



**Local News Map Data  
October 1, 2019**

## 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.

For the purposes of this project, a local news outlet is defined as a news organization that maintains independence from those it covers, demonstrates a commitment to accuracy/transparency, and is devoted primarily to reporting and publishing timely, originally-produced news about local people, places, issues and events in a defined geographic area.

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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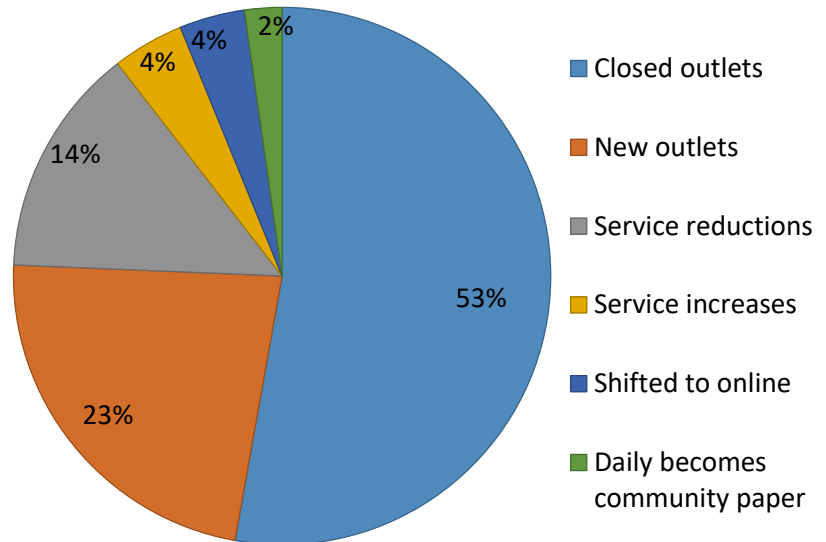
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## Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 532 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and October 1, 2019.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| closed                                 | 236 |
| closed due to merger                   | 46  |
| daily (free) becomes a community paper | 1   |
| daily becomes a community paper        | 11  |
| decrease in service                    | 74  |
| increase in service                    | 23  |
| new                                    | 103 |
| new outlet produced by merger          | 17  |
| shifted to online                      | 21  |



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| community paper    | 290 |
| daily paper - free | 27  |
| daily paper - paid | 46  |
| online             | 79  |
| radio - private    | 19  |
| radio - public     | 11  |
| TV - private       | 32  |
| TV - public        | 28  |

Breakdown of all markers by ownership:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Independent owners | 115 |
| Postmedia          | 50  |
| Black Press        | 37  |
| Transcontinental   | 36  |
| Metroland          | 34  |
| Sun Media          | 29  |
| CBC/Radio-Canada   | 28  |
| Glacier Media      | 22  |
| Torstar            | 16  |
| Quebecor           | 15  |
| Bell Media         | 13  |
| Rogers Media       | 12  |
| Saltwire Network   | 11  |
| Other              | 114 |

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: 282 (236 direct closings + 46 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 202

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| community paper    | 204 |
| daily paper - free | 23  |
| daily paper - paid | 13  |
| online             | 14  |
| radio – private    | 12  |
| radio – public     | 6   |
| TV – private       | 10  |
| TV – public        | 0   |

Breakdown of closings by ownership:

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Independent      | 41 |
| Postmedia        | 32 |
| Transcontinental | 32 |
| Black Press      | 28 |
| Sun Media        | 25 |
| Metroland        | 19 |
| Glacier Media    | 16 |
| Torstar          | 15 |
| Other            | 74 |

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: 120 (103 new outlets + 17 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 86

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| community paper    | 43 |
| daily paper - free | 1  |
| online             | 59 |
| radio – private    | 6  |
| radio – public     | 3  |
| TV – private       | 3  |
| TV – public        | 5  |

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership:

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Independent                      | 59 |
| Village Media                    | 8  |
| Metroland                        | 7  |
| Rogers Media                     | 6  |
| Black Press                      | 4  |
| TVO                              | 4  |
| Your Community Voice             | 4  |
| CBC/Radio-Canada                 | 4  |
| Glacier Media                    | 3  |
| Saltwire Network                 | 2  |
| The Jim Pattison Broadcast Group | 2  |
| Transcontinental                 | 2  |
| First Peoples Radio              | 2  |
| Other                            | 13 |

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

## Increases in service since 2008

Total number of service increases: 23

Number of affected communities: 20

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| community paper    | 4 |
| daily paper - free | 0 |
| daily paper - paid | 2 |
| online             | 6 |
| radio - private    | 0 |
| radio - public     | 1 |
| TV - private       | 9 |
| TV - public        | 1 |

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: 74

Number of affected communities: 48

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| community paper    | 21 |
| daily paper - free | 1  |
| daily paper - paid | 18 |
| online             | 0  |
| radio - private    | 1  |
| radio - public     | 1  |
| TV - private       | 10 |
| 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 October 1, 2019)

### NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 363

#### *Closings*

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 240 (194 direct closings + 46 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 186

#### *Launches*

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 44 (27 new outlets + 17 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 39

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 290
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 204 (161 direct closings + 43 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 165
- Total number of new community newspapers: 43 (26 new outlets + 17 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 38

## DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 79
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 59
- Total number of closed online news sites: 14
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 6

## RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 30
- Total number of new radio stations: 9
- Total number of closed radio programs: 18
- 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: 60
- Total number of new TV stations: 8
- Total number of closed TV stations: 10
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 32
- Total number of TV station service increases: 10

## Provincial data for changes to local news media since 2008

Breakdown of changes to local news outlets by province

| Province                     | Number of closings/<br>closings<br>due to<br>mergers | Number of<br>new/<br>new<br>outlets due<br>to merger | Number of<br>service<br>reductions | Number of<br>service<br>increases | Total # of<br>markers |
|------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alberta                      | 34   | 13   | 12                                 | 1                                 | 60                    |
| British Columbia             | 59   | 24   | 13                                 | 2                                 | 98                    |
| Manitoba                     | 6  | 2  | 4                                  | 1                                 | 13                    |
| New Brunswick                | 1  | 4  | 1                                  | 1                                 | 7                     |
| Newfoundland and<br>Labrador | 6  | 1  | 4                                  | 0                                 | 11                    |
| Northwest Territories        | 1  | 1  | 1                                  | 1                                 | 4                     |
| Nova Scotia                  | 14   | 8  | 5                                  | 3                                 | 30                    |
| Nunavut                      | 0  | 0  | 0                                  | 0                                 | 0                     |
| Ontario                      | 108  | 57   | 42                                 | 8                                 | 215                   |
| Prince Edward Island         | 0  | 0  | 1                                  | 0                                 | 1                     |
| Quebec                       | 41   | 7  | 21                                 | 2                                 | 71                    |
| Saskatchewan                 | 12   | 3  | 2                                  | 4                                 | 21                    |
| Yukon                        | 0  | 0  | 1                                  | 0                                 | 1                     |
| Canada (total)               | 282  | 120  | 107                                | 23                                | 532                   |

Breakdown of number of changes to different types of media by province

| <b>Province</b>           | <b>Newspaper</b> | <b>Website</b> | <b>Radio</b> | <b>Television</b> | <b>Total # of markers</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Alberta                   | 39               | 7              | 4            | 10                | 60                        |
| British Columbia          | 64               | 19             | 11           | 4                 | 98                        |
| Manitoba                  | 6                | 1              | 1            | 5                 | 13                        |
| New Brunswick             | 2                | 3              | 0            | 2                 | 7                         |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 9                | 0              | 1            | 1                 | 11                        |
| Northwest Territories     | 1                | 1              | 1            | 1                 | 4                         |
| Nova Scotia               | 24               | 5              | 0            | 1                 | 30                        |
| Nunavut                   | 0                | 0              | 0            | 0                 | 0                         |
| Ontario                   | 150              | 36             | 9            | 20                | 215                       |
| Prince Edward Island      | 0                | 0              | 0            | 1                 | 1                         |
| Quebec                    | 53               | 5              | 3            | 10                | 71                        |
| Saskatchewan              | 14               | 2              | 0            | 5                 | 21                        |
| Yukon                     | 1                | 0              | 0            | 0                 | 1                         |
| Canada (total)            | 363              | 79             | 30           | 60                | 532                       |