

Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario (PEPSO)

note: participants can refuse to answer any or all questions in this survey

Screening Questions

1. Have you worked for pay or profit at any time in the past 3 months?

- yes
 no (If no end survey)

2. Are you (do not ask, record gender) : Male Female

3. How old are you? _____ (If <25 or >65 end survey)

Section One: Your Community

4. How would you describe your sense of belonging to your local community?

- very strong
 somewhat strong
 somewhat weak
 very weak

5. In the last 12 months, did you donate to any organization or charity? (Do not include membership fees or dues.)

- yes
 no

6. In the last 12 months, how many hours per month did you volunteer on average? _____

7. In the last 12 months, how often did uncertainty over your work schedule prevent you from volunteering?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never
- does not apply

8. In the last 12 months, how often did uncertainty over your work schedule prevent you doing things together with friends or family?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never
- does not apply

9. How easy is it for you to make fixed, ongoing volunteer commitments (e.g. weekly or monthly)?

- very easy
- easy
- neither easy nor difficult
- difficult
- very difficult

10. Are there people not living in your household who: (check all that apply)

- you feel close to and who you can talk to about what is on your mind
- might help you with occasional child care or help with small jobs around the house
- you do things together with like having a meal
- none of the above

Section Two: Your Health

11. In general, would you say your health is:

- excellent
- very good
- good
- fair
- poor

12. In general, would you say your mental health is:

- excellent
- very good
- good
- fair
- poor

13. Does a physical condition or mental condition or health problem reduce the amount or the kind of activity you can do at work:

- yes, sometimes
- yes, often
- no

Section Three: About Yourself

14. Are you: Please check one only

- White
- Chinese
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- Black
- Filipino
- Latin American
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.)
- Arab, West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- Korean, Japanese
- Aboriginal descent (North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit)
- Other (please specify) _____

15. Were you born in Canada?

- yes (Skip to question 18)
- no, then what country were you born in _____

16. How many years have you lived in Canada? _____

17. What is your current citizenship/residency status?

- Canadian citizen
- Landed immigrant
- Temporary visa with work authorization

- Refugee
- other _____

18. Are you currently enrolled as a full-time student?

- yes
- no

19. What degrees, certificates or diplomas (or equivalents) have you obtained? (Check all that apply)

- Secondary school graduation diploma
- Trade certificate or diploma from a vocational school or apprenticeship training
- Non-university certificate or diploma from a community college
- University certificate below bachelor's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- University degree or certificate above bachelor's degree
- none of the above

20. Are you currently receiving Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Ontario Works (OW) benefits?

- yes
- no

Section Four: Your Family/Household

21. Are you?

- Single/never married
- Married/common law (and not separated)
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed

22. Do you live alone?

- yes (skip to question 32)
- no

23. Other than yourself, how many adults 19 or over live in your household (this includes adult children)? _____

24. Who do you live with? (check all that apply)

- spouse/partner (if only spouse in household skip to question 30)
- parents
- siblings
- your children (if no children in household (either own or other) skip questions 25,26,27,28,29)
- other children (see above for skip conditions)
- other adults

25. How many children less than 5 are living with you at home? _____

26. How many children age 5-18 are living with you at home? _____

27. How many children over 18 are living with you at home? _____

28. In the last 3 months:

- did your employment situation (e.g. irregular schedule, night or evening work) make it difficult to access appropriate or affordable child care
- does not apply

29. In the last 12 months, for children under your care, were you able to:

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not applicable
Buy school supplies and clothing						
Pay for school trips						
Pay for activities outside of school						
Attend or volunteer at school related meetings and activities						
Volunteer at activities outside of school (sports, arts etc.)						

30. Has your spouse or partner worked for pay or profit at any time in the past 3 months?

- yes
- no (Skip to Q.32)

31. Which of the following best describes your partner's paid employment? Please check one only:

- casual (on-call, day labour)
- temporary/short term contract (less than a year)
- fixed term contract, one year or more
- self-employed-no employees
- self-employed-others work for her/him
- permanent part-time-less than 30 hour per week
- permanent full-time- hours vary from week to week and could sometimes be less than 30
- permanent full time-30 hours or more a per week

32. Have you delayed having children as a result of uncertainty regarding your employment situation?

- yes
- no

33. What was the total income from all sources (before taxes and other deductions) of all family members living in your household including yourself for the past 12 months? (Include wages, profits, pensions, investment incomes, rental income, and any other governmental transfers in your calculations.)

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000+

34. Do you provide regular financial help for anyone living outside of your household (including child support or remittances to someone outside of Canada)? yes no

35. Do you receive regular financial help from anyone living outside your household? yes no

36. In the last 12 months, have you or anyone else in your household used any of the following types of services from a community or service agency? (check all that apply)

- Neither I nor anyone else in my household has used services from a community or service agency
- Basic needs (e.g. clothing, food, housing/shelter)
- Criminal justice & legal services

- Training & education
- Health supportive services (e.g. assistive technology, counselling, independent living instruction)
- Employment services
- Individual and family life (e.g. individual and family support services, settlement supports)
- Mental health & substance abuse services
- Community services & infrastructure (e.g. advocacy, environment, public education)
- Recreation
- Other (please specify)_____

37. In the last 3 months, how often did uncertainty over your work schedule make it difficult to fulfill your household activities? (Household activities include household chores, but also helping your children and other responsibilities associated with a healthy household life.)

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never
- does not apply

38. In the last 3 months, how often did anxiety about your employment situation interfere with your personal or family life?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never

39. In the last 3 months, how often has your household found it difficult to make ends meet?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never

40. In the last 3 months, how often has your household run out of money to pay for food?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never

41. In the last 3 months, have family obligations, including caring for children or other relatives had an impact on your ability to find and keep secure permanent employment? yes no

Section Five: The job/contract that paid you the most in the last 3 months

People may experience a variety of types of jobs or contracts. They may also work at more than one type of job or several different jobs over a short period of time. In the next few questions, we would like you to think about your specific employment situation on the job that paid you the most in the last 3 months.

42. Which of the following best describes the job/contract that paid you the most in the last 3 months? Please check one only:

- casual (on-call, day labour)
- temporary/short term contract (less than a year)
- fixed term contract, one year or more
- self-employed-no employees
- self-employed-others work for me
- permanent part-time-less than 30 hour per week
- permanent full-time- hours vary from week to week and could sometimes be less than 30
- permanent full time-30 hours or more a per week

Ask Q.43 & 44 if response to Q.42 was any non-permanent type job (casual, on-call, day labour, temporary/short term contract, fixed term contract, self-employed-no employees) otherwise go to Q.45

43. How long have you been employed mainly in temporary jobs or self-employment? _____

44. Would you prefer permanent employment?

- yes
- no

45. How long have you worked at this job/contract? _____

46. Is this a unionized position?

- yes
- no

47. Which of the following best describes your work? (check one only)

- Knowledge/creative work
- Service sector work
- Manufacturing, construction, trades and transport work
- Primary sector work (fishing, farming, natural resources)

48. Which of the following best describes your work? (check one only)

- A job that usually requires a university education
- A job that usually requires a college education or apprenticeship training
- A job that usually requires secondary school and/or occupation specific training
- A job that only requires some on-the-job training

49. Would you describe this as an entry level job/contract?

- yes
- no

50. Does the following describe your current employment relationship?

I have one employer, who I expect to be working for a year from now, who provides at least 30 hours of work a week, and who pays benefits. yes no

Section Six: Your overall employment experience

In the next few questions, we would like you to think about your overall employment situation which may involve more than one job/contract.

51. On average, how long have your jobs/contracts lasted in the last 12 months? _____

52. Do you usually get paid if you miss a day's work? yes no

53. In the last 12 months, how did you find work? (check all that apply)

- Through family or friends
- Temporary help agency
- Recruitment agency
- Community or government employment agency
- Other
- Does not apply

54. Are you a salaried employee?

- yes
- no

55. In the last 12 months, how much did your income vary from week to week?

- a great deal
- a lot
- some
- a little
- not at all

56. How satisfied are you with your current employment situation?

- very satisfied
- satisfied
- dissatisfied
- very dissatisfied

57. In the last 3 months, how often did you work on an on-call basis? (That is, you have no set schedule, and your employer calls you in only when there is work)

- all the time
- most of the time
- half the time
- some of the time
- never

58. In the last 3 months, what portion of your paid hours came from temporary employment agencies?

- all
- most
- half
- some
- none

59. In the last 3 months, how many paid hours have you been working on average per week? _____

60. In the last 3 months, how many weeks did you have no work? _____

61. In the last 3 months, how many weeks did you work more than 48 hours? _____

62. In the last 3 months, what portion of your employment income was received in cash?

- most
- about half
- less than half
- none

63. In the last 3 months, how often were you not paid wages or salary owed?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never

64. In the last 3 months, how many days did you spend looking for work?

- every day
- most days
- half the days
- some days
- none

65. Would your current employment be negatively affected if you raised a health and safety concern or raised an employment rights concern with your employer(s)?

- very likely
- likely
- somewhat likely
- not likely
- not likely at all

66. To what extent is the amount of paid work you are provided affected by day to day evaluations of your work performance? (e.g. the number of hours asked to work, the renewal of contracts etc.)

- a great deal
- a lot
- some
- a little
- not at all

67. In the last 3 months, how often did you experience discrimination by supervisors, co-workers, and/or customers while at work? (That is, discrimination based on your race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, or similar grounds)

- often
- sometimes
- never
- unsure

68. In the last 3 months, how often did you experience harassment by supervisors, co-workers, and/or customers while at work? (e.g. aggressive behaviour, physical assault, yelling, sexual harassment, threats, or bullying)

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never

69. My job(s)/contract(s) offer me good prospects for career advancement.

- agree strongly
- agree
- disagree
- disagree strongly

70. How likely will your income in 6 months be the same or higher than your current income?

- very likely
- likely
- somewhat likely
- not likely
- not likely at all

71. How likely will your total hours of paid employment be reduced in the next 6 months?

- very likely
- likely
- somewhat likely
- not likely
- not likely at all

72. In the last 12 months, have you had any training to upgrade your skills and improve your employability? (Check all that apply)

- Paid for by your employer
- Paid for by you
- Paid for by a government program
- Have not had any training

73. In the last 12 months, how many jobs/contracts have you had? _____

74. In the last 12 months, what is the most number of jobs/contracts you have held at the same time? _____

75. How often is discrimination a barrier for you in getting work?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never
- unsure

76. What was your total employment income (before taxes and deductions) from the work you did over the past 12 months?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000+

77. Does your current employer(s) provide a private retirement income plan such as a pension plan, or a contribution to an RRSP (CPP does not count)?

- yes
- no
- does not apply

78. Do you receive any other employment benefits from your current employer(s) such as a drug plan, vision, dental, life insurance etc.?

- yes
- no (skip to Q.80 if no)
- does not apply
- don't know

79. Are any members of your household covered by these other benefits?

- yes
- no
- not applicable
- don't know

80. Are you covered by any of these benefits as a result of someone else's employment in your household?

- yes
- no
- does not apply
- don't know

81. Do you know your work schedule at least one week in advance?

- always
- most of the time
- half the time
- some of the time
- never

82. How often does your work schedule change unexpectedly?

- often
- sometimes
- rarely
- never