



Local News Map Data
June 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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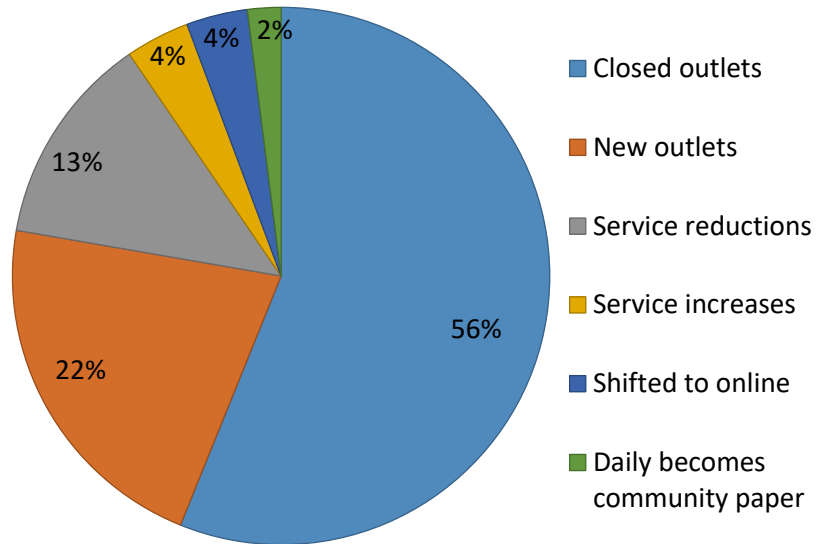
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Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 597 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and June 1, 2020.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	279
closed due to merger	56
daily (free) becomes a community paper	1
daily becomes a community paper	11
decrease in service	76
increase in service	23
new	110
new outlet produced by merger	19
shifted to online	22



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	332
daily paper - free	32
daily paper - paid	49
online	88
radio - private	24
radio - public	11
TV - private	33
TV - public	28

Breakdown of all markers by ownership:

Independent owners	131
Postmedia	71
Black Press	37
Transcontinental	36
Metroland	34
Sun Media	29
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Torstar	24
Glacier Media	21
Saltwire Network	16
Quebecor	15
Bell Media	13
Rogers Media	13
Village Media	10
Other	119

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: 335 (279 direct closings + 56 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 236

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	242
daily paper - free	28
daily paper - paid	13
online	19
radio – private	16
radio – public	6
TV – private	11
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership:

Independent	52
Postmedia	48
Transcontinental	32
Black Press	28
Sun Media	25
Torstar	23
Metroland	20
Glacier Media	16
Other	91

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: 129 (110 new outlets + 19 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 94

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	48
daily paper - free	1
online	62
radio – private	7
radio – public	3
TV – private	3
TV – public	5

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership:

Independent	64
Village Media	9
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
Lexis Media	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	3
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: 50

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 June 1, 2020)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 413

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 283 (227 direct closings + 56 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 217

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 49 (30 new outlets + 19 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 45

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 332
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 242 (189 direct closings + 53 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 196
- Total number of new community newspapers: 48 (29 new outlets + 19 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 44

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 88
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 62
- 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: 35
- Total number of new radio stations: 10
- Total number of closed radio programs: 22
- 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	41	15	12	1	69
British Columbia	62	26	12	2	102
Manitoba	14	3	4	1	22
New Brunswick	5	4	1	1	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	2	4	0	18
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	16	8	5	2	31
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	120	58	46	9	233
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	0	1
Quebec	49	9	21	2	81
Saskatchewan	14	3	2	4	23
Yukon	0	0	1	0	1
Canada (total)	335	129	110	23	597

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

Province	Newspaper	Website	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	47	8	4	10	69
British Columbia	64	21	13	4	102
Manitoba	15	1	1	5	22
New Brunswick	6	3	0	2	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	1	2	1	18
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	25	5	0	1	31
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	165	39	9	20	233
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	1	1
Quebec	58	7	5	11	81
Saskatchewan	16	2	0	5	23
Yukon	1	0	0	0	1
Canada (total)	413	88	35	61	597