

Pathways to Education Kingston Site Backgrounder

About Kingston:

The city of Kingston is located half way between Montreal and Toronto, Canada's two largest cities. The city's north end includes the Rideau Heights and Inner Harbour communities, both of which struggle with high dropout rates and poverty. While residents in these communities make up less than 10 per cent of Kingston's population, they account for 24 per cent of low incomes households, 23 per cent of residents who have not completed high school, 20 per cent of single parent families and 17 per cent of renters in the city.

Kingston's Rideau Heights community has a population of 6,610 with more than seven per cent of that population between the ages of 15 and 19 years old. More than 30 per cent of residents have not completed high school. The median income for the area is \$30,636 with 43 per cent of households deemed low income. More than 65 per cent of residents rent their homes and 36 percent of families are single parent families.

The Inner Harbour neighbourhood in the area north of Raglan Road and east of Division Street has a population of 4,180 people with five per cent of that population between the ages of 15 and 19 years old. More than 22 per cent of community members have not completed high school. The median income is \$28,921, with 39 per cent of households deemed low income. Additionally, more than 60 per cent live in rented dwellings and almost one in three families are single parent families.

Yet, there is an emergent North Kingston, a community of distinct neighbourhoods with a clear sense of identity, seasoned community leaders, active citizen engagement and a string of recent community development successes.

Why Kingston:

There are a range of barriers and opportunities to academic success facing Kingston's youth in Rideau Heights and Inner Harbour, including:

- A baseline high school dropout rate of 52 per cent
- High costs associated with school activities such as field trips, lunch and transportation
- Wide-spread bullying and general feelings of low self-esteem and stress
- Lowest average family income (\$39,022) and median family income (\$35,247) in Kingston
- Highest percentage of adult population who have not completed secondary school
- Residents of the community have expressed the strong need and desire for programming like Pathways to Education

Pathways to Education Canada is partnering with Kingston Community Health Centres to deliver the program. Kingston Community Health Centres was founded in 1988 and provides primary health care, early childhood interventions, street health outreach, social services, harm reduction and addictions support and immigrant services to lower income neighbourhoods in Kingston.

Pathways to Education in Kingston:

In the first year of the Pathways to Education in Kingston, 61 students enrolled in the program.

Host agency:

Kingston Community Health Centres
400 Elliott Avenue
Kingston, ON
Tel: 613-542-2949
Executive Director: Hersh Sehdev

**Pathways to Education
Program Manager:**

Wendy Vuyk

Boundaries:

The catchment area of the Kingston Pathways to Education program is within the north section of the city, including the communities of Rideau Heights and Inner Harbour.

**Area Dropout Rate
(pre-Pathways to Education):**

52 per cent

About Pathways to Education Canada – www.pathwaystoeducation.ca

Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable organization that helps youth in low-income communities graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education or training. Pathways addresses systemic barriers to education by providing leadership, expertise and a community-based program proven to lower dropout rates. Founded in 2001, Pathways operates in eleven communities across Canada, with programs in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

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For more information, please contact:

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