

Assignment #2 Geography 241– Karly O’Neill

Within the Township of Langley, where I reside, I feel that I personally am not constrained much by inequality within my urban experiences. I am provided with many resources from the Township of Langley including a police station, a firehall, a hospital, a public Library, recreational facilities including pools, activity centers, fitness opportunities, park space, playgrounds, and walking trails. Within my community we also have access to small scale restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, doctors, dentists, pharmacies, and many more local shops that are convenient for a community. All of these locations are within walking distance from my home; therefore transportation is not an issue within my small community of Murrayville. There are local bus stops close to my home as well to provide transportation to further destinations. I personally own two vehicles, so I do not rely on public transit. I currently, do not have any disabilities that impact my urban experience within my community. When I go for bike rides or walks with my children, there are sidewalks provided and crosswalks for our safety.

Diversity and inclusion are important parts of a community. An inclusive community embraces, respects, and accepts the unique qualities and characteristics that every individual in the community possesses. This includes diversity inclusion based on identity, gender, sexuality, disability, religious beliefs, age, and income. Within the Township of Langley there are many forms of social inclusion and exclusion within the urban area. The township's future plans to support diversity and inclusion include the following: provide flexible, affordable, and mixed housing options, which results in diversity and choice within a social inclusive community. Consider the social well-being of all residents, specifically the young, the elderly and those with

special needs and disabilities. Improve access to parks, open spaces, and provide connectivity for public facility environments for all ages and abilities. Work to provide complete access to all transit stops. Generate more relationships to encourage the arts, and cultural events and programming that reflect the cultural diversity of the community. Some of the current social inclusions that stand out to me within my community are, the rainbow sidewalk that has been recently put in between our Langley school district board office and the police station. They have incorporated indigenous heritage within the Derek Doubleday Arboretum, which is now a memorial ground for the residential school children that lost their lives. Within my community there are various churches that offer programs and support to any community members that wish to become involved within that church.

The Township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Lower Mainland and is facing demographic shifts in relation to the aging and growing cultural diversity of the population as well as the urbanization of areas that have been typically rural in the past. The following data was provided from the Township of Langley, the average household income in the Township of Langley is higher than the regional average, however, Township households face high costs of living. 1 in 10 Township residents is living in poverty. About 1 in 14 Township residents sometimes, or often, do not have enough to eat. Between 2014 and 2017, the number of people suffering homelessness in Langley grew from 92 to 206. Based on the data provided, I feel fortunate to not have many social inequalities that constrain my urban experience. I am fortunate to not live in poverty, I am fortunate to have various forms of transportation in my household, I am fortunate to have access to food and clean drinking water, I am fortunate that my children have opportunities for public schooling and public

healthcare systems. I am fortunate to be of the majority within my community, while also engaging with different minority groups. I do see homelessness around my community, and have seen some criminal activity and drug use as well in my community. Again I am fortunate that I personally have not had to deal with that. Within our community there is services and housing opportunities for people with addiction and homelessness. There is a wide range of people who live in my community from babies to seniors we have quite a few senior centres in the area as well as daycares, elementary schools, and high schools. Overall I feel that I am fortunate to have mostly positive social aspects of equality that supports my urban experience and the social processes that shape the urban area around me.

References

<https://www.tol.ca/your-township/social-sustainability/social-sustainability-strategy/>