



Local News Map Data
April 1, 2018

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The Local News Map is a crowd-sourced resource that tracks what is happening to local newspapers, broadcast outlets and online news sites in communities across Canada. It displays data going back to 2008, which marked the beginning of a deep recession and a turning point for many previously profitable local news organizations. This report, which is produced every two months and archived [here](#), summarizes the latest data available on the map.

This project is the result of a collaboration between Professor [April Lindgren](#), lead investigator for the [Local News Research Project](#) at Ryerson University's School of Journalism and Associate Professor [Jon Corbett](#), who leads the University of British Columbia's [SpICE Lab](#) (Spatial Information for Community Mapping). It was created with financial support from [Canadian Geospatial and Open Data Research Partnership](#); Canadian Media Guild/CWA Canada; Canadian Journalists for Free Expression; a Mitacs Accelerate grant; Unifor; and Ryerson University.

Credits/citations: The Local News Map is a joint project of the Local News Research Project at Ryerson University's School of Journalism and the University of British Columbia's SpICE Lab (Spatial Information for Community Mapping).

Lindgren, April and Corbett, Jon. *Local News Map Data*.
<http://localnewsresearchproject.ca/category/local-news-map-data>

Visit the map: <https://localnewsmap.geolive.ca/>

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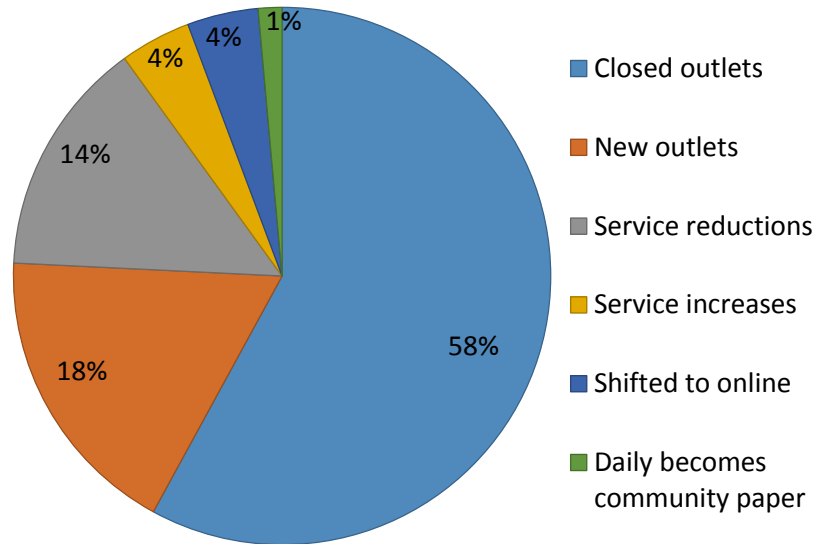
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Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 421 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and April 1, 2018.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	203
closed due to merger	41
daily (free) becomes a community paper	1
daily becomes a community paper	5
decrease in service	60
increase in service	18
new	60
new outlet produced by merger	15
shifted to online	18



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	254
daily paper - free	27
daily paper - paid	29
online	45
radio - private	4
radio - public	11
TV - private	27
TV - public	24

Breakdown of all markers by ownership:

Independent owners	72
Black Press	36
Transcontinental	35
Postmedia	32
Sun Media	30
Metroland	30
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Glacier Media	17
Torstar	16
Quebecor	14
Bell Media	13
Other	98

Note: only owners with more than 10 markers are listed in the table

Local news outlets that have closed since 2008

Total number of closings: 244 (203 direct closings + 41 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 177

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	179
daily paper - free	23
daily paper - paid	11
online	13
radio – private	0
radio – public	6
TV – private	11
TV – public	1

Breakdown of closings by ownership:

Transcontinental	30
Black Press	27
Independent	26
Sun Media	25
Postmedia	25
Glacier Media	16
Metroland	16
Torstar	14
Other	65

Note: only owners with more than 10 markers are named in the table

Newly launched local news outlets since 2008

Total number of markers representing new outlets: 75 (60 new outlets + 15 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 59

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	37
daily paper - free	1
online	30
radio – private	3
radio – public	3
TV – private	0
TV – public	1

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership:

Independent	37
Metroland	8
Village Media	4
Black Press	4
Your Community Voice	4
CBC/Radio-Canada	4
Transcontinental	2
Other	12

Note: only owners with more than 1 marker are named in the table

Increases in service since 2008

Total number of service increases: 18
Number of affected communities: 15

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	4
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	2
online	2
radio - private	0
radio - public	1
TV - private	9
TV - public	0

Note: Examples of service increases include longer local news casts, the launch of a new local news program, increased frequency of publication for newspapers

Decreases in service since 2008

Total number of service reductions: 60
Number of affected communities: 38

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	16
daily paper - free	1
daily paper - paid	12
online	0
radio - private	1
radio - public	1
TV - private	7
TV - public	22

Note: Examples of service decreases include shorter newscasts or fewer print editions per week for newspapers

Breakdown of data by type of local media (2008 to April 1, 2018)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 310

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 213 (172 direct closings + 41 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 168

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 38 (23 new outlets + 15 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 33

Community newspaper markers on the map (published fewer than five times per week)

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 254
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 179 (141 direct closings + 38 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 147
- Total number of new community newspapers: 37 (22 new outlets + 15 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 32

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 45
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 30
- Total number of closed online news sites: 13

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 15
- Total number of new radio stations: 6
- Total number of closed radio programs: 6
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 2
- Total number of radio station service increases: 1

TELEVISION

- Total number of markers representing changes to television stations: 51
- Total number of new TV stations: 1
- Total number of closed TV stations: 12
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 29
- Total number of TV station service increases: 9

Provincial data for changes to local news media since 2008

Breakdown of changes to local news outlets by province

Province	Number of closings/ closings due to mergers	Number of new/ new outlets due to merger	Number of service reductions	Number of service increases	Total # of markers
Alberta	30	9	9	1	49
British Columbia	52	16	11	2	81
Manitoba	5	1	4	1	11
New Brunswick	1	4	1	0	6
Newfoundland and Labrador	3	0	3	0	6
Northwest Territories	1	0	1	1	3
Nova Scotia	9	6	3	2	20
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	100	36	29	5	170
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	0	1
Quebec	31	2	20	2	55
Saskatchewan	12	1	2	4	19
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0
Canada (total)	244	75	84	18	421

Breakdown of changes to different types of media by province

Province	Newspaper	Website	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	32	5	3	9	49
British Columbia	61	11	5	4	81
Manitoba	6	1	0	4	11
New Brunswick	2	3	0	1	6
Newfoundland and Labrador	5	0	0	1	6
Northwest Territories	1	0	1	1	3
Nova Scotia	16	3	0	1	20
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	129	20	5	16	170
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	1	1
Quebec	44	2	1	8	55
Saskatchewan	14	0	0	5	19
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0
Canada (total)	310	45	15	51	421