



2025

National Report

Canada Likeness Index



Executive Summary

Governments across Canada use pilot-based approaches to develop policy and programs in order to manage risk, improve program design, and enhance implementation outcomes. The effectiveness of this approach, however, depends on the selection of the appropriate pilot location. Governments want a location that closely reflects the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the wider jurisdictions that the policy and program is intended to serve when broadened. Identifying such locations within Canada's highly diverse municipal landscape presents a significant analytical challenge.

To address this, this report introduces the Canada Likeness Index and applies it as a data-driven benchmarking tool to measure structural similarity between municipalities and upper-tier governments across a range of social, cultural, and economic indicators. Using nationally consistent census data, the index measures jurisdictions across fifteen distinct demographic and socioeconomic indicators simultaneously to create a composite comparison model that identifies similarity between jurisdictions at a deeper level than traditional methods.

The analysis produces a ranked peer set for Canada, and each of the provinces and territories. By grounding pilot selection decisions in a multi-dimensional comparative model like the Canada Likeness Index, governments can improve the transferability of pilot outcomes, reduce implementation risk during scaling, and enhance equity in program design. Ultimately, this report is intended to support effective policy and program design across Canada's diverse demographic landscape to improve outcomes for Canadians who depend on government services.

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Introduction

Canada's national and sub-national governments face increasingly complex and nuanced policy challenges. Piloting programs at a smaller scale before province-wide or nation-wide implementation can produce significant benefits as lessons learned during the pilot can inform both program design and implementation during the broader rollout. The impact of these lessons can be amplified if the right small-scale location is chosen for the pilot. Municipalities with the closest demographic and socioeconomic profiles to the full-scale jurisdiction will produce the most applicable lessons as they best represent the population the program intends to serve.

Canadian municipalities vary widely in social, cultural, and economic characteristics, making the selecting of an appropriate pilot location a difficult task. To address this challenge, the Canadian Likeness Index was developed as a structural, data-driven tool for policy makers to identify municipalities that resemble a governing jurisdiction whether that be a province, territory, or the country as a whole. Using nationally consistent census data, the index evaluates all Canadian municipalities and upper-tier governments across fifteen demographic and socioeconomic indicators. By assessing similarity across all indicators simultaneously, the index produces a composite comparison that is truly representative of the complex fabric of a community.

This report applies the Canadian Likeness Index to identify the municipalities that most closely reflect the demographic and socioeconomic profiles of Canada, its provinces, and its territories. By presenting rankings of the municipalities that reflect both the national and sub-national levels, the analysis offers policymakers a practical evidence-based resource for selecting pilot locations and designing programs with wider applicability. In doing so, this report aims to support effect, transferable, and equitable policy development across Canada and its diverse communities.

Methodology

The Canadian Likeness Index assesses the relative similarity of municipalities through a standardized, data-driven methodology based on publicly available census data. The purpose of the analysis is to determine which local governments are most comparable to a selected reference jurisdiction. By identifying the most comparable municipalities, the reference jurisdiction can more effectively select municipalities for pilot projects and studies.

Data Selection

Fifteen quantitative indicators were selected to capture the key social, cultural, and economic characteristics of a municipality. Together, these indicators provide a comprehensive representation of the community composition. All data was sourced from the most recent national census to ensure consistency and comparability across all Canadian jurisdictions.

Similarity Calculation

To determine the similarity of a comparison municipality, each indicator value of the comparison municipality was measured against the value of the same indicator for the reference jurisdiction to produce a similarity score between the two values, expressed as a percentage. This approach right-sizes the impact of magnitude across indicators where different scales of measurement were used (rate, absolute value, etc.).

All fifteen indicators were assigned an equal weight to determine a composite similarity. After similarity percentages were calculated for all fifteen indicators, the average of these percentages was calculated to stand as the composite, overall similarity score for the comparison jurisdiction.

Similarity Ordering

Following the calculation of the overall similarity scores, comparison municipalities were ranked from highest to lowest based on their overall similarity to the reference jurisdiction. Municipalities with the highest similarity scores represent those that most closely align with the reference jurisdiction across the whole range of social, cultural, and economic indicators used in the index.

The methodology is designed to be transparent, replicable, and adaptable. While the results provide a robust foundation for benchmarking, users are encouraged to consider local context and qualitative factors alongside the quantitative findings when drawing conclusions or making policy decisions.

Selection of Metrics

The Canada Likeness Index uses fifteen census-based metrics to capture key social, cultural, and economic characteristics of a municipality. These indicators reflect population composition, household structure, labour market and income conditions, cultural and linguistic diversity, and housing outcomes. Together, they provide a multidimensional view of each jurisdiction, enabling comparison of communities with similar demographic and socioeconomic profiles. The following section summarizes each metric and its rationale for inclusion.



Median Household Income

Measures the median pre-tax income of households within a jurisdiction. It was chosen because income levels shape economic capacity, consumption patterns, and public service demands, allowing for comparison of jurisdictions with similar economic conditions.



Unemployment Rate

Measures the proportion of the labour force that is without employment. This metric was included because unemployment reflects local labour market conditions and economic stability, distinguishing jurisdictions with comparable employment challenges.



Labour Force Participation Rate

Measures the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively seeking work. This indicator helps capture the workforce engagement and demographic structure, highlighting jurisdictions with similar labour market activity.



Self-Employment Rate

Measures the proportion of the labour force that is self-employed. It was selected because self-employment reflects entrepreneurial activity and economic composition, offering insight into jurisdictions with similar business dynamics.



Prevalence of Low-Income Families

Measures the proportion of families living below the low-income threshold set by Statistics Canada. This metric was included because low-income prevalence indicates economic vulnerability and service demand, helping differentiate jurisdictions with similar socioeconomic pressures.



Lone-Parent Families

Measures the share of families headed by a single parent. This metric was included because family structure affects household income, service needs, and housing demand, helping to identify communities with similar household dynamics.



Educational Attainment

Measures the proportion of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. This metric was selected because education levels influence workforce skills, economic opportunities, and demand for services, making it useful for comparing jurisdictions with similar socioeconomic profiles.



Housing Affordability

Measures the proportion of households spending less than thirty percent of their income on shelter costs. This metric was included because affordability pressures influence economic stability and service needs, highlighting jurisdictions facing similar housing cost challenges.



Housing Suitability

Measures the proportion of households that meet all three criteria established by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation: dwellings must be adequate condition (requiring no major repairs), of a size suitable for the household according to the National Occupancy Standard, and affordable. This metric was included because it reflects overall housing quality, livability, and economic accessibility, providing a comprehensive view of housing conditions and helping distinguish jurisdictions with similar residential needs and pressures.



Indigenous Identity Percentage

Measures the proportion of residents who identify as Indigenous. This metric was included because Indigenous populations bring distinct cultural and socioeconomic characteristics, helping to differentiate jurisdictions with comparable community strengths and needs.



Visible Minority Percentage

Measures the share of residents identifying as a visible minority. It was chosen because diversity impacts labour markets, social inclusion, and community services, highlighting jurisdictions with similar demographic composition.



Immigrant Percentage

Measures the proportion of residents who were born outside of Canada. This indicator was included because immigration shapes local population composition, labour market participation, and service needs, and helps differentiate jurisdictions with similar settlement patterns and demographic profiles.



Recent Mobility (5 Years)

Measures the proportion of residents who have moved within the past five years. It was selected because population turnover affects housing demand and community stability, helping to compare jurisdictions with similar demographic dynamics.



Official Language Fluency

Measures the share of residents able to converse in at least one official language. This metric was included because language ability influences access to services and labour markets, distinguishing jurisdictions with similar communication and integration profiles.



Citizenship Percentage

Measures the proportion of residents who hold Canadian citizenship. It was chosen because citizenship affects settlement patterns, civic engagement and program eligibility, and is useful for highlighting jurisdictions with comparable population composition.

Data Source

All data used in the Canada Likeness Index was sourced from Statistics Canada's 2021 Census of Population. This provides the most recent, comprehensive, and standardized cultural, social, and economic information for all Canadian federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions, ensuring consistency and comparability across jurisdictions.

Reference: Statistics Canada. 2023. *Census Profile*. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023.

Limitations

While this methodology provides a consistent and objective framework for assessing similarity, several limitations should be noted. The analysis is based on a fixed set of fifteen census indicators and does not capture qualitative factors such as governance structure, policy priorities, service delivery models, or current local economic conditions that may influence comparability. Results are also sensitive to indicator selection and data normalization choices; alternative variables may yield different similarity rankings. Finally, census data represent conditions at a specific point in time and may not fully reflect recent demographic changes, particularly in rapidly growing or transitioning communities.

National Likeness

Municipalities Most Like Canada

Municipality	Similarity
1. County of Middlesex, Ontario.....	92.19%
2. City of Langley, British Columbia.....	91.16%
3. City of Regina, Saskatchewan.....	90.98%
4. City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....	90.77%
5. City of Hamilton, Ontario.....	90.77%
6. Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Ontario.....	90.75%
7. District Municipality of Saanich, British Columbia.....	89.95%
8. Ville de Dorval, Québec.....	89.73%
9. City of Guelph, Ontario.....	89.67%
10. County of Essex, Ontario.....	89.62%
11. City of Ottawa, Ontario.....	89.59%
12. City of Red Deer, Alberta.....	89.24%
13. City of Maple Ridge, British Columbia.....	89.13%
14. City of London, Ontario.....	89.12%
15. City of Lethbridge, Alberta.....	88.93%
16. City of Edmonton, Alberta.....	88.71%
17. City of Cambridge, Ontario.....	88.49%
18. City of Pitt Meadows, British Columbia.....	88.45%
19. City of Kitchener, Ontario.....	88.41%
20. Ville de Châteauguay, Québec.....	88.34%
21. County of Simcoe, Ontario.....	88.27%
22. Town of Drumheller, Alberta.....	88.18%
23. Regional Municipality of Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	88.14%
24. County of Frontenac, Ontario.....	88.11%
25. Municipality of Leamington, Ontario.....	88.01%

26.	City of Brantford, Ontario	87.98%
27.	Town of High River, Alberta	87.79%
28.	Town of Fort Erie, Ontario	87.72%
29.	City of Oshawa, Ontario	87.68%
30.	District Municipality of Langley, British Columbia	87.60%
31.	City of Thorold, Ontario	87.60%
32.	District Municipality of Esquimalt, British Columbia	87.52%
33.	City of Winnipeg, Manitoba	87.46%
34.	Ville de Gatineau, Québec	87.30%
35.	Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario	87.18%
36.	Town of Three Hills, Alberta	87.14%
37.	Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec	87.08%
38.	City of Airdrie, Alberta	87.01%
39.	City of Niagara Falls, Ontario	87.00%
40.	City of Kingston, Ontario	86.97%
41.	City of Swift Current, Saskatchewan	86.95%
42.	City of Calgary, Alberta	86.82%
43.	Town of Oliver, British Columbia	86.75%
44.	City of Nanaimo, British Columbia	86.68%
45.	City of Medicine Hat, Alberta	86.64%
46.	Ville de Pointe-Claire, Québec	86.63%
47.	City of Abbotsford, British Columbia	86.63%
48.	City of Kelowna, British Columbia	86.50%
49.	City of Barrie, Ontario	86.49%
50.	City of Port Coquitlam, British Columbia	86.47%
51.	County of Peterborough, Ontario	86.39%
52.	Town of Olds, Alberta	86.39%
53.	City of Victoria, British Columbia	86.35%
54.	Town of Vonda, Saskatchewan	86.25%

55.	Ville de Longueuil, Québec	86.22%
56.	Town of Vermillion, Alberta	86.15%
57.	County of Wellington, Ontario	86.14%
58.	City of Weyburn, Saskatchewan	86.13%
59.	Town of Shelburne, Ontario	86.05%
60.	Town of Trochu, Alberta	86.01%
61.	Town of Barrhead, Alberta	85.97%
62.	Town of Manning, Alberta	85.95%
63.	Ville de Laval, Québec	85.94%
64.	City of Waterloo, Ontario	85.77%
65.	Town of Stettler, Alberta	85.63%
66.	City of St. Catherines, Ontario	85.57%
67.	Cille de Vaudreuil-Dorion, Québec	85.49%
68.	City of Lacombe, Alberta	85.47%
69.	Regional Municipality of Durham, Ontario	85.46%
70.	Town of Didsbury, Alberta	85.39%
71.	County of Lambton, Ontario	85.19%
72.	City of Burlington, Ontario	85.17%
73.	Town of Georgina, Ontario	85.05%
74.	City of Camrose, Alberta	84.86%
75.	Town of View Royal, British Columbia	84.79%
76.	Specialized Municipality of Jasper, Alberta	84.76%
77.	Town of Taber, Alberta	84.75%
78.	Town of Innisfail, Alberta	84.73%
79.	City of Nelson, British Columbia	84.72%
80.	Ville de Brossard, Québec	84.72%
81.	City of Castlegar, British Columbia	84.67%
82.	Town of Innisfil, Ontario	84.62%
83.	City of Lloydminster, Alberta	84.61%

84.	District of Municipality of Mission, British Columbia	84.48%
85.	City of White Rock, British Columbia	84.46%
86.	Town of Wainwright, Alberta	84.43%
87.	Ville de L'Île-Perrot, Québec	84.43%
88.	Town of Strathmore, Alberta	84.41%
89.	City of Morden, Manitoba	84.38%
90.	City of Langford, British Columbia	84.25%
91.	City of Sarnia, Ontario	84.23%
92.	City of Fredericton, New Brunswick	84.19%
93.	Town of New Tecumseth, Ontario	84.15%
94.	Town of Fairview, Alberta	84.07%
95.	County of Dufferin, Ontario	84.02%
96.	City of Port Moody, British Columbia	83.96%
97.	City of Chilliwack, British Columbia	83.96%
98.	City of Woodstock, Ontario	83.94%
99.	City of Belleville, Ontario	83.92%
100.	Town of Newmarket, Ontario	83.77%

Provincial and Territorial Likeness

Municipalities Most Like Alberta

Municipality	Similarity
1. City of Red Deer.....	90.59%
2. City of Calgary.....	89.65%
3. City of Edmonton.....	89.23%
4. City of Lethbridge.....	88.59%
5. City of Airdrie.....	87.37%
6. City of Lloydminster.....	87.33%
7. City of Lacombe.....	87.14%
8. Town of High River.....	86.88%
9. Town of Manning.....	86.55%
10. Town of Olds.....	86.35%

Municipalities Most Like British Columbia

Municipality	Similarity
1. City of Abbotsford.....	92.17%
2. City of Langley.....	89.52%
3. City of Kelowna.....	88.85%
4. District of Municipality of Saanich.....	88.46%
5. City of North Vancouver.....	87.94%
6. City of Port Coquitlam.....	87.44%
7. City of New Westminster.....	87.11%
8. City of Nanaimo.....	86.94%
9. City of White Rock.....	86.88%
10. District Municipality of Esquimalt.....	86.88%

Municipalities Most Like Manitoba

Municipality	Similarity
1. City of Brandon.....	92.18%
2. City of Winnipeg.....	89.10%
3. City of Steinbach.....	87.44%
4. Municipality of Russell-Binscarth.....	87.11%
5. Town of Morris.....	85.36%
6. City of Morden.....	85.29%
7. Town of Arborg.....	84.97%
8. City of Portage la Prairie.....	83.39%
9. Town of Altona.....	82.55%
10. Rural Municipality of La Broquerie.....	82.52%

Municipalities Most Like New Brunswick

Municipality	Similarity
1. Town of Shediac.....	90.29%
2. City of Miramichi.....	90.25%
3. Town of Tantramar.....	89.80%
4. City of Bathurst.....	89.75%
5. Village of Five Rivers.....	88.81%
6. Town of Riverview.....	87.98%
7. Town of Grand-Boutouche.....	87.34%
8. Town of Woodstock.....	87.22%
9. Town of Salisbury.....	85.79%
10. Town of Carleton North.....	85.43%

Municipalities Most Like Newfoundland and Labrador

Municipality	Similarity
1. Town of Clarendville.....	91.47%
2. Town of Grand Falls-Windsor.....	90.82%

3.	Town of Gander.....	90.34%
4.	City of Corner Brook.....	88.55%
5.	Town of Carbonear.....	85.87%
6.	Town of Baie Verte.....	85.47%
7.	Town of St. Anthony.....	84.29%
8.	Town of Whitbourne.....	84.25%
9.	Town of Reidville.....	83.78%
10.	City of Mount Pearl.....	83.51%

Municipalities Most Like Nova Scotia

	Municipality	Similarity
1.	County of Antigonish.....	91.45%
2.	Town of Kentville.....	91.22%
3.	County of Colchester.....	90.61%
4.	County of Kings.....	89.37%
5.	Town of Bridgewater.....	86.81%
6.	Town of Berwick.....	86.81%
7.	Regional Municipality of Halifax.....	86.38%
8.	Town of Truro.....	85.98%
9.	Town of New Glasgow.....	85.39%
10.	Town of Pictou.....	85.11%

Municipalities Most Like Ontario

	Municipality	Similarity
1.	City of Kitchener.....	92.76%
2.	City of Hamilton.....	92.37%
3.	County of Middlesex.....	91.67%
4.	City of Ottawa.....	91.45%
5.	City of London.....	90.93%
6.	Regional Municipality of Durham.....	90.90%

7. Town of Newmarket.....	90.75%
8. Regional Municipality of Waterloo.....	90.29%
9. City of Waterloo.....	89.33%
10. City of Oshawa.....	89.27%

Municipalities Most Like Prince Edward Island

Municipality	Similarity
1. City of Summerside.....	90.22%
2. Rural Municipality of Belfast.....	86.76%
3. Town of Cornwall.....	86.52%
4. Rural Municipality of Miltonvale Park.....	85.69%
5. Town of Stratford.....	84.84%
6. Town of Borden-Carleton.....	84.60%
7. Town of Three Rivers.....	84.59%
8. Town of Kensington.....	84.27%
9. City of Charlottetown.....	84.05%
10. Rural Municipality of West River.....	81.33%

Municipalities Most Like Québec

Municipality	Similarity
1. Ville de L'Île-Perrot.....	93.29%
2. Ville de Châteauguay.....	89.57%
3. Ville de Gatineau.....	89.13%
4. Ville de Longueuil.....	88.42%
5. Municipalité de Terasse-Vaudreuil.....	88.06%
6. Ville de Québec.....	87.60%
7. Ville de Pincourt.....	87.42%
8. Ville de Boisbriand.....	87.38%
9. Ville de Saint-Eustache.....	87.37%
10. Ville de Bois-des-Filion.....	87.37%

Municipalities Most Like Saskatchewan

Municipality	Similarity
1. City of Yorkton.....	92.49%
2. Town of Spiritwood.....	89.33%
3. City of Weyburn.....	88.83%
4. Town of Stoughton.....	88.65%
5. City of Swift Current.....	88.54%
6. Town of Biggar.....	88.34%
7. Town of Rosthern.....	87.91%
8. City of Moose Jaw.....	87.70%
9. City of Melfort.....	87.50%
10. Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.....	87.47%

Municipalities Most Like Northwest Territories

Municipality	Similarity
1. Town of Inuvik.....	90.59%
2. Town of Hay River.....	88.45%
3. Town of Fort Smith.....	85.54%
4. Town of Norman Wells.....	83.41%
5. Village of Fort Simpson.....	81.20%

Municipalities Most Like Nunavut

Municipality	Similarity
1. Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.....	88.36%
2. Hamlet of Cambridge Bay.....	85.61%
3. Hamlet of Baker Lake.....	83.28%
4. Hamlet of Cape Dorset.....	80.16%
5. Hamlet of Kugluktuk.....	79.22%

Municipalities Most Like Yukon

	Municipality	Similarity
1.	City of Whitehorse.....	90.66%
2.	Town of Dawson.....	87.03%
3.	Village of Haines Junction.....	81.55%
4.	Town of Faro.....	78.47%
5.	Town of Watson Lake.....	77.04%

National Insights

The municipalities identified as most similar to Canada, like those identified as most similar to provinces and territories, do not achieve their rankings for identical reasons. While each municipality shows strong alignment with the national profile across the full set of demographic and socioeconomic indicators, the composition of that similarity ranking varies. In some instances, alignment is led by household composition and resident identity; in others, income levels and affordability metrics drive the alignment.
















This variation underscores an important point that although high-ranking municipalities closely resemble the national profile, they are not necessarily highly similar to one another. As an example, despite the County of Middlesex, Ontario and the City of Langley, British Columbia ranking as the two municipalities most similar to Canada, there are fifteen municipalities more similar to Middlesex than Langley, within the Canada Likeness Index's national dataset. Both municipalities closely reflect Canada's national census profile, but they do so through different combinations of social, cultural, and economic indicators.

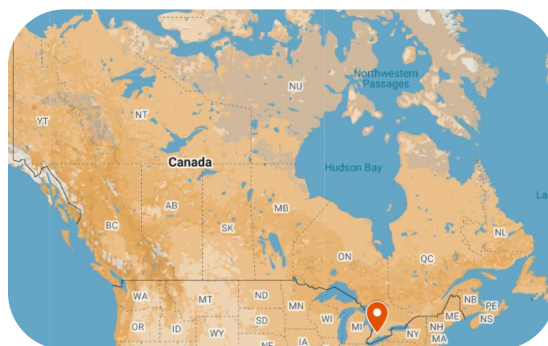
A further notable finding from the national, provincial, and territorial rankings is that capital cities are generally not the most representative municipalities within their respective jurisdictions. Whitehorse is the only capital city that is most similar to its upper tier government. Among the territories, Yukon is the only one of Canada's three territories that has its capital city inside its five most similar municipalities. At the provincial level, five capital cities rank within the top ten most similar municipalities in their respective provinces, while the remaining five fall outside the top ten. Nationally, Ottawa ranks as the just outside the top ten municipalities nationally, at eleventh most similar to Canada.

Finally, given the traditional practice of grouping municipalities by population size for comparative purposes, it is important to examine how Canada's largest municipalities rank. As the country's largest population centres, they more closely approximate Canada's total population size than medium or small sized municipalities. However, the Canada Likeness Index ranking shows that population scale does not translate directly into demographic similarity. Only five of Canada's ten largest municipalities rank within the top one hundred most similar municipalities. Toronto, Montreal, Mississauga, Vancouver and Brampton rank outside of the top one hundred, while Calgary, Ottawa, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Hamilton rank within it.
















The following pages present an indicator level analysis of Canada's twenty-five most similar municipalities to support informed decision making across levels of government.

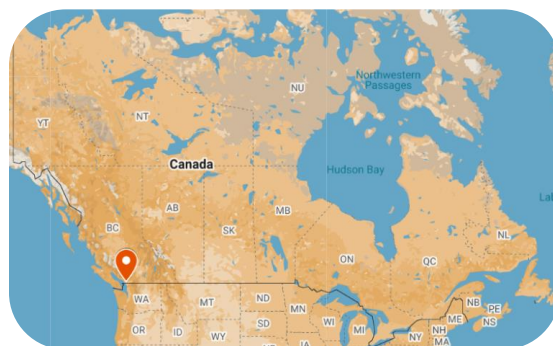
1. County of Middlesex, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Middlesex	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	79,500	94.64%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	12.4	83.06%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	62.4	97.96%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	13.4	95.04%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	12.6	88.10%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	17.6	93.18%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	57.7	99.13%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	77.4	97.85%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	69.9	98.73%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	2.6	52.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	24.7	93.21%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	22.5	97.83%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	57.3	93.93%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.3	99.80%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	89.7	98.36%
Composite Similarity			92.19%


















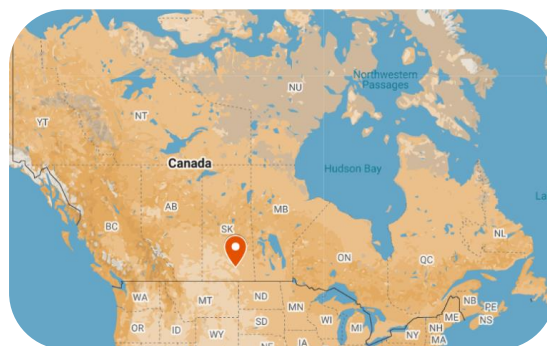
2. City of Langley, British Columbia

Measurement Area	Canada	Langley	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	77,000	91.67%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	6.9	66.99%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	65.4	97.40%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.7	90.07%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	10.9	98.20%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	18.4	89.13%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	50.4	88.11%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	73.3	92.67%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	64.1	90.54%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	5.7	87.72%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	24.7	93.21%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	23.3	98.71%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	51.4	84.26%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.4	99.70%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	90.3	99.01%
Composite Similarity			91.16%


















3. City of Regina, Saskatchewan

Measurement Area	Canada	Regina	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	88,000	95.45%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	9.9	96.12%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	67.4	94.51%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	10.5	74.47%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	10.8	97.30%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	18.2	90.11%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	54.9	95.98%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	80.7	98.02%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	70.3	99.29%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	10.4	48.08%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	25.7	96.98%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	20.3	88.26%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	57.8	94.75%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.7	99.39%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	87.5	95.94%
Composite Similarity			90.98%


















4. City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Measurement Area	Canada	Saskatoon	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	85,000	98.82%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	8.7	84.47%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	67.8	93.95%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	11.9	84.40%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	11.8	94.07%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	17.0	96.47%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	57.5	99.48%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	77.9	98.48%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	70.8	100.00%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	11.5	43.48%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	24.7	93.21%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	20.4	88.70%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	54.7	89.67%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.6	99.49%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	88.4	96.93%
Composite Similarity			90.77%


















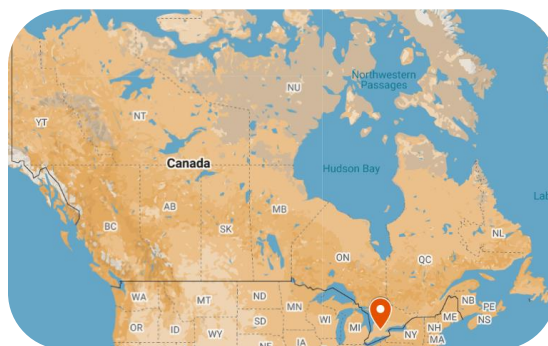
5. City of Hamilton, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Hamilton	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	86,000	97.67%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	12.3	83.74%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	61.9	97.17%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.7	90.07%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	10.8	97.30%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	19.2	85.42%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	54.9	95.98%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	76.8	97.09%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	67.6	95.48%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	2.2	44.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	25.1	94.72%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	25.9	88.80%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	64.3	94.87%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.1	100.00%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	91.9	99.24%
Composite Similarity			90.77%


















6. Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Waterloo	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	92,000	91.30%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.7	96.26%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	66.5	95.79%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.2	86.52%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	9.3	83.78%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	15.9	96.95%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	55.9	97.73%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	78.2	98.86%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	70.5	99.58%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	1.7	34.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	27.5	96.36%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	25.4	90.55%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	58.7	96.23%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.1	100.00%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	88.7	97.26%
Composite Similarity			90.75%


















7. District Municipality of Saanich, British Columbia

Measurement Area	Canada	Saanich	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	93,000	90.32%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	6.8	66.02%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	62.3	97.80%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	17.1	82.46%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	8.2	73.87%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	14.6	89.02%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	61.4	93.16%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	76.5	96.71%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	70.1	99.01%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	3.5	70.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	25.0	94.34%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	22.5	97.83%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	60.5	99.18%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.4	99.70%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	91.1	99.89%
Composite Similarity			89.95%


















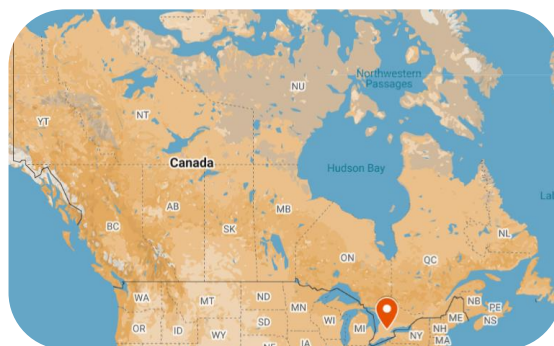
8. Ville de Dorval, Québec

Measurement Area	Canada	Dorval	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	77,500	92.26%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.2	99.03%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	66.7	95.50%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	13.9	98.58%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	10.1	90.99%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	17.5	93.71%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	64.8	88.27%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	81.3	97.29%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	71.7	98.74%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	0.9	18.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	28.0	94.64%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	26.5	86.79%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	64.9	93.99%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.7	99.39%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	92.3	98.81%
Composite Similarity			89.73%


















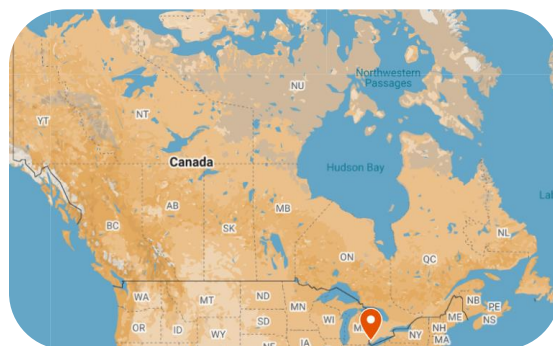
9. City of Guelph, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Guelph	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	93,000	90.32%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.8	95.37%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	67.5	94.37%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	11.1	78.72%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	8.2	73.87%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	16.4	100.00%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	58.7	97.44%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	77.1	97.47%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	69.7	98.45%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	1.6	32.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	25.3	95.47%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	23.8	96.64%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	58.4	95.74%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.5	99.59%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	91.6	99.56%
Composite Similarity			89.67%


















10. County of Essex, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Essex	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	82,000	97.62%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	15.7	65.61%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	58.7	92.15%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	11.4	80.85%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	11.3	98.23%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	18.4	89.13%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	50.8	88.81%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	82.5	95.88%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	74.1	95.55%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	2.9	58.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	23.6	89.06%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	23.3	98.71%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	63.5	96.06%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	97.7	99.59%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	92.1	99.02%
Composite Similarity			89.62%


















11. City of Ottawa, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Ottawa	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	102,000	82.35%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.3	100.00%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	65.9	96.66%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	11.9	84.40%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	8.9	80.18%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	16.1	98.17%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	65.9	86.80%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	79.9	99.00%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	72.0	98.33%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	2.6	52.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	32.5	81.54%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	25.9	88.80%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	59.0	96.72%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.5	99.59%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	90.5	99.23%
Composite Similarity			89.59%


















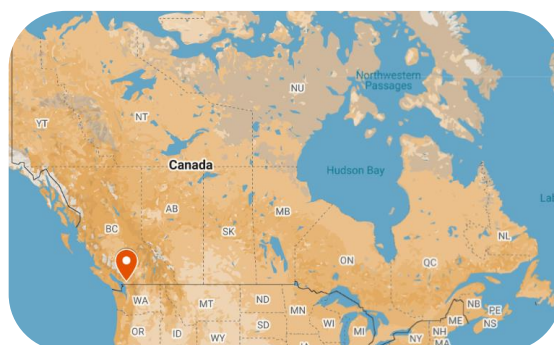
12. City of Red Deer, Alberta

Measurement Area	Canada	Red Deer	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	85,000	98.82%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	12.3	83.74%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	67.0	95.07%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.3	87.23%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	9.8	88.29%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	18.9	86.77%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	51.5	90.03%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	78.7	99.49%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	72.7	97.39%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	6.6	75.76%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	18.9	71.32%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	16.9	73.48%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	56.9	93.28%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.3	98.79%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	92.0	99.13%
Composite Similarity			89.24%


















13. City of Maple Ridge, British Columbia

Measurement Area	Canada	Maple Ridge	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	105,000	80.00%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	6.7	65.05%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	67.6	94.23%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	15.5	90.97%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	6.9	62.16%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	15.0	91.46%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	52.8	92.31%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	77.5	97.98%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	71.2	99.44%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	4.7	94.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	21.6	81.51%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	22.5	97.83%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	57.2	93.77%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.8	99.29%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	94.0	97.02%
Composite Similarity			89.13%


















14. City of London, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	London	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	76,500	91.07%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	13.3	77.44%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	61.7	96.86%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.6	89.36%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	13.8	80.43%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	19.0	86.32%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	58.0	98.62%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	75.8	95.83%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	67.9	95.90%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	2.6	52.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	28.7	92.33%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	24.8	92.74%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	55.7	91.31%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.1	100.00%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	88.1	96.60%
Composite Similarity			89.12%


















15. City of Lethbridge, Alberta

Measurement Area	Canada	Lethbridge	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	82,000	97.62%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	9.4	91.26%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	65.4	97.40%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	11.5	81.56%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	9.8	88.29%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	16.3	99.39%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	53.3	93.18%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	79.5	99.50%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	73.5	96.33%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	6.6	75.76%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	16.2	61.13%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	15.0	65.22%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	55.1	90.33%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.1	98.99%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	93.0	98.06%
Composite Similarity			88.93%


















16. City of Edmonton, Alberta

Measurement Area	Canada	Edmonton	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	90,000	93.33%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	12.7	81.10%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	68.2	93.40%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.0	85.11%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	10.0	90.09%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	17.5	93.71%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	57.4	99.65%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	75.7	95.70%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	67.0	94.63%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	5.8	86.21%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	42.8	61.92%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	32.5	70.77%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	55.1	90.33%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	97.7	99.59%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	86.7	95.07%
Composite Similarity			88.71%


















17. City of Cambridge, Ontario

Measurement Area		Canada	Cambridge	Similarity
	Median Household Income	84,000	93,000	90.32%
	Unemployment Rate	10.3	11.5	89.57%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	66.0	96.52%
	Self-Employment Rate	14.1	10.8	76.60%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	8.2	73.87%
	Lone-Parent Families	16.4	18.4	89.13%
	Educational Attainment	57.2	50.1	87.59%
	Housing Affordability	79.1	78.8	99.62%
	Housing Suitability	70.8	70.4	99.44%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	1.9	38.00%
	Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	23.9	90.19%
	Immigrant Percentage	23.0	23.2	99.14%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	61.8	98.71%
	Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.2	99.90%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.2	92.3	98.81%
			Composite Similarity	88.49%


















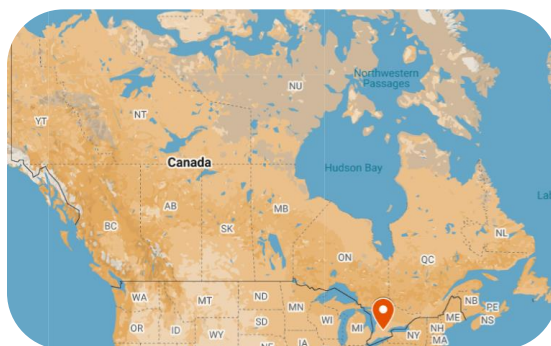
18. City of Pitt Meadows, British Columbia

Measurement Area	Canada	Pitt Meadows	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	104,000	80.77%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	6.4	62.14%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	67.7	94.09%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	14.5	97.24%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	6.5	58.56%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	14.7	89.63%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	54.0	94.41%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	81.0	97.65%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	73.9	95.81%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	4.1	82.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	24.1	90.94%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	25.5	90.20%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	62.3	97.91%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	98.8	99.29%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	94.9	96.10%
Composite Similarity			88.45%


















19. City of Kitchener, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Kitchener	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	87,000	96.55%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	11.0	93.64%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	66.8	95.36%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	11.1	78.72%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	9.9	89.19%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	17.2	95.35%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	55.6	97.20%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	76.7	96.97%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	68.1	96.19%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	1.9	38.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	31.7	83.60%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	29.7	77.44%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	56.6	92.79%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	97.7	99.59%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	87.1	95.50%
Composite Similarity			88.41%


















20. Ville de Châteauguay, Québec

Measurement Area	Canada	Châteauguay	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	79,000	94.05%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	8.4	81.55%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	63.7	100.00%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	9.8	69.50%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	9.6	86.49%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	18.8	87.23%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	53.2	93.01%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	82.3	96.11%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	74.9	94.53%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	2.7	54.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	23.0	86.79%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	20.9	90.87%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	63.3	96.37%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.2	98.89%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	95.3	95.70%
Composite Similarity			88.34%


















21. County of Simcoe, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Simcoe	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	93,000	90.32%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	11.8	87.29%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	62.9	98.74%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	15.5	90.97%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	8.1	72.97%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	16.1	98.17%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	51.9	90.73%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	77.1	97.47%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	71.0	99.72%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	4.7	94.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	12.4	46.79%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	15.7	68.26%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	57.7	94.59%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.2	98.89%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	95.8	95.20%
Composite Similarity			88.27%


















22. Town of Drumheller, Alberta

Measurement Area	Canada	Drumheller	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	74,000	88.10%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	8.8	85.44%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	63.9	99.69%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	13.3	94.33%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	11.0	99.10%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	15.9	96.95%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	47.8	83.57%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	79.7	99.25%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	72.3	97.93%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	5.8	86.21%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	12.0	45.28%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	12.3	53.48%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	62.3	97.91%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.7	98.40%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	94.0	97.02%
Composite Similarity			88.18%


















23. Regional Municipality of Halifax, Nova Scotia

Measurement Area	Canada	Halifax	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	81,000	96.43%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	11.4	90.35%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	65.5	97.25%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	10.7	75.89%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	12.0	92.50%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	16.1	98.17%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	62.6	91.37%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	78.2	98.86%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	70.4	99.44%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	3.8	76.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	16.8	63.40%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	11.6	50.43%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	57.1	93.61%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.4	98.69%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	90.9	99.67%
Composite Similarity			88.14%


















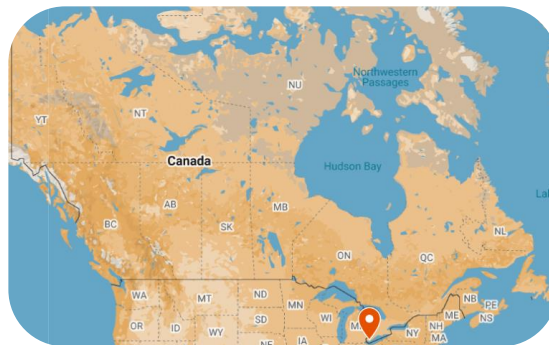
24. County of Frontenac, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Frontenac	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	81,000	96.43%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	12.5	82.40%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	60.1	94.35%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	12.6	89.36%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	10.8	97.30%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	16.4	100.00%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	58.9	97.11%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	77.2	97.60%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	69.9	98.73%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	4.2	84.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	11.3	42.64%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	12.2	53.04%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	57.4	94.10%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	99.5	98.59%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	95.0	96.00%
Composite Similarity			88.11%



25. Municipality of Leamington, Ontario

Measurement Area	Canada	Leamington	Similarity
 Median Household Income	84,000	79,000	94.05%
 Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.2	99.03%
 Labour Force Participation Rate	63.7	58.4	91.68%
 Self-Employment Rate	14.1	13.0	92.20%
 Prevalence of Low-Income Families	11.1	11.1	100.00%
 Lone-Parent Families	16.4	15.9	96.95%
 Educational Attainment	57.2	33.1	57.87%
 Housing Affordability	79.1	81.3	97.29%
 Housing Suitability	70.8	71.7	98.74%
 Indigenous Identity Percentage	5.0	1.7	34.00%
 Visible Minority Percentage	25.4	20.2	76.23%
 Immigrant Percentage	23.0	25.6	89.84%
 Recent Mobility (5 Years)	61.0	59.7	97.87%
 Official Language Fluency	98.1	94.1	95.92%
 Citizenship Percentage	91.2	89.8	98.46%
Composite Similarity			88.01%

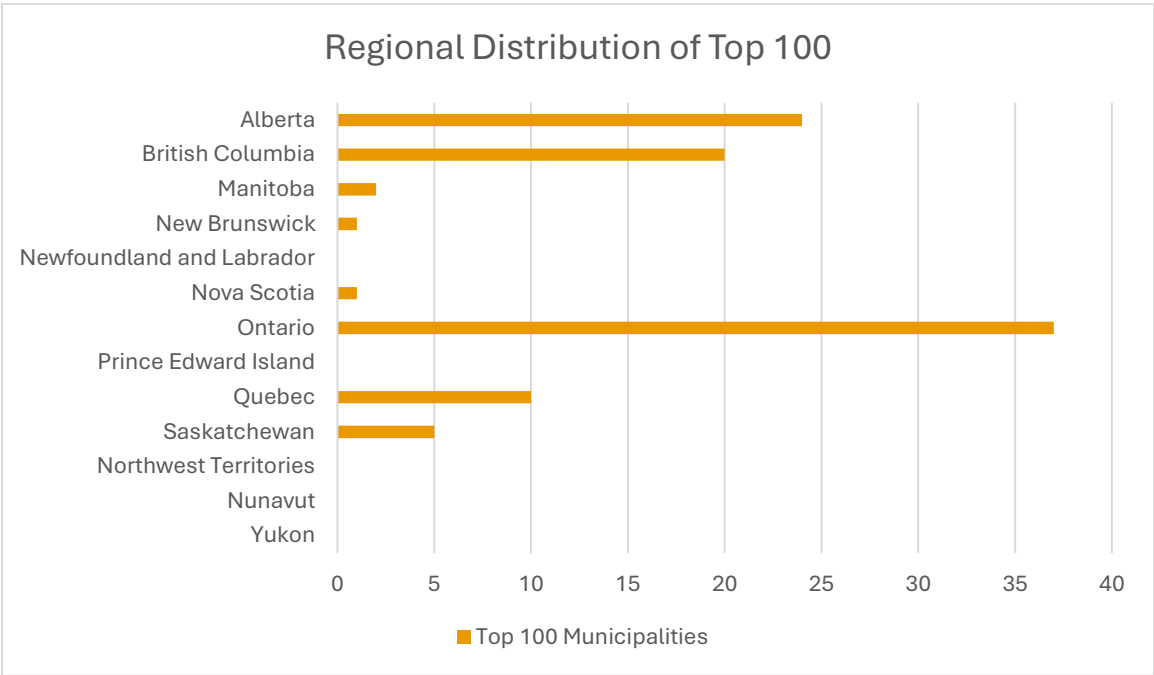


Geographic Insights

The national peer set presented in this report is expected to draw municipalities from across the country as social, cultural, and economic trends transcend provincial and territorial borders. Canadian-ness is not exclusive to any region of the country, and labour mobility, interprovincial migration, as well as shared fiscal and infrastructure pressures have contributed to a common set of municipal experiences nationwide. Canada’s most similar one hundred municipalities draw from eight provinces. This breadth underscores the value of a national comparison framework and affirms that structurally similar municipalities exist across Canada’s sprawling geography.

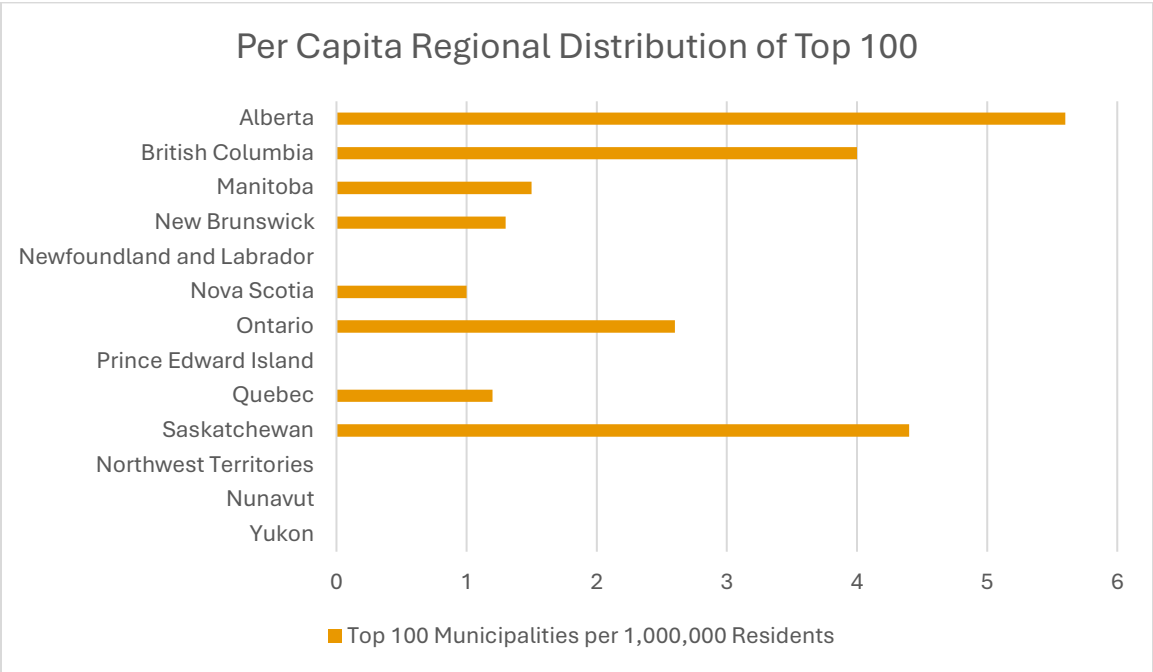
Based on the regional distribution of Canada’s most similar municipalities, Ontario is home to thirty-seven similar municipalities, closely aligning with its approximately thirty-eight percent share of the national population. Alberta and British Columbia also account for substantial portions of the national peer set with twenty-four and twenty municipalities respectively. Québec contributes a further ten municipalities. Collectively, Canada’s four most populous provinces, which represent approximately eighty-six percent of Canada’s population, house ninety-one of the one hundred most nationally similar municipalities.

These figures show that municipalities most reflective of Canada’s demographic and socioeconomic profile are distributed in a manner broadly consistent with national population patterns. As a national peer set, the top one hundred municipalities largely reflect the geographic balance of Canada’s population.



The geographic balance of the national peer set becomes even more evident when the regional distribution of the top one hundred municipalities is adjusted to account for population size of each province and territory. Evaluating representation on a per capita basis offers a clearer view on relative concentration and shows a tighter grouping of provinces represented in the peer set. By this measure, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia rank highest in terms of representation, showing a strong collection of municipalities whose demographic and socioeconomic profiles align with national characteristics.

This population-adjusted perspective reinforces the conclusion that the national peer set is not disproportionately concentrated in any one province but instead offers a geographically representative cross-section of Canada’s diverse communities.



Conclusion

This national report presents findings that underscore the practical value of the Canada Likeness Index as an evidence-based tool for designing, testing and scaling effective public programs. By systematically identifying municipalities whose demographic and socioeconomic profiles most closely align with the profiles of provinces, territories, and the country as a whole, the index supports policy makers in the selection of pilot program and study locations. It increases the likelihood that pilot program results will translate effectively when scaled. In an environment where Canadian governments are facing increasingly complex and nuanced policy environments, grounding the location selection for pilot programs and studies in an evidence-based metric like the Canada Likeness Index stands to improve external validity, reduce scaling risk, and improve the overall return on public investment.

The Canada Likeness Index is designed to complement, not replace, local knowledge and stakeholder engagement. While structural similarity of jurisdictions provides a strong foundation for transferable insights, successful pilots and studies also depend on administrative capacity, community acceptance, and political context. By integrating rigorous data analysis like the Canada Likeness Index, with on-the-ground insight, governments can strengthen the design of pilot initiatives and enhance their ability to deliver policies that work at scale for Canadians coast to coast to coast.

About the Canadian Likeness Index

The Canadian Likeness Index was developed by New Leaf Strategies to support more meaningful comparison and benchmarking across Canadian municipalities using a transparent, data-driven approach. The index applies standardized census data and normalized similarity analysis to identify municipalities that closely align with one another, as well as with provincial, territorial, and national profiles. It is intended as a practical tool for local governments, policy makers, and industry stakeholders seeking to improve peer selection, benchmarking, comparative analysis, and evidence-informed decision-making.

This report was authored by Luke Williams, MBA, who has diverse senior level experience across municipal administration, building and land-use regulation, and public-sector program delivery. His career includes roles as chief administrative officer, manager of development services, and chief building official in the municipal sector, complemented by experience with a federal public-sector funder and as a project manager in the private sector. This background provides a comprehensive, integrated perspective on governance, policy implementation, and operational decision-making.

The Canadian Likeness Index is intended to complement local knowledge and professional judgement, providing a structured starting point for comparison rather than a prescriptive assessment. It is designed to be updated over time as new data becomes available and to support ongoing analysis across policy, planning, and service delivery contexts.

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