

# ***Community Focus Bulletin:*** ***Creating Community Conversations***



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## **Statistics Canada Releases 2016 census – what do the numbers mean?**

According to the first data released by Statistics Canada for the 2016 census, our metropolitan area of Peterborough fell below the national growth rate between 2011 and 2016. The following table documents the changes in communities within Peterborough region:

Community	2016	2011	% change
Metropolitan Peterborough (includes the City, Cavan-Monaghan, Selwyn, Douro-Dummer, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Curve Lake, Hiawatha first nations)	121,721	118,975	2.3
City of Peterborough	81,032	78,777	2.9
Selwyn	17,060	16,846	1.3
Cavan Monaghan	8,829	8,601	2.7
Douro-Dummer	6,709	6,805	-1.4
Otonabee-South Monaghan	6,670	6,581	1.4
Curve Lake First Nation	1,059	1,003	5.6
Hiawatha First Nation	362	362	0.0
Trent Lakes	5,397	5,100	5.8
Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	4,530	4,523	0.2
Asphodel-Norwood	4,109	4,041	1.7
North Kawartha	2,479	2,209	8.3
County of Peterborough (total)	57,204	56,071	2.0
Total county and city	138,236	134,848	2.5

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 census

Canada's population increased to 35.2 million people in 2016, driven largely by immigration and making for the highest annual growth rate among its Group of Seven peers, Statistics Canada states.

The population increased by 1.7 million people, or 5.0 percent, as of last year compared to the last time the census was taken in 2011. However, the growth rate was down from the 5.9 percent increase seen over the previous 2006-to-2011 period.

Some of the population trends to consider as we plan Peterborough for the future:

- Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver are the 3 biggest metropolitan areas in the country and home to more than one-third of all Canadians with almost half of that 12.5 million living in Toronto and outlying areas. **Question:** how will Peterborough be impacted by the pressures facing Toronto as we plan for housing, more commuting while our incomes locally are not matching GTA salaries?
- 82% of the Canadian population live in large and medium-sized cities and this is considered to be due to the impact of immigration as newcomers are choosing to locate in urban centres rather than rural communities. **Question:** how can a region such as Peterborough encourage more people to stay/move to towns and hamlets? How can we increase services such as public transit in rural areas to support people who want to remain in their rural communities?
- Canada's rural population is aging faster than urban centres. **Question:** How do we as planners encourage density and change our built environment to help people age in place and stay connected with their home community? How can we encourage families to remain/move to rural communities if we continue to have schools closed?
- Toronto's escalating housing market (up 23% in January, 2017 compared to January, 2016) is challenging the region's physical and social infrastructure and causing growth to be forced to outside communities which in turn results in more and longer commuting. Planners have maintained that the best transportation plan is a good land-use plan and there is growing public concern to build more walkable communities and increase public transit. **Question:** How will Peterborough be able to prepare for different transportation and mobility expectations?

Sources:

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<http://www.ofa.on.ca/media/news/What-is-the-real-cost-of-closing-rural-schools>

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