

The satisfaction of basic needs is essential to survival. They prevent a person from hunger or living on the streets. However, people require and have the right to more than just basic needs. In 1976, Canada and the provinces ratified the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to ensure that every Canadian, as well as civil and political rights, can enjoy economic, social and cultural rights. Individuals have rights to take part in the larger society, to work and have the opportunity to secure social and economic well-being. To engage in and contribute to society, individuals must have both their civil and economic needs met.



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A United Way Member Agency

# THE COST OF LIVING IN HALTON 2000



by  
**The Halton Social Planning Council  
& Volunteer Centre**



Building Community Together

## Did you know...?

...the cost of feeding a family of four in Halton is \$483 per month or \$5,796 per year—excluding non-food items such as detergent, toilet paper and shampoo



...that the average rent in October 1999 for a 3 bedroom apartment was \$1,039 a month or \$12,468 a year

...that it costs approximately \$2,460 to clothe a family of four for a year



...that it costs approximately \$159 a week or \$7,632 a year for child care for one child in Halton

...that it costs \$2 for a one way bus ticket in Burlington and Oakville or \$60 for an adult monthly pass in Burlington and \$58 in Oakville—no public transportation exists in Milton or Halton Hills



A Family of Four - Basic Cost of Living in Halton		
Item	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
Food	\$483	\$5,796
Shelter	\$1,039	\$12,468
Clothing	\$205	\$2,460
Child Care	\$636	\$7,632
Transportation	\$59	\$708
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,422</b>	<b>\$29,064</b>

...that the minimal basic cost of living for a family of four\* in Halton is \$29,062 a year— this does not include any furnishings, gas, hydro, toiletries, school and recreation costs etc.

\*a family of four defined as two adults and two children —one requiring child care

## And did you know...?



...that the poverty line income for an individual in Halton is \$14,613 and \$28,985 for a family of four (based on Statistics Canada's 1999 Low-Income Cut-Offs)

...that in 2000 a family of four on social assistance in Halton receives a maximum of \$1,178 a month or \$14,136 a year. This is \$14,928 below the basic cost of living in Halton

...the unemployment rate in Halton, according to the 1996 census, is 6%. The youth unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 24 is 13%

...that two adults working at minimum wage earn approximately \$2,280 a month or \$27,400 a year. This is \$1,664 below the family of four basic cost of living in Halton



...that in July 2000 there were 2,625 Employment Insurance claims in Halton

...that 39% of renters and 18% of homeowners in Halton pay more than 30% of their income on shelter costs



...that 25% of households rent their home and 75% of households own their home

...that in July 2000 there were 1,140 households on the Halton Housing Authority and Rent Supplement waiting lists —the wait is approximately 2 –5 years

...that in 2000 it cost \$384 and \$420 for an adult one year membership at the YMCA in Oakville and Burlington respectively



...that in Halton 7,140 families, 7,675 children aged 0-14, 4,570 youth aged 15-24 and 5,205 seniors aged 65+ are living below the poverty line

*Note: Information, where possible, is current. The most recent census data is 1996. A list of all sources is available from the Halton Social Planning Council and Volunteer Centre*