Investigating local news poverty in Canada

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Why local news matters

• holds power accountable/exposes poor governance that contributes to higher-cost infrastructure and other projects
• community building
• fuels civic engagement/activism
• Explores/offers alternatives in polarized debates
• Provides verified, timely independent news that counters narratives circulated by fake news, special interests and governments
• acts as early warning system for disease outbreaks/public health issues
Tracking changes to local news
https://localnewsmap.geolive.ca/
The Local News Map
June 1, 2018

- 431 markers recording changes to local news outlets dating back to 2008
- 248 markers recording the closure of local news outlets in 176 communities
- 214 newspaper closings in 168 communities; includes 180 community papers (published fewer than five times per week)
- 79 markers indicating launch of new local news outlets including 34 new digital-first sites

*Closures includes closures due to mergers
**New outlets include new outlets due to mergers
Local news and the race for MP
2015 federal election
1.25
1.14
0.71
0.61
0.58
0.50
0.23
0.14
0.00

Kamloops*
Peterborough*
Thunder Bay***
Brandon*
Nanaimo*
Kawartha Lakes*
Oakville**
Brampton**

Number of local news outlets per 10,000 registered voters

*Based on number of registered voters in polls within the municipal boundary.
**Brampton total is for the ridings of Brampton Centre, Brampton East and Brampton North. Oakville total is for the riding of Oakville only.
***Thunder Bay total is for registered voters in Thunder Bay-Rainy River and Thunder Bay-Superior North living within the municipal boundary.
Number of local election stories per 10,000 registered voters

- **Brampton**
  - 2.06 stories (43 stories)

- **Oakville**
  - 4.30 stories (38 stories)

- **Kawartha Lakes**
  - 4.84 stories (29 stories)

- **Nanaimo**
  - 14.96 stories (103 stories)

- **Brandon**
  - 17.45 stories (57 stories)

- **Peterborough**
  - 20.18 stories (124 stories)

- **Kamloops**
  - 22.02 stories (158 stories)

- **Thunder Bay**
  - 25.97 stories (218 stories)

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