



2025

Canada Likeness Index
City of Whitehorse, Yukon

Municipal Likeness Report



Executive Summary

Identifying appropriate peer municipalities is a critical foundation for effective benchmarking, policy development, and informed decision-making. The Canada Likeness Index provides a data-driven approach to municipal comparison by evaluating all Canadian jurisdictions across a range of social, cultural, and economic indicators using nationally consistent census data, resulting in a comparative metric that is superior to traditional methods of identifying peers based on population size or geographical proximity.

This report applies the Canada Likeness Index to the City of Whitehorse, Yukon. The analysis identifies Whitehorse's one hundred most similar peer municipalities across Canada and breaks down the ten most similar in greater detail to formulate a national peer set that is grounded in structural, demographic similarity. The resulting peer group draws from ten provinces and territories, illustrating that meaningful municipal comparison transcends borders and administrative boundaries.

By identifying municipalities whose demographic and socioeconomic profiles most closely compare with Whitehorse, this analysis provides a robust foundation for evidence-informed benchmarking, policy development, and strategic planning. Leveraging the experiences of the most comparable municipalities will enable decision-makers to draw practical insights and adopt proven approaches to respond to local conditions, support the delivery of effective services, and build towards improved outcomes for the residents of Whitehorse.

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Introduction

Municipalities in Canada are operating in increasingly complex policy and fiscal environments shaped by evolving community needs, economic uncertainty, and changing work environments. Informed decision making, in this context, is paramount, as is learning from the experiences of comparable municipalities so that successes get amplified and mistakes do not get repeated. Identifying a truly comparable peer set is challenging. Traditionally, municipalities have looked to their neighboring municipalities or those in their province or territory with similar populations. Neither of these peer groups accurately account for the social, cultural, or economic fabric of a community.

The Canada Likeness Index was developed to address this gap by providing a structured, data-driven approach to municipal comparison. Using nationally consistent census data, the index evaluates every municipality in Canada across fifteen distinct demographic indicators. By assessing similarity across dimensions simultaneously, the index cuts through individual outliers to produce a national ranking of municipalities from most similar, to least similar for a chosen reference jurisdiction. For the purposes of this analysis, the City of Whitehorse, Yukon, serves as the reference municipal against which all other Canadian municipalities are compared.

This report presents a tailored application of the Canada Likeness Index for the City of Whitehorse. Using the national data set, the analysis identifies Whitehorse's hundred most similar peer municipalities and provides a detailed breakdown of the ten most similar municipalities to form a national peer set. This national peer set provides a strong foundation for benchmarking, policy analysis and strategic planning by illuminating the communities in Canada whose experience is most aligned with the local experience in Whitehorse. Harnessing these experiences will enable decision-makers to draw practical lessons that can be adapted to better serve the needs of Whitehorse residents.

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 peers for analysis and benchmarking.

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.

Whitehorse’s National Peer Municipalities

The following section presents the one hundred Canadian municipalities identified as the most similar to Whitehorse based on the Canada Likeness Index.

Municipality	Similarity
1. Town of Peace River, Alberta.....	90.59%
2. City of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.....	88.84%
3. City of Grand Prairie, Alberta.....	88.42%
4. Town of Slave Lake, Alberta.....	88.27%
5. City of Langford, British Columbia.....	88.20%
6. Town of View Royal, British Columbia.....	88.15%
7. City of Fort St. John, British Columbia.....	87.87%
8. City of Airdrie, Alberta.....	86.47%
9. Town of Smithers, British Columbia.....	86.04%
10. City of Terrace, British Columbia.....	85.93%
11. Ville de Terrebonne, Québec.....	85.89%
12. Ville de Candiac, Québec.....	85.65%
13. Rural Municipality of West St. Paul, Manitoba.....	85.56%
14. City of Cold Lake, Alberta.....	85.55%
15. District Municipality of Mission, British Columbia.....	85.54%
16. Town of Manning, Alberta.....	85.45%
17. Town of St. Paul, Alberta.....	85.41%
18. Municipality of Clarington, Ontario.....	85.39%
19. Ville de Pointe-des-Cascades, Québec.....	84.91%
20. Town of Hinton, Alberta.....	84.84%
21. Town of Niverville, Manitoba.....	84.70%
22. City of Colwood, British Columbia.....	84.69%
23. Ville de La Prairie, Québec.....	84.64%
24. Specialized Municipality of Jasper, Alberta.....	84.60%
25. City of Leduc, Alberta.....	84.50%

26.	City of Lethbridge, Alberta.....	84.42%
27.	City of Beaumont, Alberta.....	84.38%
28.	Town of Orangeville, Ontario.....	84.29%
29.	Town of Wainwright, Alberta.....	84.25%
30.	Ville de Bois-des-Filion, Québec.....	84.18%
31.	Ville de Repentigny, Québec.....	84.08%
32.	City of Prince George, British Columbia.....	83.92%
33.	Ville de Blainville, Québec.....	83.86%
34.	City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.....	83.84%
35.	City of Brandon, Manitoba.....	83.67%
36.	City of Kamloops, British Columbia.....	83.66%
37.	City of Spruce Grove, Alberta.....	83.66%
38.	Village of Valemount, British Columbia.....	83.65%
39.	County of Dufferin, Ontario.....	83.62%
40.	Town of Bonnyville, Alberta.....	83.58%
41.	City of Red Deer, Alberta.....	83.55%
42.	City of Lloydminster, Alberta.....	83.53%
43.	Ville de Pincourt, Québec.....	83.48%
44.	Ville de Saint-Constant, Québec.....	83.46%
45.	Ville de Mercier, Québec.....	83.37%
46.	City of Prince Rupert, British Columbia.....	83.36%
47.	City of Yorkton, Saskatchewan.....	83.35%
48.	District Municipality of Chetwynd, British Columbia.....	83.33%
49.	City of Maple Ridge, British Columbia.....	83.31%
50.	Town of New Tecumseth, Ontario.....	83.26%
51.	District Municipality of Kitimat, British Columbia.....	83.21%
52.	City of Dawson Creek, British Columbia.....	83.21%
53.	City of St. Albert, Alberta.....	83.09%
54.	Town of Golden, British Columbia.....	83.08%

55.	District Municipality of Squamish, British Columbia	83.06%
56.	Town of Edson, Alberta	82.97%
57.	Municipality of Terrasse-Vaudreuil, Québec	82.85%
58.	District Municipality of Esquimalt, British Columbia	82.80%
59.	City of Barrie, Ontario	82.75%
60.	Ville de L'Île-Perrot, Québec	82.71%
61.	Ville de Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, Québec	82.70%
62.	Town of Whitecourt, Alberta	82.68%
63.	Town of Cochrane, Alberta	82.66%
64.	Town of Athabasca, Alberta	82.58%
65.	City of Chilliwack, British Columbia	82.55%
66.	City of Steinbach, Manitoba	82.51%
67.	City of Nanaimo, British Columbia	82.44%
68.	City of Pitt Meadows, British Columbia	82.42%
69.	City of Regina, Saskatchewan	82.33%
70.	Township of Essa, Ontario	82.32%
71.	Town of Grand Valley, Ontario	82.20%
72.	Ville de Gatineau, Québec	82.17%
73.	Ville de Deux-Montagnes, Québec	82.04%
74.	Ville de Saint-Philippe, Québec	81.89%
75.	Town of Fox Creek, Alberta	81.88%
76.	City of Estevan, Saskatchewan	81.84%
77.	Ville de Boisbriand, Québec	81.69%
78.	Town of Deep River, Ontario	81.68%
79.	Town of Hay River, Northwest Territories	81.60%
80.	Ville de Mascouche, Québec	81.52%
81.	Town of Stratford, Prince Edward Island	81.50%
82.	Town of Okotoks, Alberta	81.45%
83.	District Municipality of Langley, British Columbia	81.38%

84.	District Municipality of Central Saanich, British Columbia	81.32%
85.	City of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta	81.32%
86.	County of Wellington, Ontario	81.31%
87.	Ville de Vaudreuil-Dorion, Québec	81.28%
88.	Town of Esterhazy, Saskatchewan	81.25%
89.	Town of High Level, Alberta	81.10%
90.	City of Swift Current, Saskatchewan	81.09%
91.	Town of Dawson, Yukon	81.09%
92.	City of Kelowna, British Columbia	81.06%
93.	Town of Halton Hills, Ontario	80.97%
94.	City of Martensville, Saskatchewan	80.89%
95.	Regional Municipality of Halifax, Nova Scotia	80.88%
96.	Town of Ponoka, Alberta	80.88%
97.	Town of Kindersley, Saskatchewan	80.84%
98.	Town of Georgina, Ontario	80.84%
99.	City of Thorold, Ontario	80.81%
100.	Village of Telkwa, British Columbia	80.79%

Whitehorse's Closest Peer Municipalities

This section presents a detailed, indicator-level comparison of the ten municipalities with the highest similarity scores relative to Whitehorse based on the Canada Likeness Index.

1. Town of Peace River, Alberta

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Peace River	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	100,000	89.29%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	7.9	70.89%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	72.6	97.84%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	13.4	91.79%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	9.0	63.33%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	19.1	97.91%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	48.0	77.54%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	81.6	98.43%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	71.0	99.86%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	18.6	87.63%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	15.4%	91.67%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	15.5	97.42%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	54.4%	95.40%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.6	100.00%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	90.9	99.89%
			Composite Similarity	90.59%

2. City of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Yellowknife	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	148,000	75.68%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.8	96.55%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	79.0	93.92%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	7.7	62.60%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	4.3	75.44%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	18.5	98.93%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	58.8	94.99%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	84.3	98.34%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	68.8	96.77%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	24.2	67.36%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	20.0	84.00%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	16.4	92.07%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	50.6	97.50%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.5	99.90%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	92.4	98.48%
Composite Similarity				88.84%

3. City of Grand Prairie, Alberta

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Grand Prairie	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	102,000	91.07%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	11.9	47.06%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	74.4	99.73%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	11.2	91.06%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	7.5	76.00%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	18.6	99.47%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	48.6	78.51%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	77.6	93.61%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	71.1	100.00%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	11.7	71.78%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	15.9	94.64%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	13.2	87.42%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	50.2	96.72%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.6	100.00%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	91.7	99.24%
			Composite Similarity	88.42%

4. Town of Slave Lake, Alberta

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Slave Lake	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	111,000	99.11%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	9.6	58.33%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	75.3	98.54%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	10.9	88.62%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	7.2	79.17%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	20.0	93.50%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	47.8	77.22%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	80.2	96.74%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	69.4	97.61%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	26.7	61.05%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	19.4	86.60%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	14.3	94.70%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	48.8	94.03%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.8	99.80%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	90.1	99.01%
Composite Similarity				88.27%

5. City of Langford, British Columbia

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Langford	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	93,000	83.04%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.2	90.32%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	72.4	97.57%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	13.1	93.89%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	6.8	83.82%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	16.6	88.77%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	55.5	89.66%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	74.3	89.63%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	68.5	96.34%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	5.8	35.58%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	16.6	98.81%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	15.8	95.57%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	42.7	82.27%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.3	99.70%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	92.8	98.06%
Composite Similarity				88.20%

6. Town of View Royal, British Columbia

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	View Royal	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	98,000	87.50%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.6	100.00%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	64.7	87.20%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	13.5	91.11%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	6.1	93.44%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	12.9	68.98%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	62.6	98.88%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	78.5	94.69%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	74.4	95.56%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	6.0	36.81%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	17.6	95.45%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	18.4	82.07%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	55.9	92.84%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.4	99.80%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	93.0	97.85%
Composite Similarity				88.15%

7. City of Fort St. John, British Columbia

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Fort St. John	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	102,000	91.07%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	8.9	62.92%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	75.9	97.76%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	9.5	77.24%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	8.1	70.37%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	18.5	98.93%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	47.4	76.58%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	83.6	99.16%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	73.5	96.73%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	13.1	80.37%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	16.2	96.43%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	12.4	82.12%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	46.6	89.79%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.6	100.00%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	89.7	98.57%
Composite Similarity				87.87%

8. City of Airdrie, Alberta

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Airdrie	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	110,000	98.21%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	11.1	50.45%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	74.4	99.73%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	11.9	96.75%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	6.0	95.00%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	14.8	79.14%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	56.6	91.44%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	79.2	95.54%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	74.8	95.05%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	4.9	30.06%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	20.4	82.35%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	17.0	88.82%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	50.6	97.50%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.3	99.70%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	93.5	97.33%
Composite Similarity				86.47%

9. Town of Smithers, British Columbia

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Smithers	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	85,000	75.89%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.0	93.33%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	70.6	95.15%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	12.2	99.19%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	8.0	71.25%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	16.8	89.84%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	52.2	84.33%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	87.7	94.53%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	81.4	87.35%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	10.5	64.42%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	10.0	59.52%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	12.6	83.44%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	54.5	95.23%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.7	99.90%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	93.6	97.22%
Composite Similarity				86.04%

10. City of Terrace, British Columbia

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Terrace	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	90,000	80.36%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.5	86.15%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	67.2	90.57%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	12.1	98.37%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	9.3	61.29%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	18.3	97.86%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	54.7	88.37%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	84.8	97.76%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	74.3	95.69%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	22.3	73.09%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	10.6	63.10%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	9.6	63.58%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	53.9	96.29%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.4	99.80%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	94.2	96.60%
Composite Similarity				85.93%

Whitehorse's National Similarity

This section details Whitehorse's overall similarity to Canada as a whole. Whitehorse ranks 394th among Canadian municipalities in terms of similarity, indicating a moderate level of alignment with the national profile. As a territorial capital, Whitehorse plays a distinct and important role within Canada that is not fully reflected by the Canada Likeness Index ranking.

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Canada	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	84,000	75.00%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	10.3	54.37%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	63.7	85.85%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	14.1	87.23%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	11.1	51.35%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	16.4	87.70%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	57.2	92.41%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	79.1	95.42%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	70.8	99.58%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	5.0	30.67%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	26.5	63.40%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	23.0	65.65%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	61.0	85.08%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	98.1	98.49%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	91.2	99.78%
			Composite Similarity	78.13%

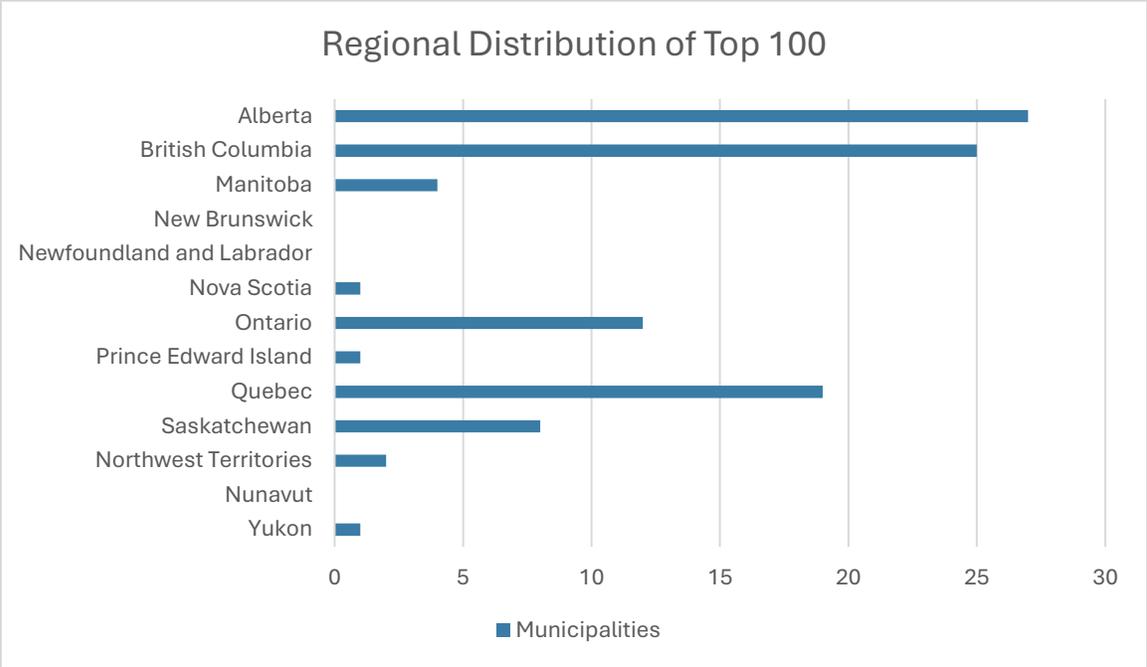
Whitehorse's Territorial Similarity

This section showcases Whitehorse's similarity to the territory of Yukon. Whitehorse ranks first among Yukon municipalities in terms of similarity, reflecting strong alignment with the Territory's social, cultural, and economic makeup. As the territorial capital and primary population centre, Whitehorse closely represents the broader community conditions and trends within Yukon.

Measurement Area		Whitehorse	Yukon	Similarity
	Median Household Income	112,000	100,000	89.29%
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.8	82.35%
	Labour Force Participation Rate	74.2	71.7	96.63%
	Self-Employment Rate	12.3	13.6	90.44%
	Prevalence of Low-Income Families	5.7	7.6	75.00%
	Lone-Parent Families	18.7	18.7	100.00%
	Educational Attainment	61.9	59.7	96.45%
	Housing Affordability	82.9	83.8	98.93%
	Housing Suitability	71.1	69.8	98.17%
	Indigenous Identity Percentage	16.3	22.3	73.09%
	Visible Minority Percentage	16.8	12.8	76.19%
	Immigrant Percentage	15.1	13.6	90.07%
	Recent Mobility (5 Years)	51.9	54.8	94.71%
	Official Language Fluency	99.6	99.6	100.00%
	Citizenship Percentage	91.0	92.3	98.59%
			Composite Similarity	90.66%

Geographic Insights

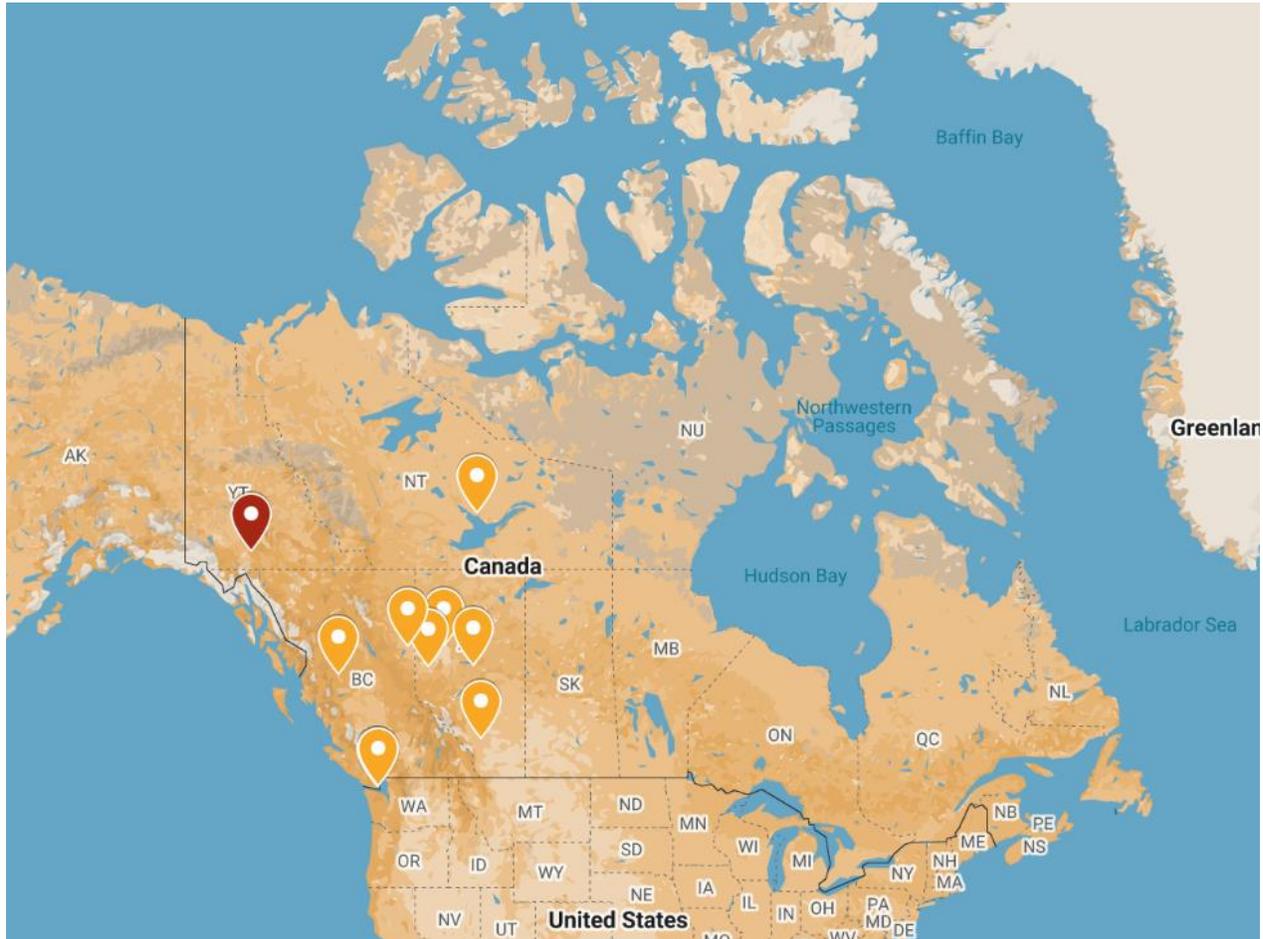
A national peer set of one hundred municipalities is expected to draw from across the country as social, cultural, and economic trends transcend provincial and territorial borders. In the case of Whitehorse, this expectation is borne out as the peer set is composed of municipalities from ten provinces and territories. This geographic diversity reinforces the value of a similarity-based approach to peer identification, particularly compared to geographic or population-based peer groups.



An additional point that underscores the value of a more diverse comparison set is that although Whitehorse is a capital city, only two other capital cities are included in the national peer set. Yellowknife, the capital of Northwest Territories, ranks as the second most similar municipality, whereas Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, ranks as the sixty-ninth most similar municipality.

A more concentrated cluster of municipalities emerges inside of the ten most similar municipalities as common industries, environmental patterns, and access to resources influence the social, cultural, and economic makeup of these communities. Whitehorse’s most similar jurisdictions largely share its northern environmental characteristics which influence a wide range of municipal services, such as transportation infrastructure and land-use planning.

Geographic Distribution of Top 10



Conclusion

The Canada Likeness Index provides a data-driven framework for comparing municipalities across social, cultural, and economic indicators to identify peer municipalities that are most similar to the reference jurisdiction, the City of Whitehorse, Yukon.

With municipal decision-makers facing increasingly complex and demanding policy environments, there is added importance in supporting informed discussion and drawing on relevant comparative experience. The national peer set identified for the City of Whitehorse presents the most relevant opportunity to draw lessons that can be applied meaningfully in the local context. The peer set can be used to inform future policy development, service delivery, and strategic planning by grounding comparative analysis in municipalities with the highest degree of structural similarity.

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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