

City of Toronto



Madelyn Warburton

January 10th, 2023

Dear King'sMUN 2023 delegates,

I am truly honoured as this year's Secretary General of King'sMUN to welcome you to our 9th annual conference and our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. The secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible conference with a variety of unique committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

MUN is a reenactment of United Nations conferences at the high school and university level, where representatives from all over come together to discuss the most pressing issues that plague our world today. Students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures in order to create resolutions for both real and fictional issues and crises.

Throughout my time participating in Model United Nations, I have developed many valuable skills that I will take with me throughout my life. It has improved my confidence when public speaking as well as my ability to problem solve. Furthermore, MUN is valuable to me as it promotes lifelong connections with new people as you meet many other delegates who share your passions while in committee sessions. I truly believe that skills that you will learn through your participation in MUN will help you throughout your high school journey, in everyday life, and beyond.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN is truly for everyone. At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something that everyone will enjoy debating about. From the world's most pressing issues discussed in UNSC and UN Women to Indigenous affairs and from the gods on Mount Olympus to the prohibition in the 1920s, we strive to ensure that we can appeal to the passions of a variety of delegates. Everyone is welcome at King'sMUN, whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place for you here.

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back in person to King'sMUN. I, as well as the rest of the secretariat, are looking very forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 25. Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you are able to engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2023.

Sincerely,

Athena Ponte  
Secretary General  
King'sMUN 2023

## The UN

The purpose of the United Nations is to keep international peace, and the well-being of all people across the continents. The UN was founded in 1945 after the second world war, to stop a catastrophe like that from happening again, and to maintain human rights, develop relations with other countries, and to aid social progress. The UN works as an international group to uphold peace, consisting of 193 member states. The UN has also created sustainable development goals for the world that they work to fulfill, ranging from ending poverty to ending hunger, to even giving everyone equal access to clean water and healthcare. As of now, the UN is hard at work to progress towards fulfilling these goals, and it's amazing seeing all these leaders working together to solve varying issues and helping more people.

## Background and Work

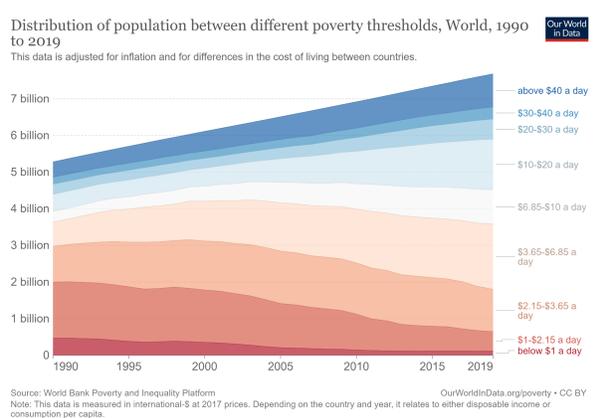
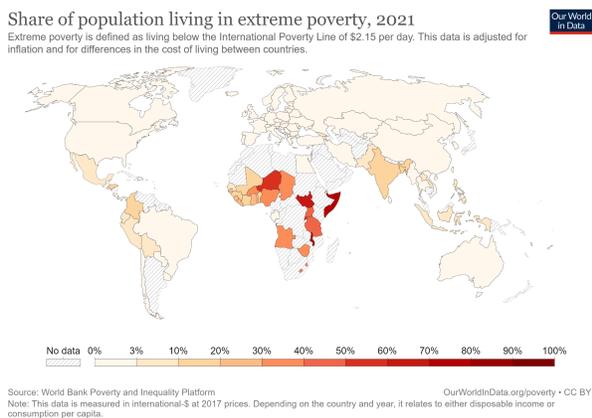
Both the city of Toronto and the council were founded in 1834. The Toronto City council acts as a direct representation of the government in Toronto. While the Toronto City Council doesn't directly tie in with the UN, Canada is a part of the United Nations. The job of the council is to take care of the city, and any matters pertaining to the present and future of the city's services. The council has direct responsibility of many of the city's services ranging from public transport, to overseeing the Toronto Police Service.

## Issue

Housing in Toronto has become a major issue, with prices skyrocketing in recent years. While Toronto has always been a more expensive place to live in, prices for housing as of late have been edging closer towards unaffordable. One of the main contributors is supply and demand, with the number of residences not being enough to sustain the amount of people that are

looking to purchase a home. During the pandemic, the housing market was greatly impacted. Due to Covid cases rising, many employees were let off, and many relied on the money provided by the government to sustain themselves. Now, after the pandemic, while many are managing to get back on their feet and are now earning a stable income, due to the greatly inflated pricing of houses in Toronto it's becoming much much harder to sustain yourself while living in the city. Because of this issue, now more than ever poverty has dug its roots into the city of Toronto, with more and more people unable to afford living.

With the issue of housing being such an issue, not just in Toronto or the whole of Canada, we hope that the 1st SDG goal can be reached by 2030. There are many ways that this issue can be fixed, though not all are possible to achieve at the moment. Employers could raise employee paychecks, house owners could sell their houses at more affordable prices, the list goes on, but for the time being houses will continue to stay high. Poverty has become a huge issue for hundreds of countries, and millions of people are unable to afford basic living. While the definition of poverty has changed over the years and people may seem like they're living comfortably, rising prices for necessities have made it harder for many to keep living the way they have.



## SDGs and Their Connections



Because of the housing crisis in Toronto, as well as all across Canada, poverty has been becoming more of an issue. With unaffordable living prices in the city, many people are having to invest too much of their money into paying for housing, leaving them with less money to afford other essentials. Those who are even more unlucky are forced to move to the streets or to shelters located throughout the city.

Hunger has also become an issue, tying in with the issue of poverty in the city. With the need to put more money into affording a residence, those with a lower income have been forced to put less money into buying food so that they may continue to live in housing.



While tying in less easily than the other SDGs, good health is also an issue. Depending on where they're staying, people could be forced to live in less than ideal conditions so that they may continue to have a roof over their heads. Those who live in the streets would have an even harder time keeping good health.

As of recent years, housing has become less and less sustainable in the city. With prices rising, it has become harder and harder to afford housing while also taking care of other essential needs. While effort is being put in to fix the issue, it will not go away so easily.



## Further Questions

- How can we help those in poverty?
  - How can countries work together to make housing in areas more affordable?
    - How can we give those in poverty more access to necessities?
- With the continuously changing definition of poverty, how can we continue to help those in poverty?

## Sources:

[The Roles of the Mayor and City Council | City of Toronto](#)

[The work of the United Nations touches every corner of the globe and focuses on a broad range of fundamental issues, like sustainable development, protection of the environment and refugees, disaster relief and mitigation, counter terrorism, as well as disarmament and non-proliferation.](#)

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