboriginal homes were in need for major repair (compared to 6.3% of all homes).

NOTE: An additional indicator suggested here was a housing affordability index calculated by CMHC. This has not yet been accessed.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of people who have moved within the past year (Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	11% (2013)		Stats Canada Health Profile for Thunder Bay	11.6% (2013)

WHAT THIS STAT MEANS: People who move frequently are often people who are at risk of losing their housing. The fact that 11% of people have moved within the last year suggests that there may be many people at risk of homelessness.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
# of homeless people interviewed during 2016 Thunder Bay homeless count	289 (2016)		Lakehead Social Planning Council Point in Time Count	NA
% of homeless people interviewed during 2016 Thunder Bay homeless count who had been homeless 6 months or more	58.1% (2016)			NA
% of homeless people interviewed during 2016 Thunder Bay homeless count who stated Aboriginal identity	73.7% (2016)			NA

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: These three statistics, all taken from the recent point in time homelessness count, suggest that Aboriginal people are at higher risk, and that chronic homelessness is not uncommon in Thunder Bay.

People Live Free from the Effects of Poverty

This indicators report is organized according to the benefits for people listed in the agenda for change.   Living free from the effects of poverty is not a "benefit" in the agenda, but instead one of Thunder Bay Count's three high level goals. Even so, keeping track of indicators related to poverty is important for Thunder Bay Counts, since poverty is connected to so many of the benefits for people and priorities for action.   We know that those who live with low incomes experience discrimination and social isolation and are at greater risk for various health issues. In order to create a community free from the effects of poverty, we need to understand that poverty is not just about income. It is also about inequality and exclusion. New Canadians, lone-parent families, youth, Aboriginal peoples, women, racialized peoples and individuals with mental health issues and disabilities are more likely to live in poverty.

Population Indicators for "People Live Free from the Effects of Poverty."

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of people in Thunder Bay living below Low Income Measure (after tax)	12.9% (2013) 12.9% (2012) 12.8% (2011) 12.4% (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 111-0015	15.6% (2013) 15.4% (2012) 15.1% (2011) 15.2% (2010)
Median family income, lone parent families, Thunder Bay CMA	$38,430 (2013) $37,410 (2012) $36,580 (2011) $36,520 (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 111-0015	$38,530 (2013) $37,790 (2012) $36,920 (2011) $36,860 (2010)
Average Time on Social Assistance (Thunder Bay and District)	12.8 months (2014) 12.3 months (2013) 13.0 months (2012)		TBDSSAB Annual Report	18.2 months (2014) 17.4 months (2013) 16.5 months (2012)
% of people in Thunder Bay CMA who are the lowest income quartile and who have used the internet in the last 12 months	57.5% (2012) 50.6% (2010) Compare to rates for all TB residents: 88.1% (2012) 78.6% (2010)	Occasional	Stats Canada CANSIM table 358-0152	65.5% (2012) 62.8% (2010)

NOTE: Feedback on the last draft suggested including median family income for other groups at risk such as people with disabilities or Aboriginal people. Also suggested were data on educational attainment for these groups. The Lakehead Social Planning Council and partners have conducted much more in-depth analyses of trends in poverty and related factors. Using data from their tax clinic program, they have explored differences between non-aboriginal and aboriginal families and issues related to gender and poverty.

People Can Get Good Jobs

A prosperous vibrant economy means good quality employment opportunities. Although the most commonly reported statistics (such as unemployment rate) often make it seem like prospects for employment are good in Thunder Bay, a closer look at the data reveals challenges. For example, local residents aren't always qualified for the job opportunities that do exist. A recent survey of local employers, conducted by the North Superior Workforce Planning Board (NSWPB), found that 66% of employers assessed the local availability of qualified workers as fair or poor. Students sometimes need support as they transition into the working world. Workers and employers sometimes need support to make sure that job placements are sustained and successful, so that workers have good quality of working life and can move into better jobs over time.

Population Indicators for "People Can Get Good Jobs"

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
Seasonally adjusted labour force participation rate (3 month moving average for Thunder Bay CMA; data from March each year)	60.7% (2015) 61.8% (2014) 63.2% (2013)	65.0% (2012) 62.4% (2011)	Monthly	StatsCan annual Labour Force Info Report (latest data from March 2015 report)	65.3% (2015) 65.9% (2014) 66.4% (2013) 66.5% (2012) 66.9% (2011)
Labour force participation rate for youth aged 15-24 (Thunder Bay CMA).	69.7% (2015) 71.5% (2014) 71.4% (2013)	71.2% (2012) 65.8% (2011)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM tables 282-0129 &282-0002	61.1% (2015) 61.9% (2014) 61.2% (2013) 60.1% (2012) 61.7% (2011)
Unemployment rate in Thunder Bay[iii]	5.3% (2014) 6% (2013) 5.4% (2012)	6.9% (2011) 6.6% (2010)	Annual	City of Thunder Bay CEDC website: Labour Force Data	7.3% (2014) 7.5% (2013) 7.8% (2012) 7.8% (21011) 8.7% (2010)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: Although the unemployment rate in Thunder Bay is lower than the provincial average and falling, it only paints part of the picture because it is based on proportion of those who are looking for work. Thunder Bay has a lower workforce participation rate than the province, partly because the local population is older.   Labour force participation for youth in Thunder Bay is higher than the provincial average.

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
% of workforce in management positions (Thunder Bay CMA)	3.9% (2014) 4.2% (2013) 4.9% (2012)	4.9% (2011) 4.3% (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 282-0133	NA
% of population working as retail salespersons, sales clerks, and cashiers (Thunder Bay CMA)	4.0% (2014) 4.8% (2013) 4.1% (2012)	4.1% (2011) 4.3% (2010)	Annual	Stats Canada CANSIM table 282-0133	NA
% of those participating the workforce who worked full-time in 2010 (in Thunder Bay District Health Unit)	71.5% (2010)		5 Years	Stats Canada Health Profile 2013	75.2% (2010)

WHAT THESE STATS MEAN: People in Thunder Bay are concerned about job quality, worker retention, and obstacles that prevent qualified workers from getting and keeping jobs. These statistics suggest that full time jobs are less common in Thunder Bay than the provincial average, and that the number of management positions is dropping.

Population Indicator	Figure	Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
%of population without high school diploma (Thunder Bay CMA)	18.3% (2011) 26.6% (2006)	5 years	Stats Canada Focus on Geography NHS Table for Thunder Bay CMA	17.3% (2011)

NOTE: Much more data on school performance (at elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels) exists and should be included here.

People Can Start or Grow Successful Businesses

In order to have a prosperous, vibrant economy, Thunder Bay needs diverse economic development. It needs new businesses in different sectors of the economy as well as social purpose enterprises. It needs businesses that pay a living wage and provide high quality working life. In order to succeed, employers may need support to understand the cultural context of their workers.

Population Indicators for "People can Start or Grow Successful Businesses."

Population Indicator	Figure		Frequency	Source	Prov. comparison
# of employers with employees in TB & District (measured in June)[ivv]	4561 (2014) 4559 (2013)	4440 (2012) 4446 (2011)	Annual	Canadian Business Counts;	NA
Annual % change in number of employers with employees in TB & District (measured in June)	0% (2014) 2.7% (2013) 1.2% (2012)		Annual	Canadian Business Counts; see also NSWPB 2015-2017 Labour Market Plan	4.4% (2015) 2.3% (2014) 5.2% (2013) 1.3% (2012)

NOTE: Between 2013 and 2014, the sectors with the greatest increase in number of employers were specialty trade contractors (+3.7%) repair and maintenance (+3.5%), professional, scientific and technical services (+3.4%) and real estate (+3.1%) The greatest decreases were in sporting goods, hobby book and music stores, forestry and logging, and securities, commodity contracts and financial investments.

It was suggested that data on job vacancies and jobs filled could be added to this section. It was also suggested that number of new businesses could be tracked. NSWPB is gathering new data about some of these issues and it may be possible to identify additional indicators.

[ii] Statistics Canada says that these estimates should be used with caution, because the sample size may be too small to be reliable. For this reason, it is important to remember that the very high 2011-2012 rates may not be accurate.

[iii] According to the NSWPB 2015-2017 Labour Market Plan, unemployment rates in 2015 were 6.9% for the Thunder Bay CMA. They were higher for people aged 25 to 64. The unemployment rate was especially high for Aboriginal people (19.5%).

[v] The 2015-2017 Labour Market Plan reports that the Canadian Business Counts methodology changed in 2015, making it impossible to compare new data to data from previous years. This is why these tables stop at 2014. For reference, the new methodology indicates that there were 4492 employers with employees in Thunder Bay and District in 2015.