Review of existing quality of life/wellbeing indicators frameworks in use in Canada

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Introduction

The incorporation of indicators of social impacts into composite social indices has been the subject of considerable effort in North America since the late 1960s. Over the past decade, literally hundreds of indices have been developed to measure social change at international, national, and local scales by governments, institutes, non-profit organizations, and others. Most indices are not linked to natural resource or land use, but some include environmental variables.

The following compendium presents short profiles of two dozen indicator-based social development indicator models currently in use in Canada. Each profile includes a summary description, illustrates the indicators employed, identifies data sources and provides a link to the initiative. The compendium also includes a review of measures of poverty by province.

The information presented here is by no means a comprehensive list of all social development measurement models, but rather one based on well-recognised and well-used models. Those that attempt to define social progress using a wide variety of indicators are also included.

International Indices Measuring Canada as a Whole

The Human Development Index

Created by	United Nations Development Programme
Year Created	unknown
Key Factors	• Measures more than GDP • Compares countries
Variables	1. Life expectancy at birth 2. Expected years of schooling 3. Mean years of schooling 4. Gross national income (GNI) per capita
Data Sources	• UNDESA: Life expectancy at birth; • UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), nationally representative household surveys and Barro and Lee (2013) methodology where UIS data are not available: Mean years of schooling; • UIS: Expected years of schooling; • World Bank, IMF and UN Statistical Division's National Accounts Main Aggregates Database: GNI per capita (in 2011 $PPP). Data Sources: http://hdr.undp.org/en/faq-page/human-development-index-hdi#t292n42
Link	http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI

OECD Better Life Index

Created by	OECD (Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation)
Year Created	unknown
Key Factors	• Measures more than GDP • Compares countries
Variables Categories	1. Housing 2. Income 3. Jobs 4. Community 5. Education 6. Environment 7. Civic engagement 8. Health 9. Life Satisfaction 10. Safety 11. Work-Life Balance
Data sources	• OECD • WB (World Bank) • ILO (Int'l Labour Org.) • Eurostat • IMF (Int'l Monetary Fund) • ECB (European Central Bank) • WHO (World Health Org.) • UN • UNHCR For a full account of data sources see https://www.oecd.org/statistics/data-collection/
Link to indicators	http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=BLI#

UN Sustainable Development Goals (Post 2015 Agenda)
Document: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Created by	UNDG (Development Group) under a high level panel of 27 civil society, private sector, and government leaders from all regions of the world
Year Created	2015 (successor to Millennium Development Goals)
Key Factors	• Aimed to ensure 'sustainable economic, social and environmental development', whereby the needs of current populations can be met without compromising the ability of future populations to meet their needs.
Variables Categories	304 indicators measure 169 targets under the following 17 goals: 1. No Poverty 2. Zero Hunger 3. Good Health and Well-being 4. Quality Education 5. Gender Equality 6. Clean Water and Sanitation 7. Affordable and Clean Energy 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 10. Reduced Inequalities 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities 12. Responsible Consumption and Production 13. Climate Action 14. Life Below Water 15. Life on Land 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions 17. Partnerships for the Goals
Data sources	• Various participating national government organisations and agencies. • UN Statistical Agency NOTE: Many national governments and agencies reported not having enough time to organise data collection and therefore some data is not available.
Link (to indicators)	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/

WHO Social Determinants of Health

Created by	World Health Organisation (WHO)
Year Created	2011
Key Factors	Measures the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.
Variables	1. Governance: Coherence for health,equity and development 2. Promoting Participation: Putting people at the center 3. Health Sector & Programmes: Designing systems and programmes for health equity 4. Align Global Priorities & Stakeholders: Global action on social determinants of health 5. Monitoring Progress: Assessing impacts and learning from what we do Comments from technical meeting that reveal rationales for changes to indicators and model (2016): http://www.who.int/social_determinants/meeting-report-measuring-and-monitoring-action-on-SDH.pdf?ua=1
Data Sources	Long list found here: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/CommissionSDH-sources-app5.pdf?ua=1
Link	http://www.who.int/social_determinants/CommissionSDH-measurement-themes-app3.pdf?ua=1

National Indices of Well-being

Canadian Index of Well-being

Covers:	Canada
Used by:	• Intended for all policy-makers • Adopted by the Public Health Agency of Canada
Measures:	Well-being
Key features:	Created by citizen groups and non-partisan non-profits
Variables Categories	64 indicators within eight domains: 1. Living Standards; 2. Education; 3. Leisure and Culture; 4. Time Use; 5. Community Vitality; 6. Democratic Engagement; 7. Environment; and, 8. Healthy Population.

Data Sources	• Statistics Canada's:
	   ○ General Social Survey,
	   ○ Canadian Community Health Survey,
	   ○ Labour Force Survey,
	   ○ Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating;
	   ○ Canadian Election Surveys.
	• Environment Canada's Environmental indicators
	• World Wildlife Fund's *Living Planet Index* (Environment domain);
	• Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis's *Shelter Consumption Affordability Ratio* (SCAR Index) (Living Standards domain).

Level of data:	Canada-wide (However, some Provincial organisations adapted their Index of Wellbeing from this model, such as the Saskatchewan Index of Well-being.)
Created by:	• Atkinson Charitable Foundation (Toronto), • then Canadian Policy Research Network, • now the University of Waterloo.
Created In:	Between 1999-2006
Link	https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/reports/2016-canadian-index-wellbeing-national-report

Statistics Canada Life Satisfaction Surveys Question

Covers:	• Canada-wide • Urban areas across Canada
Used by:	Intended for all policy-makers
Measures:	Life Satisfaction
Key features:	• Also studies how covariants may give reasons for life satisfaction. • Consistent with World Happiness Report results for Canada
Variables Categories	Subjective reporting on life satisfaction using the question: - "Using a scale from 0-10 (10 is very satisfied), how do you feel about your life as a whole?" Researchers compare results of question with possible covariants, such as: 1. Marital Status 2. CMA size 3. Immigrants 4. Employment Status 5. Income

Data Sources	• Statistics Canada's:
	    o General Social Survey (GSS – 25000 respondents)
	    o Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS – 65000 respondents)

Level of data:	CMAs CSD and lower levels being compiled now
Created by:	Statistics Canada
Collected In:	• Between 2003-2017 and ongoing • (Life Satisfaction question actually first seen on GSS in 1985)
Link	https://www.cifar.ca/assets/the-changemakers-happier-communities-grant-schellenberg/
Note on results	• Statistics Canada continues to collect and measure impact of covariants. • Statistics Canada considers social inclusion and identity a probable cause of higher rates of life satisfaction. • People in Quebec CMAs of all sizes show highest rates of life sastisfaction.

Living Wage Calculation (Halifax Example)

Covers:	Provinces
Used by:	- CCPA - Provincial Governments
Measures:	Quality of Life (supported by a living wage)
Key features:	- Calculator Excel spreadsheet available online - Calculates a wage required - Based on a variety of poverty indicators, but mainly MBM
Variables Categories:	1. Income (work and non-work) 2. Expenses (Food, Clothing and Footwear. Shelter, Utilities, Transportation, Child Care, Health Care, Contingency/Emergency, Parent Education, Household Expenses, Social Inclusion)
Data Sources	- Statistics Canada: - MBM - CPI - Local Food Price Data Based on National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB) (eg Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing Data) - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Housing Market Information - Insurance quotes (from providers) - Local utility rates (eg Nova Scotia Power and Halifax Water) - Local Transportation costs: local transit pass, MBM car costs - Local Child Care Costs (eg NS Dept. Community Services data) - Non-public health care insurance (from providers) - Canada Revenue Agency: - Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) - Universal Child Card Benefit (UCCB) - GST/HST Credit - Provincial Government Transfers - Provincial and Federal tax rates
Level of data:	- Country-wide - Province-wide - Municipal-wide - Individual calculations
Created by:	Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)
Created In:	2015
Link:	Calculation Guide: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Nova%20Scotia%20Office/2015/06/CCPA-NS_%20Living_Wage_Calculation_Guide2015.pdf

Social Progress Index

Covers:	Canada (and countries around the world)
Used by:	Unknown
Measures:	Well-being
Key features:	• the exclusion of economic variables • the use of outcome measures rather than inputs

Variables Categories:	1. Basic Human Needs
	    a. Nutrition and Basic Medical Care
	    b. Water and Sanitation
	    c. Shelter
	    d. Personal Safety
	2. Foundations of Wellbeing
	    a. Access to Basic Knowledge
	    b. Access to Information and Communications
	    c. Health and Wellness
	    d. Environmental Quality
	3. Opportunity
	    a. Personal Rights
	    b. Personal Freedom and Choice
	    c. Tolerance and Inclusion
	    d. Access to Advanced Education

Data Sources	(Links to sources included with source name.) 1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS 2. UN INTER-AGENCY GROUP FOR CHILD MORTALITY ESTIMATION 3. WHO/UNICEF JOINT MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION 4. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 5. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION DIVISION 6. UN OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME 7. UN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS 8. OECD GENDER, INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT DATABASE 9. TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL 10. FUND FOR PEACE FRAGILE STATES INDEX 11. BARRO-LEE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT DATASET 12. INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH METRICS AND EVALUATION 13. INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION 14. REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS 15. INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH METRICS AND EVALUATION 16. YALE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE INFORMATION NETWORK ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX 17. WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE 18. TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 19. QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 20. ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES 21. SPI CALCULATIONS 22. FREEDOM HOUSE 23. EMPOWERMENT RIGHTS DATA 24. HERITAGE FOUNDATION 25. PEW RESEARCH CENTER GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS INDEX 26. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 27. GALLUP WORLD POLL 28. INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 29. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

	30. INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH METRICS AND EVALUATION 31. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
	Details on Data Sources are here: http://www.socialprogressimperative.org/global-index/data-definitions/
Level of data:	Country-wide
Created by:	Social Progress Imperative – published by the nonprofit Social Progress Imperative, and based on the writings of Amartya Sen, Douglass North, and Joseph Stiglitz.
Created In:	2010
Link:	http://www.socialprogressimperative.org/countries/ind/

Canadian Deprivation Index (by Alberta Health)

Covers:	• Nation-wide • Provinces and Territories • Cities • Rural Areas
Used by:	Unknown
Measures:	Well-being from a Health perspective
Key features:	Composite index
Variables Categories:	Measures and compares deprivation based on: 1. Home ownership 2. Education 3. Food security
Data Sources	Statistics Canada: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
Level of data:	• Provinces/Territories • Health regions • FSAs (Alberta only)
Created by:	Alberta Health
Created In:	2014
Link	http://www.ahw.gov.ab.ca/IHDA_Retrieval/selectSubCategory.do#

Canadian Deprivation index (by Quebec Health Services) (2003) *possibly no longer used*

Covers:	• Nation-wide • Provinces and Territories • Cities • Rural Areas
Used by:	Unknown
Measures:	Health and well-being from social inequality lens.
Key features:	Composite index

Variables Categories:	Measures both social deprivation and material deprivation.
	Material deprivation is based on:
	    1. proportion of persons who have no high school diploma,
	    2. the employment to population ratio
	    3. the average income of persons aged 15 and over
	Social deprivation refers to social network fragility based on:
	    1. the proportion of persons aged 15 and over who are separated, divorced or widowed
	    2. the proportion of persons living alone
	    3. the proportion of single-parent families.

Data Sources	• Ministry of Health and Social Services • INSPQ (Institut national de santé publique du Québec) • Statistics Canada
Level of data:	• Health Districts • Dissemination Areas
Created by:	Sante et Services Sociaux Quebec
Created In:	2001
Link	http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/atlas/atlas/index.php?id_carte=331 (mapping tool, methodology and data sources)

Vital Signs – Various Communities

Covers:	• International • National • Cities/Towns and Rural Areas
Used by:	• Local Government • Local organisations
Measures:	** This is not a measurement tool but rather a profile of existing data.**
Key features:	• Profile offers fairly good detail of a broad range of topics • Info reported can be tailored to local interests
Variables Categories	Variables reported vary from location to location. Example of variables reported: 1. Demographics 2. Economy and Work 3. Shared Prosperity 4. Housing 5. Getting Around 6. Safety 7. Sense of Belonging 8. Education 9. Health And Mental Health 10. Recreation 11. Arts And Culture 12. Environment
Data Sources	• Local plans, local studies • Local health boards • Statistics Canada: census
Level of data:	Municipality-wide (or sometimes broader depending on health and school district boundaries, and potentially other boundaries.)
Created by:	Community Foundations of Canada (first started by Toronto Foundation)
Created In:	2001
Link	http://communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns/community-vital-signs/

Index of Economic Well-Being

Covers:	• Canada-wide • Province • OECD Countries
Used by:	Unknown
Measures:	Economic Well-being
Key features:	Compares its index of economic well-being with the GDP (usually showing a deficit at household level)
Variables	24 variables under four categories: 1. Consumption Flows 2. Wealth Stocks 3. Equality 4. Economic Security
Data Source	• Statistics Canada
Level of data:	• unknown
Created by:	Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS)
Created In:	1998
Link	http://www.csls.ca/iwb.asp

Province-specific Indices of Well-Being

BC Stats Socio-economic Index

Covers:	BC - Three geography types: local health areas (82 areas), school districts (57 districts), regional districts (26 districts).
Used by:	Unknown
Measures:	Well-being
Key features:	• the exclusion of economic variables • the use of outcome measures rather than inputs
Variables	1. Index of Human Economic Hardship 2. Index of Crime 3. Index of Health Problems 4. Index of Education Concerns 5. Children at Risk 6. Youth at Risk 7. Demographics and Background Information
Data sources	1. Statistics Canada 2. CRA 3. Canadian Centre for Justice 4. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Landed Immigrant Database) 5. HRSDC (Human Resources and Social Development Canada) 6. BC Stats 7. BC Ministry of Social Development 8. BC Ministry of Education 9. BC Ministry of Health, Vital Statistics 10. BC Liquor Distribution Branch 11. BC Ministry of Children and Family Development
Level of data:	BC school districts, local health areas and regional districts.
Created by:	BC Stats
Created In:	1999
Link	http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/socio-economic-profiles-indices/methodology-background (to methodology and data sources):

Alberta - My Life: Personal Outcomes Index™

Covers:	Alberta
Used by:	Persons with Developmental Disabilities (Branch of Government of Alberta)
Measures:	Well-being
Key features:	• Used to measure QoL for persons with developmental disabilities. • Survey developed and disseminated by stakeholders.
Variables Categories	Questions measure eight domains: 1. Emotional well-being 2. Interpersonal Relations 3. Material well-being 4. Personal development 5. Physical well-being 6. Self-determination 7. Social Inclusion 8. Rights
Data Source	Proprietary survey (in house data collection)
Level of data:	N/A however responses were aggregated by areas of interested such as geographies (city, town, rural area), whether the respondent was employed, whether the respondent had support from family or community, and so on.
Created by:	Government of Alberta
Created In:	2011
Link	http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/PDD/pdd-poi-summary-report.pdf

Saskatchewan Index of Well-being

Covers:	Saskachewan
Used by:	Indended for all policy-makers (but not yet fully created)
Measures:	Well-being
Key features:	Adapted from the Canadian Index of Well-being seen in this document.
Variables Categories	Measures eight domains: 1. Living Standards; 2. Education; 3. Leisure and Culture; 4. Time Use; 5. Community Vitality; 6. Democratic Engagement; 7. Environment; and, 8. Healthy Population.
Level of data:	Index not yet completed
Created by:	• Heritage Saskatchewan (non-profit) • Community Initiatives Fund (non-profit created by the Government of Saskatchewan through The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act) • Prairie Wild Consulting
Created In:	2016
Link	http://saskwellbeingexchangenetwork.ca/

Newfoundland and Labrador - Community Accounts *granular model built on MBM*

Covers:	Newfoundland and Labrador
Used by:	• Community Governments • Policy makers • Citizens
Measures:	Well-being
Key features:	• Extensive list of variables • Huge model that will include a variety of geographies in the future.
Variables Categories	1. Population 2. Health 3. Employment and Working Conditions 4. Production 5. Community Safety and Social Vitality 6. Society, Culture, Politics and Justice 7. Infrastructure and Political Capital 8. Well-Being Account 9. Ecosystem

Data Sources	1. Statistics Canada Databases:
	   i. Census of Population and Housing
	   ii. Income Tax Records
	   iii. Longitudinal Tax Records
	   iv. Uniform Crime Reporting
	   v. Police Administration Survey
	   vi. Vital Statistics Birth Database
	   vii. Vital Statistics Death Database
	   viii. Labour Force Survey
	   ix. Canadian Community Health Survey
	   x. General Social Survey
	   xi. Survey of Household Spending
	   xii. Building Permits Survey
	   xiii. Households and the Environment Survey
	   xiv. Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating
	2. Other Primary National Sources:
	   i. Rental Market Statistics, CMHC
	   ii. Housing Information Monthly (Starts and completions), CMHC
	   iii. Federal Election Results
	   iv. Facts and Figures: Immigration Overview, Citizenship and Immigration Canada
	   v. Bankruptcy Rates Report, Industry Canada
	   vi. Hospital Discharges, Canadian Institute for Health Information
	   vii. Nursing Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information
	   viii. Physician Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information
	   ix. Hunger Count, Canadian Association of Food Banks
	   x. Resale Housing Market Activity I, Conference Board of Canada
	   xi. Neighbourhood Resale Housing Market Activity II, Conference Board of Canada
	   xii. Average Resale Housing Prices, Canadian Real Estate Association

Level of data:	• Currently: Communities (in Newfoundland) A wide variety of geographies are to be added to this tool. These include: • Communities, Neighbourhoods, Local Areas, Economic Zones • Provinces and Territories • Canada • Rural Secretariat Regions

	• Police Regions, Health Authorities, School Boards, School Regions, Schools • HRDC Districts, HRCC Regions • OECD/EUSI Countries **
Created by:	Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency
Created In:	2016
Link	http://nl.communityaccounts.ca/default.asp Methodology for a composite Index comparing community profiles by geography: http://nl.communityaccounts.ca/indicators.asp?_=vb7En4WVgaauzXZmVQ__

Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI)
** GPIs have generally been <u>replaced by the Canadian Index of Well-being,</u> which is described elsewhere in this document. **

Covers:	Provinces • Alberta (ended 2003) • Nova Scotia (new update to be released – TT email from Gwen Colman)
Used by:	Indended for all policy-makers
Measures:	• Sustainable economy • Well-being without GDP
Key features:	Replaced by CIW
Variables Categories	GPI = A + B - C - D + I A = income weighted private consumption B = value of non-market services generating welfare C = private defensive cost of natural deterioration D = cost of deterioration of nature and natural resources I = increase in capital stock and balance of international trade
Level of data:	Provinces
Created by:	GPI and their Associations
Created In:	1995 - California
Link	http://saskwellbeingexchangenetwork.ca/

Canadian Communities and City-Specific Indices of Well-Being

Cities Reducing Poverty: Common Evaluation Method *Popular among Municipalities*

Covers:	55 municipalities plus 60 municipalities (loosely associated)
Used by:	• Municipalities • Advocates • Researchers
Measures:	Impacts of Municipalities' poverty reduction strategies using Collective Impact Model
Key features:	• Proprietary survey sent annually • Asset-based focus, not symptom-based view of poverty reduction

Variables	1. Community capacity for poverty reduction
	    a. Convening capacity
	    b. Multi-sector leadership
	    c. Collaboration
	    d. Community awareness
	2. Individual and household assets
	    a. Personal assets
	    b. Physical assets
	    c. Social assets
	    d. Human assets
	    e. Financial assets
	3. Policy and systems change
	    a. Public policy
	    b. Service and support systems
	    c. Community resources
	    d. System-level assets

Data Source	• Community Data Program • Survey: by Cities Reducing Poverty sent to Vibrant Communities Members
Level of data:	Communities
Created by:	Vibrant Communities/Tamarack Institute
Created In:	2008
Link	http://vibrantcanada.ca/blogs/tamarack/cities-reducing-poverty-introduction-our-common-evaluation-method

Community Well-Being: First Nations

Covers:	Canadian Communities
Used by:	• Federal Government • Other
Measures:	Well-being Note: The CWB does not measure other equally important aspects of well-being such as health, culture, and happiness because of data limitations.
Key features:	• Composite well-being score for each community • Scores range from zero to a high of 100 for 594 First Nations, 50 Inuit and 3,784 non-Aboriginal communities.
Variables	1. Income 2. Education 3. Housing 4. Labour Force Activity
Data Source	Statistics Canada
Level of data:	CSD
Created by:	Strategic Research Directorate Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Created In:	2014
Link	https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1419864229405/1419864303946

Reducing Gaps in Health: A Focus on Socio-Economic Status in Urban Canada

Covers:	15 Canadian Communities
Used by:	• Federal Government • Other
Measures:	Explores the links between socioeconomic status (SES) and health in urban Canada.
Key features:	• Measures health outcomes of socio-economic status • Uses Quebec's *Deprivation Index* NOTE: this is a one-time report that could be replicated.
Variables	1. Income 2. Household type 3. Health Markers

Data Source	• Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) Deprivation Index;
	• Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI):
	   ○ Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)
	   ○ National Trauma Registry (NTR)
	• Statistics Canada:
	   ○ Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), cycles 2.1 (2003) and 3.1 (2005) combined.
	   ○ 2001 and 2006 Canadian Census Profile (Statistics Canada).

Level of data:	• CMA • DA • FSA
Created by:	Canadian Institute for Health Information
Created In:	2008
Link	https://secure.cihi.ca/estore/productFamily.htm?pf=PFC1090&lang=en&media=0

Sustainable Calgary

Covers:	Calgary
Used by:	• City of Calgary • Calgary-based policy organisations
Measures:	Long-term health and vitality of our city
Key features:	• Created by over 2000 Calgarians.
Variables	1. Community Indicators 2. Economic Indicators 3. Education Indicators 4. Natural Environment Indicators 5. Resource Use Indicators 6. Wellness Indicators

Data Sources	1. Statistics Canada:
	    a. General Social Survey
	    b. Census
	    c. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
	2. Federation of Canadian Municipalities Footprint Data
	3. National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation (Canadian Centre for Philanthropy)
	4. RBC Affordability Index
	5. Conference Board of Canada Diversity Index
	6. Alberta Health. Alberta Reproductive Health: Pregnancies and Births, Surveillance Report
	7. Alberta Survey on Physical Activity
	8. Alberta Recreation Survey
	9. Alberta Education
	10. ATCO and ENMAX (Energy Use Data)
	11. Calgary Pathwatch Survey (River Trail)
	12. Calgary Community Associations
	13. Calgary Signposts 2006: A Survey of the Social Issues and Needs of Calgarians
	14. Calgary Biennial Count of Homeless Persons
	15. Calgary School District
	16. Calgary Waterworks
	17. Calgary Solid Waste Services Annual Report
	18. Calgary Public Library
	19. Pesticide Use: vendors, governments, golf courses, landscaping companies.
	20. Bird Studies Canada

Level of data:	City-wide
Created by:	Sustainable Calgary Society
Created In:	1998
Link	http://sustainablecalgary.org/home/state-of-our-city-reports/

Wellbeing Toronto – Progress Portal: Dashboard

Covers:	Toronto
Used by:	• City of Toronto • Toronto-based Organisations
Measures:	Toronto's Dashboard provides information to assess trends and directions of key indicators for Toronto as a whole and for City of Toronto services. This Dashboard includes the most recent data available and compares it to previous periods, previous years and any targets that had been established for those indicators.
Key features:	• Wide array of Municipal data • Delivered by Neighbourhood
Variables	Wide variety of variables from 1. Crime to 2. Housing prices to 3. Child Care to 4. Employment rates to 5. Transit Ridership to 6. Business licenses to 7. CPI to 8. Tax roll info And so on.
Level of data:	City
Created by:	City of Toronto
Created In:	Unknown
Link	http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=9792de0096180510VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD

Wellbeing Toronto – Neighbourhood Mapping Tool

Covers:	Toronto
Used by:	• City of Toronto • Toronto-based organisations • Citizens
Measures:	Long-term health and vitality of our city
Key features:	The Wellbeing Toronto Composite Index shows the highest, middling and lowest neighbourhoods for whatever combination of indicators you have selected.
Variables	Indicators include all sub-categories of Statistics Canada census data under the following header categories: 1. Area 2. Population 3. Children 4. Youth 5. Seniors 6. Average Family Income 7. LICO After Tax 8. Lower Education 9. Higher Education 10. Visible Minority 11. Walk Score 12. Debt Risk Score 13. Average Home Price 14. Top 5 Non-Official Home Languages

	1. Statistics Canada
	2. City of Toronto (various administrative data)
	3. Health Data:
	   a. Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)
	   b. Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI-DAD)
	   c. Ontario provincial health insurance database (OHIP)
	   d. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) Registered Persons Database (RPDB)

Level of data:	• Neighbourhoods • Health Link (HL) • Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)
Created by:	City of Toronto
Created In:	Unknown
Link (to map)	http://map.toronto.ca/wellbeing

Edmonton Social Planning Council *Tracking the Trends* Publication including Social Health Index

Covers:	Edmonton
Used by:	• Social Planning Council of Edmonton • Intended for policy-makers and community organisations
Measures:	Social Health
Key features:	• A 'social health' composite index has been created • Publication also includes trends of a wide variety of social health determinants • Extensive number of indicators • Wide variety of data sources • Chart compares index with GDP
Variables	The Social Health index is the average variables in these five categories: 1. Population Health 2. Personal and Family Stability 3. Financial Security 4. Community Safety 5. Participation and Environment Trends are tracked for indicators that fall under these categories: • Demographics • Education and Employment • Cost of Living and Housing • Wages and Income • Poverty • Government Income Supports • Social Health Indicators
Data Sources	* Long detailed list of data sources are included beginning on page 121 of the *Tracking the Trends* document..
Level of data:	CMA
Created by:	Social Planning Council of Edmonton
Created In:	1989
Link (includes sources)	https://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca/index.php/resources/digital-resources/a-espc-documents/a06-newsletters/a06f-tracking-the-trends/562-2015-espc-tracking-the-trends

Poverty Reduction

Notes

The Canadian Federal Government is currently undergoing public consultation on the topic of indicators and data gaps to measuring poverty in a proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy. There is not much information on the direction they are headed but rather they ask the Canadian public for feedback on 10 questions, listed here.

The Strategy will measure define and measure poverty using income as a primary indicator and will possibly use other indicators related to education, employment, health and/or housing. Unfortunately, the Discussion Paper quotes the LICO in a measurements of 'current poverty levels'. For common definitions related to poverty, and for more information on the Federal initiative to address poverty, click here. In general, these definitions are as defined below.

Common Poverty Thresholds in Canada

Measurement	Created by	Year Created	Key Factors
Prevalence of Low Income	Statistics Canada (NHS) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (the MBM)	2010	Percentage of persons, economic families, persons not in an economic family aged 15 years or over or households in low income according to one of the low-income lines: 1. low-income measure based on after-tax income (LIM-AT) 2. low-income measure based on before-tax income (LIM-BT) 3. low-income measure based on market income (LIM-MI) 4. low-income cut-off based on after-tax income (LICO-AT) 5. low-income cut-off based on before-tax income (LICO-BT) 6. HRSDC's Market Basket Measure (MBM).
LIM-AT	Statistics Canada	Unknown	• The Low-income measure after tax (LIM-AT) cutoff line reflects those who are substantially worse off than average. It does not claim to measure poverty. • Other LIMs are calculated by Statistics Canada, but the LIM-At is used to show prevalence of low income at the Municipality level • Unlike other low income lines, LIMs do not vary by size of area of residence. • LIM-AT is a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after-tax income of households observed at the person level, where 'adjusted' indicates that a household's needs are taken into account. Adjustment for household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase as the number of members increase, although not necessarily by the same proportion per additional member.

Market Basket Measure (HRSDC)	Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)	1998	• sensitive to geographic cost differences • related to changes in costs of consumption rather than to changes in income • estimates include allowances for recreation, entertainment, and other items not previously included in measures of poverty (i.e. housing, clothing and food)
Basic Needs Poverty Measure (conservative market basket indicator, Fraser Institute)	Fraser institute	1992 (used pre-tax income until 2004)	• Rejects the strong bias towards "relativity" in such measures as the LICO and CCSD lines • Includes costs of food, shelter, clothing, and health care • Easy to understand and can be compared across nations • Link: https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/MeasuringPoverty2001Part2.pdf
CCSD measure of poverty	Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)	1989	• Calculated as half the average income for the reference family of three and then adjusted for other family sizes using equivalence scales • CCSD measures led to higher poverty counts compared to LICO (which was already considered conservative) • CCSD measures were short-lived and most analysts reverted back to using LICO measures
LICO (Low Income Cut-Offs)	Statistics Canada	1960	• Statistics Canada does not measure the level of poverty in Canada • identifies people who are substantially worse off than the average • methods have been called arbitrary

With all of these measures, why do we need more?
From 1997, this report from the Fraser Institute identifies the **serious need for more data** about incomes, benefits and spending in the lowest income households.

Canada Without Poverty similarly reports,

> One of the challenges about poverty in Canada is that there is no official definition of poverty or consistent indicators of poverty. Statistics for "poverty lines" are based on several measures of low-income, often the Low-Income Cut off (After Tax) (LICO-AT); the Low Income Measure (LIM); and the Market Base Measure (MBM). **Generally, the LICO-AT and the LIM are preferred measures** because they recognize that poverty is not merely about income level, but is about the ability of individuals and families to access basic goods and services. However, even these measures fail to capture the full picture when it comes to poverty because of the diversity of experiences for people living in poverty.[1]

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[1] http://www.cwp-csp.ca/poverty/

Tamarack Institute published a comprehensive article on 'what do we mean by poverty', providing an excellent overview of the measurement types across sectors being used in Canada. ** **This article also describes <u>more initiatives in Canada</u>, which supplement (and sometimes overlap with) these ½ page descriptions. ****

Tamarack Institute Published *Approaches to Measuring: Community Change Indicators* that offers a variety of methods for measuring community vibrancy, poverty and so on. Generally, the measures of poverty offered used the following variables:
- income, poverty rate
- ability to gain employment
- access affordable housing
- access to quality education
- access to affordable childcare

Some measures also include:
- access to goods and services
- access to credit
- ability to buy a home
- access to affordable transportation

Examples of Existing Poverty Reduction Targets in Canada

New Brunswick:	Reduce income poverty by 25% and deep income poverty by 50%
Ontario:	Reduce child poverty by 25% over five years
Quebec:	Progressively become one of the industrialized states with the least number of people living in poverty
Saskatchewan:	Reduce the number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty for two years or more by 50% by the end of 2025
Edmonton:	Lift 10,000 people out of poverty in five years

How do Provinces and Non-Profits Measure Poverty?

In 2016, Canada Without Poverty produced excellent status reports on each province's poverty reduction strategies. They are accessed here. Notes below are generally from these CWP reports.

Newfoundland and Labrador	LICO-AT	*Reducing Poverty: An Action plan for Newfoundland and Labrador (2005-2014*) used **LICO –AT** as the primary measurement tool, however, other measurements are noted to round out the picture of poverty in the province.
Nova Scotia:	LICO-AT	The Poverty Reduction Strategy (2009) uses the **LICO-AT** measure and poverty gap based on LICO. However, the Strategy purports, "no one measure can adequately capture what it means to be poor. No consensus has been reached on a single measure to identify the magnitude of poverty."[2]
New Brunswick	Various	Shows various measures of poverty (LICO, LIM-AT, LIM, MBM, Deep Poverty)
PEI	MBM	The Social Action Plan to Reduce Poverty (2012) uses **MBM** as an indicator of poverty in the province.
Quebec	MBM	*Government Action Plan for Solidarity and Social Inclusion 2010-2015* uses the **MBM** as its statistical indicator of poverty in the province.[3]
Ontario:	LIM-AT	Ontario's Realising Our Potential Poverty Reduction Strategy (2014-2019) uses the **LIM-AT** measure.[4]
Manitoba	LICO, LIM and MBM.	The All Aboard Strategy (2012) does not refer to a specific statistical indicator of poverty in the province. However, the 2016/16 annual report references **all three measurements: LICO, LIM and MBM**.
Saskatchewan	MBM	The Sask. Poverty Reduction Strategy (2016) uses **MBM** as its statistical indicator of poverty in the province.
Alberta	LIM-AT, LICO-AT, MBM and the Alberta Deprivation Index	LIM-AT, LICO-AT, MBM and the Alberta Deprivation Index (noted elsewhere in this document).
BC	N/A	No provincial strategy. CCPA is campaigning strongly for a BC strategy.
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	LIM or MBM – never LICO[5]	LIM or MBM – never LICO[6]
Caledon Institute	MBM – never LICO[7]	MBM – never LICO[8]

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[2] https://www.novascotia.ca/coms/specials/poverty/documents/poverty_report_2009.pdf

[3] https://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/publications/pdf/ADMIN_Plan_de_lutte_2010-2015_en.pdf

[4] https://www.ontario.ca/page/realizing-our-potential-ontarios-poverty-reduction-strategy-2014-2019-all

[5] http://www.policynote.ca/bcs-child-poverty-rate-dont-cherry-pick-the-numbers/

[6] http://www.policynote.ca/bcs-child-poverty-rate-dont-cherry-pick-the-numbers/

[7] http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/525ENG.pdf

[8] http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/525ENG.pdf

"See Also" Links to Indicators on Wikipedia
1. Economic imperialism (economics)
2. Economic democracy
3. Full cost accounting
4. Happiness
5. Philosophy of happiness
6. Political economy
7. Post-materialism
8. Progress (history)
9. Quality of life
10. Socionomics
11. Utilitarianism
12. Happiness economics

Measurement and metrics
13. Ecological footprint
14. Happiness economics
15. Income inequality metrics
16. Leisure satisfaction
17. Life satisfaction
18. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe statistics
19. Psychometrics
20. Wikiprogress

Indices
21. Canadian Index of Wellbeing
22. Bhutan GNH Index
23. Broad measures of economic progress
24. Disability-adjusted life year
25. Full cost accounting
26. Green national product
27. Green gross domestic product (Green GDP)
28. Gender-related Development Index
29. Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)
30. Global Peace Index
31. Gross National Happiness
32. Gross National Well-being (GNW)
33. Happiness economics
34. Happy Planet Index (HPI)
35. Human Development Index (HDI)
36. ISEW (Index of sustainable economic welfare)
37. Legatum Prosperity Index
38. Leisure satisfaction
39. Living planet index
40. Law of Social Cycle
41. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
42. Money-rich, time-poor
43. OECD Better Life Index BLI
44. Subjective life satisfaction
45. Where-to-be-born Index
46. Wikiprogress
47. World Happiness Report (WHR)
48. World Values Survey (WVS)