**Level Two Project - Contemporary Canadian Issues**

**Instructors, here are some ideas to help your students get started. Please do not share this handout with your students. The goal for this project is to have students think about issues within their own communities.**

**To get started, you can provide a list of any number of the categories below and ask the students to identify problems or issues that they are aware of related to one or multiple topics. From there, students can be given the task to do some preliminary brainstorming to learn more and settle on a topic before writing their proposal.**

1. Housing Affordability: Toronto, in general, has faced challenges related to affordable housing, and smaller communities within the city may also struggle with rising real estate prices and limited affordable housing options.

2. Gentrification: Some smaller communities in Toronto may experience gentrification, leading to changes in the neighbourhood's character, increased property values, and potential displacement of long-time residents.

3. Transportation and Infrastructure: Smaller communities may face issues related to inadequate public transportation, road maintenance, and other infrastructure concerns. Accessibility and connectivity are vital for the well-being of these communities.

4. Diversity and Inclusion: Embracing diversity and fostering inclusion is an ongoing concern in many communities. Striking a balance between cultural preservation and integration can be a challenge.

5. \*\*Economic Development:\*\* Smaller communities may grapple with economic challenges, including limited job opportunities and the need for sustainable economic development strategies.

6. Environmental Sustainability: Urban planning and development often impact the environment. Balancing growth with environmental sustainability is crucial to maintaining a high quality of life.

7. Community Engagement: Encouraging community involvement and participation in decision-making processes is essential for fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring that the diverse needs of residents are considered.

8. Public Health: Health-related issues, such as access to healthcare services, mental health support, and responses to public health crises, are crucial considerations for any community.

9. Education: Ensuring access to quality education and addressing disparities in educational outcomes may be a concern for smaller communities within Toronto.

10. Cultural Preservation: Smaller communities may strive to preserve and promote their unique cultural identities in the face of urbanization and globalization.

Some other suggestions:

* Navigating the medical system in Ontario
* Renaming of Yonge and Dundas Square
* Analysing settlement services for newcomers
* Finding qualified childcare services for newcomers
* Identifying a local charity that is giving back to a community