

**“Nearly half of local youth negatively affected by feelings on climate change”
New report looks at youth climate anxiety and the local impact of climate change**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakville, Ont., April 22, 2024 - Today, the report **Our Community Legacy: What Oakville will our children and grandchildren inherit?** on climate change was released at an event at Sheridan College.

The Oakville Community Foundation, alongside Halton Environmental Network and Sheridan College, collaborated to produce a report on the issue of climate change in our community.

The report is split into sections that look at the health impacts of climate change on our community, at ourselves and at possible future projections in a world where no or limited action is taken to address climate change. Notable data points include:

- Ward 7 has the highest average summer temperature at 31.8°C and the lowest tree canopy coverage
- Past studies in Ontario also indicate that for every 5°C increase in temperature during the summer, there's a 2.5% increase in death, often caused by cardiovascular disease.
- Based on patterns of historic flood events, all areas of the Town have at least a medium level of flood susceptibility.
- Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people worldwide live in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change and are potential Climate Refugees.

Sheridan College undertook new original research as part of this report on the issue of youth climate anxiety. The research involved surveying youth 16-24 who live, work or recreate in Oakville or their Treaty Territories include Oakville. Notable results include:

- Nearly 45% said their feelings about climate change negatively affect their daily life.
- 89% feel that “people have failed to take care of the planet.”
- 75% think that “small actions to combat climate change matter.”

The report is wrapped up with a checklist of small but significant actions that can help to make a difference and leave a better community for our kids and grandkids. Actions include:

- Eating your leftovers to avoid food waste in landfills
- Planting native species in your garden as well as pollinator plants to encourage bees
- Focusing on more active transportation, like walking, or carpooling, or taking public transit

To read the report, [click here](#).

Community members are invited to join our Tree Pledge and support community-wide tree-planting efforts. [Click here](#) to donate or for more information.

“Climate Change is a big issue that has real implications right here in Oakville. This Report gives us a better sense of what our children and grandchildren will be facing in the years to come,”

says Wendy Rinella, CEO of the Oakville Community Foundation. “Our young people need us to take it seriously. They’re worried about their future and the stress is impacting their lives right now. The good news is that when we work as a community there are small actions we can all take to help make a real difference. We invite the community to show what they are doing to combat climate change and share their love for future generations through videos, which will be posted on our website.”

“The Oakville Community Foundation has done it once again! Taking a complex challenging problem and creating an insightful, impactful report that amplifies the collective voice. Much gratitude to all the partners, supporters and team, this is what future generations deserve, everyone, everywhere working hard to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to our changing climate. Together is the only way forward,” says Lisa Kohler, Foundation Board Member and Report Advisory Group Lead.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute research to the Oakville Community Foundation’s report on climate change in our community," says Dr. Janet Morrison, President and Vice Chancellor, Sheridan College. “As an institution, we recognize the urgency of ongoing social and environmental crises and believe that education, strengthened by Western and Indigenous worldviews, is a primary driver of just and sustainable development that meets the needs of both present and future generations."

In an effort to add to the tree canopy and reach the Town-wide goal of 40% by 2057, The Foundation will be planting 300 trees to celebrate its 30th Anniversary, leaving a long-lasting legacy in our community.

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Oakville Community Foundation

The Oakville Community Foundation is a local charitable solutions provider, delivering the tools to realize your charitable passions. The Foundation acts as a philanthropic medium, investing donations to generate new money for our community. We conduct local research to provide our diverse donors with knowledge and solutions to make an impact in the local community, both today and in the future. Thanks to the visionaries in our community who started The Foundation more than 25 years ago, The Foundation has granted more than \$65 million to support charities locally and beyond.

Sheridan College

Founded in 1967, Sheridan is one of Ontario's leading postsecondary institutions, educating more than 40,000 full- and part-time students every year from campuses in Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville. Sheridan is an award-winning institution that attracts students from across Canada and more than 110 countries. As a trailblazer in unique arts, technology and health care programs, Sheridan has always been on the leading edge of innovation ensuring students learn job-ready, practical skills and develop the confidence, empathy and

problem-solving savvy that allows them to push boundaries in an ever-changing world. Learn more at sheridancollege.ca

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