



The West Island

THE TERRITORY AND ITS POPULATION

The West Island comprises a third of the Island of Montreal's land mass and, with over 236,000 residents, represents 12% of its population. Administratively, the territory is fairly complex, as it consists of a number of municipalities both north and south of Autoroute 40. The north part contains four cities-turned-boroughs of the City of Montreal (Roxboro, Pierrefonds, Sainte-Geneviève and L'Île-Bizard) and a reconstituted city (Dollard-Des Ormeaux). The south part has seven municipalities: Beaconsfield, Baie-D'Urfé, Dorval, Kirkland, Senneville, Pointe-Claire and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

The West Island is characterized by a high percentage of families (67%, compared to 63% in Montreal), half of whom live in Pierrefonds and Dollard-Des Ormeaux. Despite the demographic weight of young people aged 0-14 (16%), the territory as a whole has an aging population that is slightly more numerous than it is in Montreal (18% compared to 17% in Montreal). While young people were in the majority in 2006, the percentage of seniors is now higher than the 0-14 year-old age group (19% of youth and 13% of seniors). The West Island has one of the highest senior populations of any Montreal neighbourhood: in Baie-D'Urfé, Pointe-Claire, Senneville and Sainte-Geneviève, nearly one in four people is a senior. Only three West Island neighbourhoods have a lower percentage of seniors than the Montreal average; these are: Pierrefonds, L'Île-Bizard and Kirkland.

There are almost half as many people living alone as there are in Montreal (10% compared to 18%). The percentage of seniors living alone (24%) is 12 points below the Montreal average. However, in Sainte-Geneviève, nearly one in two seniors lives alone.

More than half of West Island immigrants live in Pierrefonds or Dollard-Des Ormeaux, where they respectively comprise 41% and 40% of the population, which is above the Montreal average in both cases (34%). The rest of the West Island has an immigrant population that ranges from 15% (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue) to 29% (Pointe-Claire).

Socioeconomic situations vary by neighbourhood

In general, the West Island has the characteristics of a well-off suburb, with a low-income rate well below the Montreal average (10%, compared to 21%). While poverty is gradually becoming an issue across the territory, the socioeconomic situation of residents in the north is different from that in the south. There are a total of 24,000 individuals living on a low income, more than half of whom live in Pierrefonds and Dollard-Des Ormeaux – the two most densely populated neighbourhoods. After Sainte-Geneviève, these are also the two neighbourhoods with the highest percentages of people living in poverty and vulnerable situations.

Except for Sainte-Geneviève (where 45% of families are single-parent households, an increase of 4 percentage points over 2011), the percentage of single-parent families in the West Island is significantly lower than the Montreal average.

Sectors that local stakeholders consider vulnerable – Cloverdale-À-Ma-Baie, Pierrefonds-Centre, Sainte-Geneviève and Dollard-Des Ormeaux-Est – have numerous social problems. Compared to the West Island as a whole, these areas have a higher percentage of

SNAPSHOT OF THE TERRITORY

The West Island represents 12% of the population of the Island of Montreal

Total population of 44,490

Total population: 236,145

From 2011 to 2016, slight drop in population: 0.2% (Montreal: 2.9%).

A territory that consists of 12 municipalities, that is divided by Autoroute 40 into a north and south part

The north part has seven municipalities, of which the most populated are Pierrefonds (63,360 people) and Dollard-Des Ormeaux (48,900), followed by L'Île-Bizard (14,715), Roxboro (5,940), Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (4,960), Sainte-Geneviève (3,695) and Senneville (920).

The south part has five municipalities: Pointe-Claire (31,380), Kirkland (20,150), Beaconsfield (19,325), Dorval (18,980) and Baie-D'Urfé (3,820).

Significant number of youth and families, most of whom live in Pierrefonds and Dollard-Des Ormeaux

The under-15 population for the entire West Island fell from 19% in 2006 to 16% in 2016 (Montreal: 16%).

In some municipalities, the percentage of 0-14 year-olds is higher than the Montreal average: Pierrefonds and Beaconsfield (18%) and Roxboro (17%).

For the entire West Island, the rate of families with children significantly exceeds that of Montreal (67% compared to 63%), representing 44,430 families. Half of these families live in Pierrefonds (12,465) and Dollard-Des Ormeaux (9,490).

An ageing population

In the West Island, the demographic weight of seniors has gone from 13% in 2006 to 18% in 2016 (Montreal: 17%).

Some municipalities have significantly higher numbers of senior residents: Baie-D'Urfé, Pointe-Claire and Senneville (24%) and Sainte-Geneviève (23%).



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low-income individuals, more seniors living alone, more single-parent families, and higher numbers of new immigrants and refugees. However, the entire West Island is affected by issues associated with social isolation and poverty: lack of affordable housing, food insecurity, lack of access to services, and limited public transit.

COMMUNITY DYNAMICS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The West Island is large in both area and population. Two main factors restrict the ability of vulnerable people to access resources: the fact that community agencies are relatively dispersed, and public transit options are limited. Some agencies are located in the most disadvantaged areas and primarily serve the surrounding population (e.g., the Coopérative d'habitation Village Cloverdale), while others have a supraregional mandate and serve the entire West Island. The circumstances these agencies work in are relatively complex, due to the West Island's numerous administrative bodies and their various procedures. In response to this situation, Pierrefonds-Roxboro is working on implementing a local social development plan based on the City of Montreal's Social Development Policy.

The dynamics of the territory's numerous consultation and coordination bodies have changed a great deal over the past few years. Community agencies work closely together and partner on such issues as: social development, childhood and family, seniors, mental health, urban safety, housing, food security, poverty and social exclusion, and transportation. In the coming year, decreased financial support means that a number of forums for joint action will disappear and some services (e.g., for children, young people and families) will be reduced.

Combining the desire to work together and think outside the box, the Centraide-led Collective Impact Project (CIP) is focussed on coordinating current collective actions and developing key development projects that promote food security, affordable housing and sustainable mobility. The fact that the West Island is constantly changing requires local actors to innovate and experiment with new ways of collaborating to promote social development. At this point, the collaborative process among West Island agencies is still evolving.

In 2019-2020, Centraide is making a total investment of \$1,338,589 to support 14 agencies and projects in the West Island, including the West Island Community Impact Project, Learning to Work Together.

ISSUES THAT ENGAGE CENTRAIDE

— Immigration, diversity and inclusion

Because of the steadily growing immigrant population, including some asylum seekers, agencies and communities have had to tailor their strategies to the challenges experienced by this new demographic. More specifically, areas with many young people from immigrant families (such as Cloverdale and Dollard-Des Ormeaux-Est) should have services and initiatives that address issues such as communication, culture shock and social isolation. Centraide will help agencies and the community devise approaches that ensure all residents feel part of the community. It will also encourage agencies to create a forum to promote dialogue on diversity-related issues.

— Social isolation among seniors

While the social exclusion of seniors living in this area, and the resulting anguish, is very real it can be hard to define. Transportation and lack of access to services are two examples of the challenges faced by seniors, especially those living alone. Over the next few years, Centraide will focus on the actions of local agencies designed to break the isolation of their senior population.

Close to 24,000 low-income individuals, more than half of whom live in Pierrefonds and Dollard-Des Ormeaux

23,895 people live on a low income, of whom 8,470 live in Pierrefonds and 5,045 in Dollard-Des Ormeaux.

Low-income rate considerably below the Montreal average, except for Sainte-Geneviève

The low-income rate for the entire West Island is half that of Montreal (10% compared to 21%).

The same disparity can be seen in the low-income rate among children under 6 for the entire territory (11% compared to 23% in Montreal) as well as among residents 65 and over (11% compared to 21% in Montreal). The percentage of seniors living alone (24%) is also significantly lower than the Montreal average: 36%.

Sainte-Geneviève is the only municipality with a low-income rate higher than the Montreal average: 25% for the entire municipality; 29% among 0-5 year-olds; 27% among seniors; and 48% of residents 65 and over live alone.

More ethno-cultural diversity in the north, particularly in Pierrefonds and Dollard-Des Ormeaux

The percentage of immigrants for the entire West Island is similar to the Montreal average (33% compared to 34%); however, the West Island has a lower percentage of recent immigrants (4% compared to 7%).

Over half of immigrants in the West Island (59%) live in Pierrefonds (25,705) and in Dollard-Des Ormeaux (19,130), as well as three out of five recent immigrants. Immigrants make up 41% and 40% of the respective populations of these two municipalities (Montreal: 34%).

Sainte-Geneviève has one of the highest rates of recent immigrants (12%) on the island.

Pierrefonds, Dollard-Des Ormeaux and Sainte-Geneviève have the highest rates of people from visible minority groups, with 44%, 39% and 37% respectively (Montreal: 33%).

Low percentage of single-parent families, except for Sainte-Geneviève

Rate of single-parent families in the West Island: 23% (Montreal: 33%). The rate in Sainte-Geneviève is higher: 45%.

In actual numbers, Pierrefonds (3,170), Dollard-Des Ormeaux (2,200) and Pointe-Claire (1,305) have the most single-parent families.

Except for Sainte-Geneviève, more adults with high school diplomas than on the Island of Montreal

For the entire West Island, the rate of adults without a high school diploma is 12% (Montreal: 17%). The municipal rates range from 7% (Baie-D'Urfé) to 15% (Pierrefonds and Roxboro), except for Sainte-Geneviève, where the rate is 22%.

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– Childhood development and support for families

Stakeholders are particularly active in the area of early childhood development and support for families, especially in the more disadvantaged areas. The community would like to: support the development of parenting skills, reach out to the parents of allophone children, foster the transition from primary to secondary school, and work with institutional actors to encourage children to stay in school. Certain segments of the population, specifically low-wage workers, struggle with family stress and psychological vulnerability. Centraide will therefore closely follow the creation of a new Maison de la famille in Sainte-Geneviève to meet the needs of this area, where 29% of 0-5 year-olds live in a low-income family. Centraide encourages the community to continue optimizing initiatives that address local needs and priorities, such as food security and access to affordable housing, that have a direct impact on children and their families.

– Young people

Social issues preventing young people from achieving their full potential (alcohol and drug use, dropping out, psychological distress and behavioural problems) are found in both underprivileged and more affluent areas, which have high numbers of so-called “latchkey children.” There are few services for young adults with special needs, especially those with a disability or an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Once a comprehensive picture of the various needs has been drawn up, and local actors are on board, communities will have the tools they need to better coordinate existing interventions or develop new ones. In order to ensure young people in the community reach their full potential, Centraide will focus on agency needs and collective action based on implementing a joint action plan.

– Mental health

The community’s growing mental health issues affect those suffering from the illness as well as those around them. Women are more affected than men by issues of mental health, isolation and homelessness. In light of this, Centraide will focus on new initiatives that improve access to community-based mental health services.

– Housing, transportation and food security

The West Island’s housing issues tend to fly under the radar. However two out of every five tenants spend more than 30% of their income on housing. In some sectors, lack of access to quality affordable housing, public transit and affordable, healthy food are factors that aggravate the precarious situations of people living in poverty and exclusion. Centraide will focus first and foremost on collective projects that will meet these needs. It will also concentrate on initiatives – jointly implemented by the CIP, the neighbourhood round table’s housing committee and the Ricochet project – designed to offer adequate and affordable apartments for young adults in precarious situations.

– Joint social development

In the past few years, there have been more joint agency-community initiatives to improve the living conditions and quality of life of the most vulnerable residents. This coordination and consultation has helped stakeholders diagnose the problems and draw up action plans for the entire territory. The next steps should allow round tables to develop and implement a coordinated action plan. Centraide wants to encourage and support agencies and communities to continue on this path. Over time, this planning should lead to more effective initiatives, particularly in high-poverty neighbourhoods.

Early childhood development a major issue

In many West Island neighbourhoods, the percentage of young children who start kindergarten without the basic school-readiness skills is higher than the Montreal average of 29%. In the north: Sainte-Geneviève (47%), Pierrefonds (45% in Pierrefonds-Centre-Sud, 39% in Pierrefonds-Centre-Nord and 30% in Pierrefonds-Ouest) and Dollard-Des Ormeaux-Est (31%). In the south: Baie-D’Urfé (40%), Pointe-Claire-Sud (38%) and Beaconsfield (33%).

Relatively small percentage of renter households, except in Sainte-Geneviève

The percentage of renter households for all municipalities is still much lower than the Montreal average (60%), ranging from 6% (Kirkland and Baie-D’Urfé) to 46% (Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue). Only Sainte-Geneviève has a higher rate of renter households than Montreal (63%), and that is also the only municipality where residential mobility is higher than it is on the island (46% compared to 43%).

In the entire West Island, the percentage of renter households that spend too much of their income (30% or more) on rent is higher than the Montreal average (39% compared to 37%). The percentages are also higher in: Kirkland and Pointe-Claire (45%), Sainte-Geneviève (43%), Beaconsfield and Baie-D’Urfé (41%).

Demographic and economic data: 2016 Census; Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK 2017); Centre intégré universitaire de santé and de services sociaux (CIUSSS) du Centre-Sud-de-l’Île-de-Montréal, 2019.

INVESTMENT FROM CENTRAIDE OF GREATER MONTREAL 2019-2020

Volunteer action

- Volunteer West Island
- West Island Citizen Advocacy

Living conditions

- Learning to Work Together, Collective Impact Project (CIP)
- West Island Community Resource Centre

Community development

- Table de quartier Sud de l’Ouest de l’Île de Montréal

Youth and families

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Island
- Cloverdale Multi-Ressources
- Projet communautaire de Pierrefonds
- West Island Youth Action (AJOI)

Inclusion

- Friends for Mental Health, West Island
- WIAIH: for people with an intellectual disability or autism

Neighbourhood life

- West Island Women’s Centre
- YMCA—West-Island Community Centre