



# Neighbourhood Mapping Template

UREACHToronto is a resource centre for Christians engaged in intercultural Ministry and for the individuals in those communities. We focus most of our attention on newcomers, diaspora groups and refugees.

This document provides a template for collecting information about a specific neighbourhood. Completed templates can be sent to UREACHToronto for posting on our website. For each category in the template you will need to provide the information, the date you collected the information and the source of the information. Some of this information can be found in government records and publicly available resources in libraries and online (real estate records, local universities, etc.). However, some of it can only be collected by walking the neighbourhood and by engaging community members in conversation.

If you would like some additional direction please consult the resources at the end of this document or contact us through the TIM Centre at [tim@tyndale.ca](mailto:tim@tyndale.ca).

## Demographics

Demographics are relatively easy to collect from publicly available sources (e.g., census Canada, community organizations). Choose demographic markers that have a specific relevance to the neighbourhood being studied. Neighbourhoods may be geographically bounded or may be related to a specific people group. See <http://www.ureachtoronto.com/demographics.html>.

- Age
- Education levels
- Ethnicity
- Food bank usage
- Income levels
- People groups
- Time in Canada
- Etc.

## **Institutions**

Institutions are the organizations that make up the neighbourhood. These represent particular ideologies, stakeholders and potential partners for ministry. Try to determine how representative they are of the neighbourhood.

- Associations
- Churches
- Community Centres
- Not-for-profits
- Stores,
- Etc.

## **Policy**

There are official and unofficial rules for a neighbourhood that guide the development and operation of the neighbourhood. These can be discovered and benefit ministry knowledge (e.g., ensuring there are no surprising fines, aiding advocacy, planing for future developments).

- Bylaws
- Laws
- Zoning
- Etc.

## **History**

History affects how a neighbourhood operates and what it expects for the future. Look for major events or changes that have contributed to the character of the neighbourhood.

- Celebrations
- Conflicts
- Demographic change
- Significant institutions opened or closed
- Trends
- Etc.

## **Relationships**

Relationships are where ministry generally happens. People are the contact points for institutions or relational networks and people in power are the ones who interpret the policies. Often it is in relationships where spiritual formation occurs and it is the context for developing friendship and reconciliation. No information identifying specific individuals should be included without permission.

- Difference between the nature of the neighbourhood and its residents
- Geographical bounded, cross-city and / or international connections

- Locations of relational connectivity (e.g., specific restaurants, parks)
- Networks
- Roles people play in the neighbourhood
- Etc.

## Ministry Opportunities

A record of needs and current ministry helps to avoid duplication and focus ministry resources.

- Community needs (physical, spiritual, social, etc.)
- Service opportunities
- Ministry partners
- Existing ministries
- Etc.

## Spiritual Discernment

Receptivity to spirituality in general or Christianity specifically cannot be easily measured demographically. However, it is an important factor in ministry decisions. This information can be collected through observation of religious activities, personal conversations and interviews with local religious leaders. As with relationships great care should be taken that friendships are not abused and confidentiality is not violated.

- Spiritual atmosphere of community
- Spiritual diversity of community
- Receptivity to Christianity
- Specific interest in the Gospel
- Which approaches to ministry appear to be most effective?
- Etc.

## Other

A neighbourhood map benefits from audiovisual material and references to additional information.

- Copyright free pictures
- Maps
- Links to information referenced
- Etc.

## Resources for Community Research

- **Congregational Guides/Manuals**
  - Community Development in Canada, Glenn Smith <<http://www.direction.ca>>
  - Community Opportunity Scan <<http://www.diaconalministries.com>>
  - Community Research Guide, James Watson (For purchase at

<<http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/>> or <<http://www.outreach.ca/>>].

Downloadable at

<<https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=734&nccssubcid=52&nccsm=21&nccsct=Books&nccspID=888>>

- *Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing and Adapting in Changing Communities*, Carl S. Dudley and Nancy T. Ammerman
- *Doing Local Theology*, Clemens Sedmak
- *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*, Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Charles A. Anderson, Michael J. Sleasman
- “Exegeting” Your Community: Using Ethnography to Diagnose Needs, A Heart for the Community, John Fuder and Noel Castellanos <<http://www.cdda.org>>
- Parish Demographics Workbook <[http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/images/up-Demographics Workbook Col Lo Res.pdf](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/images/up-Demographics%20Workbook%20Col%20Lo%20Res.pdf)>
- *Start with the Society, not the Church, The Multiplying Church*, Bob Roberts Jr.
  
- **Information Sources (Government/City/University/Ministry)**
  - Outreach Canada, Lorne Hunter <<http://www.outreach.ca/research>>
  - Statistics Canada – Community Profiles <<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/index.cfm?Lang=E>>
  - Toronto Neighbourhood Research Network <<http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/curp/tnrn.html>>
  - UReachToronto.com <<http://www.ureachtoronto.com>>
  - Hills Church List of Community Research Links <<http://hillschurch.blogspot.com/2008/02/community-research.html>>
  - People Groups <<http://www.peoplegroups.info/>>
  - Toronto Neighbourhood Research Network <<http://www.urbancenter.utoronto.ca/curp/tnrn.html>>
  
- **Community Development Guides/Manuals**
  - Asset Based Community Development Institute <<http://www.abcdinstitute.org>>
  - Christian Community Development Association <<http://www.cdda.org>>
  - City of Calgary community assessment handbook <<http://content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Hall/Business+Units/Community+and+Neighbourhood+Services/Publications+Guides+and+Directories/Community+Assessment+Handbook/Community+Assessment+Handbook.htm>>
  - Community Development manual – government of Canada <[http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/sid/cia/comm\\_deve/handbook.shtml](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/sid/cia/comm_deve/handbook.shtml)>
  - Ryerson University Toronto Neighbourhoods and Census Data Research Guide <<http://www.ryerson.ca/library/subjects/neighbourhoods/print.html>>
  - Toronto Community Profiles by a local Realtor <<http://juliekinnear.com/toronto-neighbourhoods>>