



# YOUTH PORTRAIT

## EAST & NORTH TERRITORY

### 2019



## BASE LINE DATA – RTS EAST – NORTH (YOUTH 15-29)

KEY CHARACTERISTIC	ENGLISH-SPEAKING YOUTH 15-29	% OF TOTAL ES YOUTH 15-29	FRENCH-SPEAKING YOUTH 15-29	% OF TOTAL FS YOUTH 15-29
Population Size	34 035	-	137 460	-
Youth in lone parent families	7 007	20.6%	29 911	<b>21.8%</b>
Visible Minorities	15 009	<b>44.1%</b>	51 368	37.4%
Income of \$20 000 or less	23499	<b>69%</b>	87 625	63.8%
Income of \$50 000 or more	2343	6.9%	31 088	<b>22.6%</b>
Below LICO	7714	22.7%	38 106	<b>27.7%</b>
Unemployed	4105	12.1%	17 144	12.3%
Low educational attainment	16 389	<b>48.2%</b>	58 465	42.5%
High educational attainment	6 687	19.6%	27 156	19.7%

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

When compare to French-speaking youth, English-speakers (15-29) in the East and North-end of Montreal are more likely to be members of a visible minority, to have lower income levels and to report low educational attainment.

## HIGH SCHOOLS – EAST & NORTH

SCHOOL	TOTAL # OF STUDENTS	IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND <sup>1</sup>	IMSE RATING <sup>2</sup>
Lester B Pearson	995	8.76%	6
Lauren Hill Academy	1 316		<b>8</b>
Rosemount High School	370		<b>9</b>
Vincent Massey Collegiate	807		6
John Paul 1	424		7
Laurier MacDonald	597	25%	7
John F. Kennedy High School	290		<b>10</b>
École Secondaire Saint-Laurent	2160	98% (6.4% are ES)	<b>9</b>

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

There are a total of **6 English high schools** in the East and North territories of Montreal with a total of **4882** students. For some schools, dropout rates can be as high as **17.4%**. Three of the six schools have an IMSE rating between 8 and 10 while the remaining do not exceed 6. École secondaire Saint-Laurent is a French-speaking high school with 6.4% ES population (from Classes d'accueil). This amounts to approximately **140** students.

<sup>1</sup> **Children with an immigrant background** comprise three groups: foreign-born children, Canadian-born children with two foreign-born parents, and Canadian-born children with one Canadian-born parent and one foreign-born parent (*Stats Canada 2019*).

<sup>2</sup> *Indice de Milieu Socio-Économique* (2019): Schools are ranked on a scale of 1 to 10, with rank 1 denoting the least disadvantaged and rank 10 denoting the most disadvantaged.

## Adult Ed. + Vocational Centres: East – North

ADULT ED. & VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	POPULATION	ESTIMATED % WITH IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND
Rosemount Tech. Ctr.	800	60%

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:** A high number of those students between the ages of **16-30** are either working or looking to find part-time work as they complete their studies. Many have families with young children or live on their own. On average, more than 60% of young adult students come from immigrant backgrounds and are English-speaking.

## KEY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS: EAST – NORTH

ORGANISATION	APPROXIMATE # OF ENGLISH – SPEAKING YOUTH (15-29)	TERRITORY	IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND
Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre	150	EAST	10%
Horizon Carrière	?	EAST	?
Maison Des Jeunes BCV	15-20	NORTH	100%
CJE Saint-Laurent	40-50	NORTH	100%
CJE Ahuntsic-Cartierville	15-20	NORTH	100%
CGE	20-30	MONTREAL	66%

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:** The **Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre** in Rivière-des-Prairies serves youth from the East and North territories of Montreal. There are anywhere between 25-30 youth (12-24) who frequent the centre from Monday to Thursday (either for drop-in times or tutoring services). Their staff are almost exclusively volunteers with strong ties to the English-speaking community of the East-end. They are aged between 16-30.

The **Maison-des-Jeunes** in Bordeaux-Cartierville serves between 300-350 youth (12-18) per year (on average 30-35 daily). Approximately **10%** of those are newly arrived English-speaking immigrants. The staff is bilingual, but their programs are offered in French. ES youth are encouraged to assimilate and integrate with FS youth via leisure and sports activities. The **YMCA Cartierville** offers their gym facilities free of charge to youth on Tuesdays (16:30 – 18:00) and Fridays (17:00 – 20:00). However, they do not offer *specific* programs for Teens or youth. Despite the high number of English speakers in the Saint-Laurent borough (close to 50%), the **YMCA Saint-Laurent's** greatest number of ES youth (an estimated 4-5) attend the basketball program. Although their youth workers are said to be bilingual, their *Teen Zone* program is in French and is frequented exclusively by FS youth (12-17).

The **CGE** has a 93% work placement success for youth (16-30). The English-speaking youth are predominantly from South-east Asian communities (Indian, Pakistani etc.) 10% of those enlisting in the pre-employability program are English-speaking.

The clinique **Aire-Ouverte** in Ahuntsic is the only open-air clinic for youth (12-25) in Montreal. Since their opening in June, they have received 11 youth, 4 of which were English-speaking and referred to by the CLSC Montreal-Nord.

15% of the **CJE-Saint Laurent's** clientele is English-speaking (and they are predominantly newly arrived immigrants from Syria, India, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Emirates, Iran, Iraq and Nigeria). There is a larger constituency of Jewish, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Lebanese youth that speak French but are more comfortable in English. Except for two of their programs, they can offer their services in English when needed. Clientele who present themselves often face other life difficulties including conjugal violence, mental health issues, immigration issues and issues learning French.

## ISSUES FACING YOUTH IN THE EAST & NORTH – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### YOUTH IN SCHOOLS

The following issues facing youth in school were identified in consultation with high schools in the East and North:

- **Employability:** Employability and life skills for secondary 5 students as well as those with special needs is a priority for many schools.
- **Mental health:** Anxiety and depression are increasingly common for youth (15-17).
- **Vaping:** Students are said to be vaping in washrooms, near lockers and outside on school property. Vapes are easily accessible (usually through older siblings or online) and the long-term effects are little known.

### EMPLOYABILITY

The following youth employability issues were identified in consultation with employability organizations in the East and North:

- **Soft Skills:** Organizational and time-management skills, soft skills (problem-solving, communication) are recurrent issues for youth with and without immigrant backgrounds.
- **Practical experience:** some organizations have noted that youth often lack experiential learning opportunities or do not feel confident looking for services or volunteer opportunities. Cultural and linguistic barriers were cited to partially explain this cycle. Peer influence and pressures may also be contributing factors.
- **Continuity and retention of youth in employment services:** Organizations report that it is a challenge to get English-speaking youth to return and get engaged on a consistent basis to ensure that they are getting the most out of the services.
- **Digital literacy:** Some organizations noted that newly arrived immigrant youth lack the skills required to use digital technologies.

### YOUTH WITH IMMIGRANT BACKGROUNDS

The following issues were identified in consultation with vocational schools and community organizations in the East and North:

- **Financial precarity:** Those attending vocational schools find themselves in increased financial precarity. The bursaries provided by the provincial government are not enough to cover rent and other living expenses especially when they are supporting young families. Many are forced to either work part-time or to get additional loans in order to make ends meet.
- **Financial literacy:** Academic advisors in vocational schools as well as employability centres report that the level of financial literacy among young adults (especially those with immigrant backgrounds) is often low.
- **Legal rights:** Newly arrived Immigrant youth often lack the legal wherewithal to protect themselves against various forms of abuses in the workplace.
- **Immigration Issues:** There are many instances where youth face immigration issues (usually having to do with paperwork and other administrative tasks). Employability centres are often an important contact point and help on this manner.
- **Mental Health:** Newly arrived immigrant youth using employability centres also suffer from various forms of mental (and at times physical) distress. Anxiety and depression are often linked to employability status, self-esteem and sense of self. In some cases, there are reports of conjugal violence.
- **Cultural shock:** The cultural shock of newly arrived youth often leads to isolation as they lack networks of friends and family

## **YOUTH AND CULTURAL IDENTITY**

The following issues were identified in consultation with community organizations in the East and North:

- **Cultural Identity:** There are similarities between East and North on cultural identification (rather than identifying with the English minority-language community). For instance, the CJE Ahuntsic-Cartierville reports that there is a community of **English-speaking Pakistanis** in Bordeaux-Cartierville. Organizations in the North territory have expressed strong difficulties finding and reaching out to this community as they tend to be insular and isolated.