



Local News Map Data
April 1, 2020

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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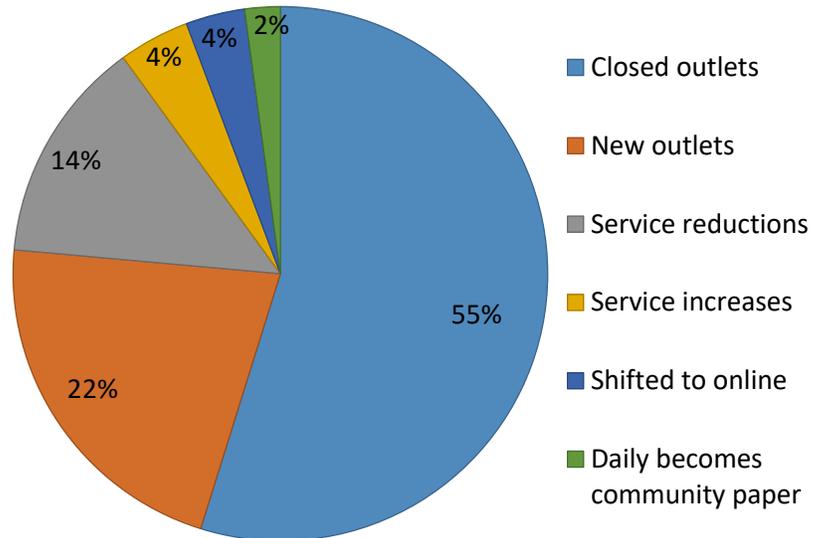
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Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 560 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and April 1, 2020.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	253
closed due to merger	54
daily (free) becomes a community paper	1
daily becomes a community paper	11
decrease in service	76
increase in service	24
new	103
new outlet produced by merger	18
shifted to online	20



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	300
daily paper - free	32
daily paper - paid	49
online	84
radio - private	23
radio - public	11
TV - private	33
TV - public	28

Breakdown of all markers by ownership:

Independent owners	119
Postmedia	56
Black Press	37
Transcontinental	36
Metroland	34
Sun Media	29
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Glacier Media	21
Torstar	21
Saltwire Network	16
Quebecor	15
Bell Media	13
Rogers Media	13
Other	122

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: 307 (253 direct closings + 54 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 214

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	215
daily paper - free	28
daily paper - paid	13
online	19
radio – private	15
radio – public	6
TV – private	11
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership:

Independent	44
Postmedia	35
Transcontinental	32
Black Press	28
Sun Media	25
Metroland	20
Torstar	20
Glacier Media	16
Other	87

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: 121 (103 new outlets + 18 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 87

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	44
daily paper - free	1
online	58
radio – private	7
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	3
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: 24
Number of affected communities: 21

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	4
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	2
online	7
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: 76
Number of affected communities: 49

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	20
daily paper - free	1
daily paper - paid	21
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 April 1, 2020)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 381

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 256 (202 direct closings + 54 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 196

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 45 (27 new outlets + 18 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 40

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 300
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 215 (164 direct closings + 51 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 175
- Total number of new community newspapers: 44 (26 new outlets + 18 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 39

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 84
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 58
- Total number of closed online news sites: 19
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 7

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 34
- Total number of new radio stations: 10
- Total number of closed radio programs: 21
- 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: 61
- Total number of new TV stations: 8
- Total number of closed TV stations: 11
- 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/ closings due to mergers	Number of new/ new outlets due to merger	Number of service reductions	Number of service increases	Total # of markers
Alberta	39	13	12	1	65
British Columbia	61	25	12	2	100
Manitoba	6	2	4	1	13
New Brunswick	5	4	1	1	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	2	4	0	18
Northwest Territories	1	1	1	1	4
Nova Scotia	15	8	5	3	31
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	110	56	44	9	219
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	0	1
Quebec	46	7	21	2	76
Saskatchewan	12	3	2	4	21
Yukon	0	0	1	0	1
Canada (total)	307	121	108	24	560

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

Province	Newspaper	Website	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	44	7	4	10	65
British Columbia	64	20	12	4	100
Manitoba	6	1	1	5	13
New Brunswick	6	3	0	2	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	1	2	1	18
Northwest Territories	1	1	1	1	4
Nova Scotia	25	5	0	1	31
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	153	37	9	20	219
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	1	1
Quebec	53	7	5	11	76
Saskatchewan	14	2	0	5	21
Yukon	1	0	0	0	1
Canada (total)	381	84	34	61	560