

Mission Statement:

Income inequality is a serious issue around the world, and Canada is not immune to it. One of the first steps to dealing with a problem is visualizing the effects of that problem. I-Cubed is a way of exploring a small portion of this issue in Hamilton.

Are areas with substantial income inequality getting easy access to the services they need?

This is something our group *The Equalizers* hopes to tackle with 'I-Cubed'. Every Canadian deserves easy access to the necessities for a healthy, happy, and fulfilling life. However, low-income areas, or areas of cities with high income inequality, seem to be left out from the provision of essential services that ensure *everyone* can see their needs met.

- This means everyone should be able to *easily* access services for finding employment, to improve their financial situation, or get into a job they would prefer.
- This means everyone should be able to *easily* get to the necessary healthcare provider for their health needs -- regardless of what those needs are.
- This means everyone should be able to *easily* attend an educational institution, that will provide them the necessary tools for employment, or to fulfill their individual, intellectual curiosity.

To us, easy access means you don't *need* a car to get to it. You should be able to easily walk, bike, or take public transportation to where you need to go. To us, this is the best way to deal with systemic inequalities involving access to services like education, employment assistance, and healthcare. **Identify areas that are unequal, look at the access to essential services in these neighbourhoods, and address access issues when they present themselves.**

What makes I-Cubed Useful?

I-Cubed is a tool for the public and policy-makers to explore income inequality in the city of Hamilton, and evaluate different neighbourhoods' access to crucial services like education, healthcare, and employment help. By using an important inequality indicator – the Gini Coefficient – and unique tools in the ArcGIS Online platform, the app provides a user-friendly means of comparing income disparity in Hamilton neighbourhoods (such as through the Swipe Widget).

Gini Coefficient data does not appear to be easily available in Canada – especially at such a granular geographic level.

Moreover, the Near Me Widget, and Infographics displayed at the bottom of the user-interface provide a thorough review of neighbourhoods' access to important services that play a role in aiding all members of society – thus providing opportunities to lessen the income disparities in some regions.