

# Urban HEART@Toronto

ICUH 2014 Pre-Conference  
Urban HEART Workshop  
March 4, 2014



# Why Urban HEART?

## Many Different Health Equity Actors

- Explore options to build **system-level understanding** of the impact of diverse efforts:
  - **Raising the profile of health equity**, social determinants of health, health justice
  - **Indicator development** to inform and justify complex policy change for health equity

## Possible Projects

- Build **Health Equity Lens** into Ontario Income Security Review
- **Eliminate 3-Month Waiting Period** for OHIP Eligibility
- **Adapt Urban HEART Tool** for Toronto

# Why Urban HEART?

## Urban HEART

- Pat O'Campo & Kelly Murphy of **Centre for Research on Inner City Health** (St. Michael's Hospital)
- Application for funding to the **Canadian Institutes for Health Research**
- **Funding awarded** May 2011 – project launched 2012

## Adapting Urban HEART to Toronto

- Bridge a major **knowledge-action gap**
- Increase **collective capacity** for rigorous health equity assessment and service planning
- Contribute to **effective knowledge translation** for inter-sectoral action for health equity

# Adapting Urban HEART

## Urban HEART Steering Committee

- Centre for Research on Inner City Health
- City of Toronto – **Social Development, Finance and Administration**
- City of Toronto – **Toronto Public Health**
- **Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network**
- **United Way Toronto**

## Project Administration

- CRICH provided **project administration and support**
- Social Research Unit @ St. Michael's Hospital designed and implemented a **Delphi Process** to identify indicators
- Dedicated research team **screened indicators**, set **benchmarks and targets**

# Challenges – Working Together

## Perspectives, priorities, timelines

- Multiple, sometimes **conflicting**, sometimes **unclear**
- Benefited from **previous experience**

## Data sharing

- Developed **proxy** until the data is shared

## Consensus Approach in Delphi

- Can **discourage cutting-edge ideas** from rising to top

# Challenges – Production

## Lack of Appropriate Data

- **Neighbourhood** is a small geography
- **Counts**, other simple measures
- Service **access by distance**

## Setting Benchmarks & Targets

- **No previous examples**
- Strict **criteria**
- Detailed **technical reports**

## Potential Misuse of Results

- Focus on “reds” might **stigmatize**
- Ensure good **communications planning**

# Enablers – Trust

## WHO Brand

- Opportunity to do something **internationally recognized**, well-tested

## Established Relationships

- Organizations and **people knew one another**, previous working relationships

## Highly Credible Technical Expertise

- Lead epidemiologist had a **strong track record** working in **research, government, and community**.

## Convener Organization

- CRICH is well-regarded, **not a competitor**
- Access to **resources not available to others**
- Provided day-to-day **administrative support**

# Enablers – Leadership

## Multiple Levels of Leadership

- VPs and EDs were **Senior Champions** on grant proposal
- City Staff were **empowered** to introduce **health equity in urban and social planning**

## Prioritized Community Perspectives

- Steering Committee, Delphi participants from **diverse sectors**
- Participation **not limited to academics and officials**

## Existing Policy Framework

- The City prepared to use neighbourhood & equity lenses



# Enablers – Flexibility

## (Health) Equity

- Focused on principles vs. terminology
- Health care sector & perspective not dominant

## Responsive to the Policy Process

- Used City **neighbourhood boundaries**
- Met deadlines for **Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy**

## Resources

- **\$200,000** from CIHR
- **Technical expertise** from City, TCLHIN
- **Communications expertise** from UWT, CRICH, TCHLIN



## **Economic Opportunities**

- Unemployment
- Low income
- Social assistance

## **Social Development**

- High school graduation
- Marginalization
- Postsecondary completion

## **Participation in Decision Making**

- Municipal voting rate

## **Healthy Lives**

- Premature mortality
- Mental health
- Preventable hospitalizations
- Diabetes

## **Physical Surroundings**

- Community places for meeting
- Walk score
- Healthy food stores
- Green space

## Goal

- **Equitable outcomes** across **neighbourhoods**

## Objectives

- Public, community and private infrastructure to support **equitable resident opportunities**
- **Neighbourhoods perspective** informs policies, programs and funding priorities

## Implementation Tools

- Targeted **investments**
- Resident **engagement**
- Networks and service **partnerships**
- Continuous **service improvement**
- **Neighbourhood lens**
- Monitoring and **evaluation**

# Resident Consultations

Between October and November 2013, more than 1,600 Toronto residents provided advice to City Council on the decisions it will make in 2014 on the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020.



More than 230 residents participated in City-led “Community Conversations.”

More than 150 additional residents were engaged in agency-sponsored conversations.

The FluidSurveys logo, which consists of the word "FluidSurveys" in a white, sans-serif font, with a small trademark symbol (TM) to the right, all set against a dark blue rectangular background.

Residents completed over 1,400 surveys online and in paper. 75 of the surveys were completed in Chinese, Tamil, French and Spanish.

# All Five Keys are Important

**There is broad consensus from all consultation participants that all of the five keys are important and are interrelated:**

“All the keys are intertwined and complimentary.”

(November 1 Community Conversation)

“All of these five keys that are identified are unable to exist without one another.”

(November 5 Community Conversation)

# Other Keys and Indicators

## Safety

- Some residents thought safety needed to be more clearly identified
- Others thought it was already addressed by the other keys

## Housing

- An important element of the physical surroundings
- Not indicators currently available to reflect equity at the neighbourhood level

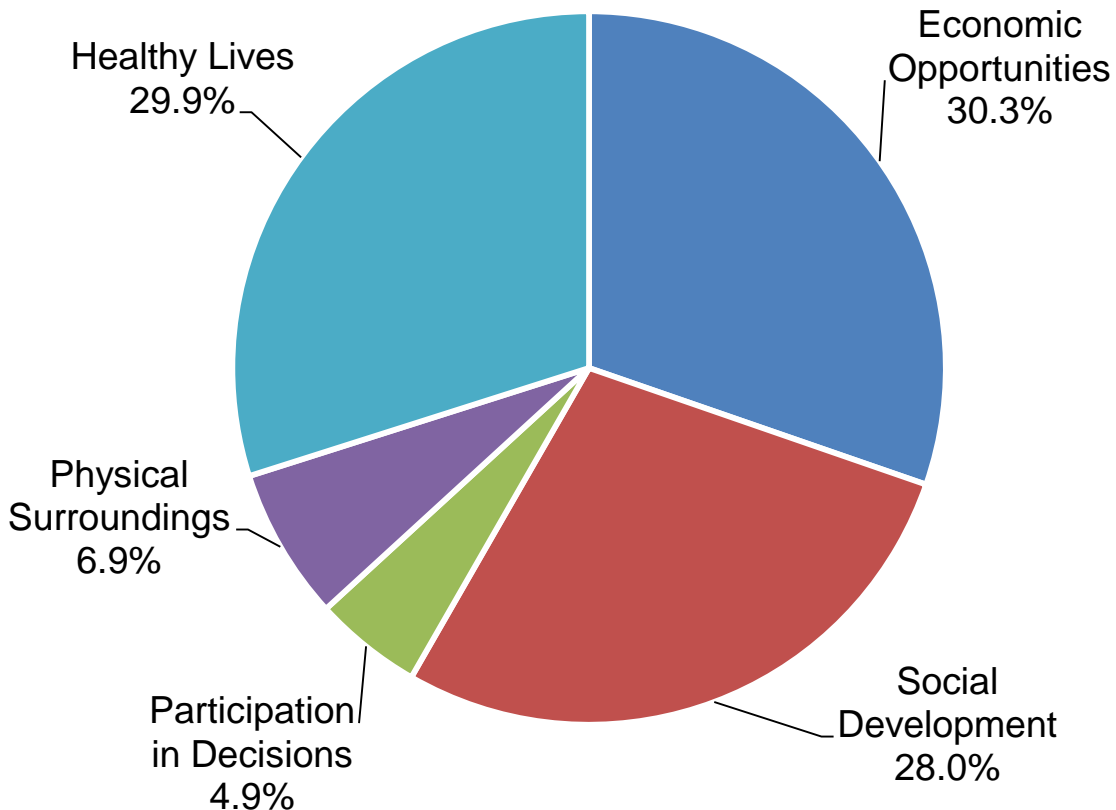
## Transit

- An important element of the physical surroundings
- No indicators available to reflect equity in transit at this time

## Participation in Decision Making

- No indicators available to reflect the richness of participation in neighbourhoods

# Neighbourhood Equity Score



Create a **neighbourhood equity score** and **neighbourhood equity benchmark** by weighting indicators based on **how much of the overall picture of inequity** they provide.

This option is based on a **statistical analysis** of neighbourhood inequity in Toronto **right now**.

For the **next iteration**, the **development of better indicators** in the Physical Surroundings and Participation in Decision-Making areas may **shift the weighting to a more equal distribution**.

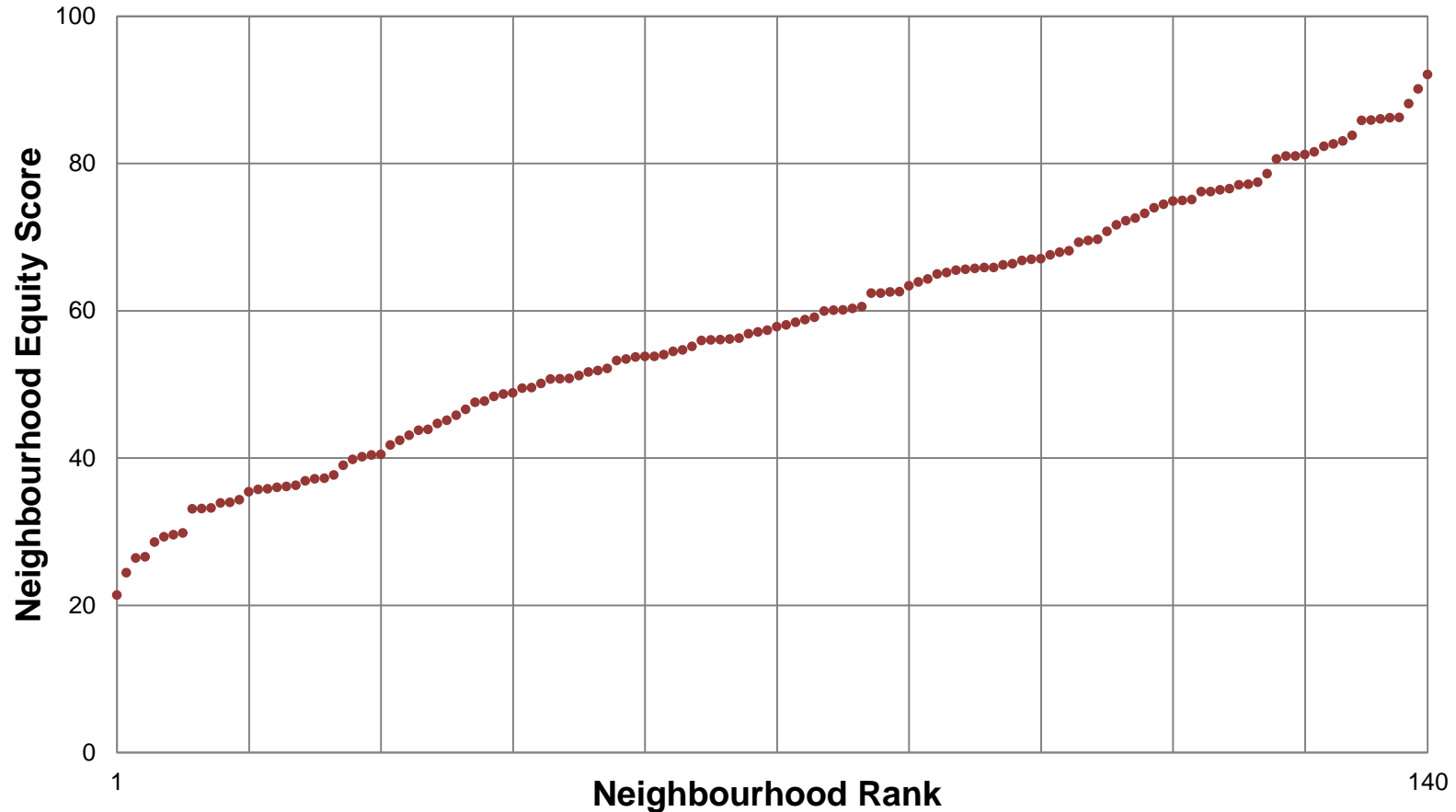
# Neighbourhood Equity Score

Domains	Indicator	Weight	Domain Weight
Economic Opportunities	Unemployment	10.6%	30.3%
	Low Income	8.4%	
	Social Assistance	11.3%	
Social Development	High School Graduation	7.4%	28.0%
	Marginalization	9.6%	
	Post Secondary Completion	11.0%	
Participation in Decision-Making	Municipal Voting Rate	4.9%	4.9%
Physical Surroundings	Community Places for Meeting	2.3%	6.9%
	Walkability	7.1%	
	Healthy Food Stores	3.8%	
	Green Space	-6.4%	
Healthy Lives	Premature Mortality	4.1%	29.9%
	Mental Health	6.4%	
	Preventable Hospitalizations	7.7%	
	Diabetes	11.7%	

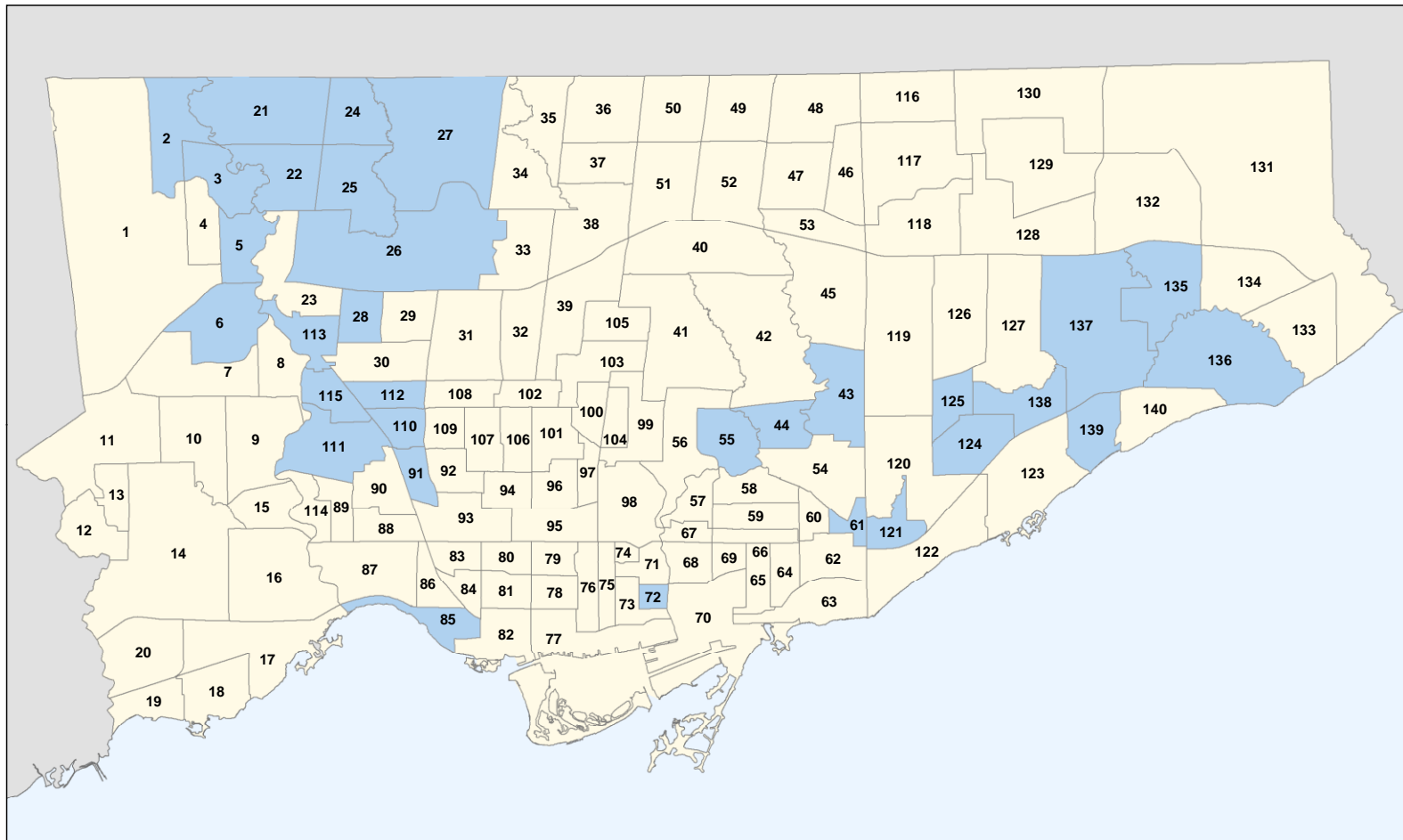


# Neighbourhood Equity Score

## Neighbourhood Equity Score by Ranking



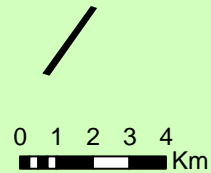
## Neighbourhoods Below Neighbourhood Equity Benchmark



### Legend

  Below Neighbourhood Equity Benchmark

Numbers indicate the  
neighbourhood number.



Source: Urban HEART @ Toronto, City of Toronto,  
Social Policy Analysis & Research.

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## Priority Neighbourhood Areas

- **22 social planning neighbourhoods** were designated for targeted investment under the **2005 Strategy**
- Selected based on **demographics, service proximity and crime**

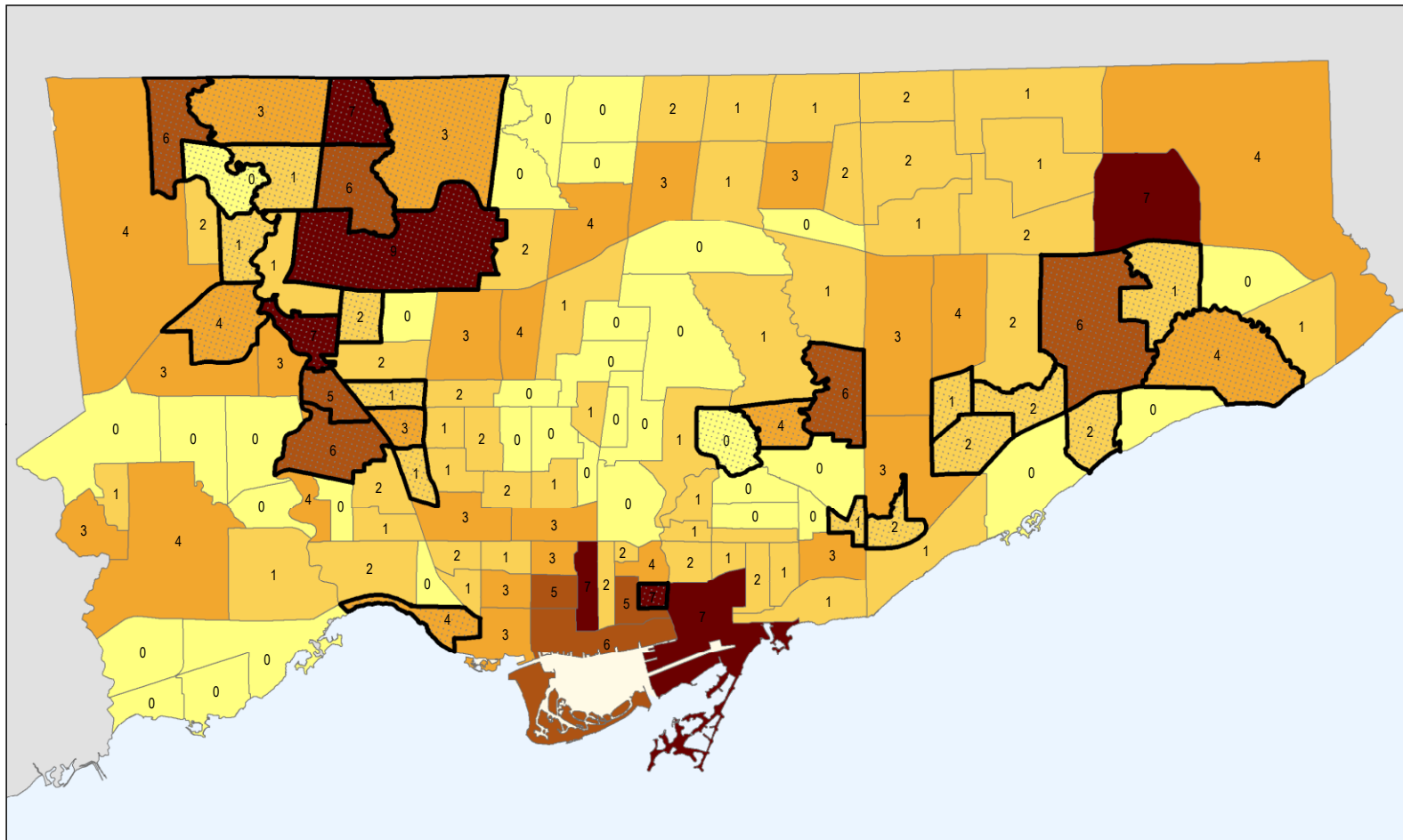
## Neighbourhood Improvement Areas

- **31 neighbourhoods** have Scores below the Benchmark
- **14 neighbourhoods** were among those designated in 2005
- **17 are new** to the designation

## Graduating Neighbourhoods

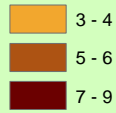
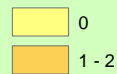
- **8 neighbourhoods** included in the PNAs have Scores above Benchmark and **will graduate from the portfolio**
- Planning is underway to **secure and build gains** that have been made

# Number of Homicides since 2009

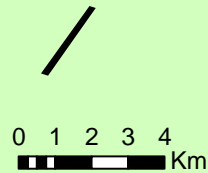


## Legend

### Homicides since 2009



Below Neighbourhood Equity Benchmark



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## **March – Committee and Council Decisions**

- March 3 – Report to City Clerk's Office.
- March 10 – Report available to the public online.
- March 17 – Community Development and Recreation Meeting.

## **April – Approval and Implementation Planning**

- April 1-2 – City Council meeting.
- Planning for implementation of the Strategy begins with partners.

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