

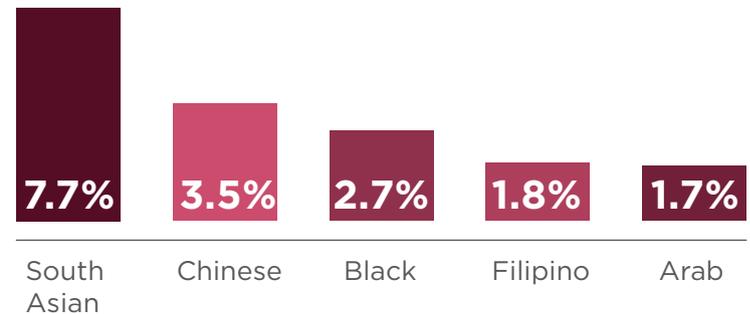
FROM DIVERSITY TO INCLUSION

“Diversity will not automatically lead to inclusion. A policy that only recognizes differences will not remove barriers to access or make an organization truly representative of its community.”

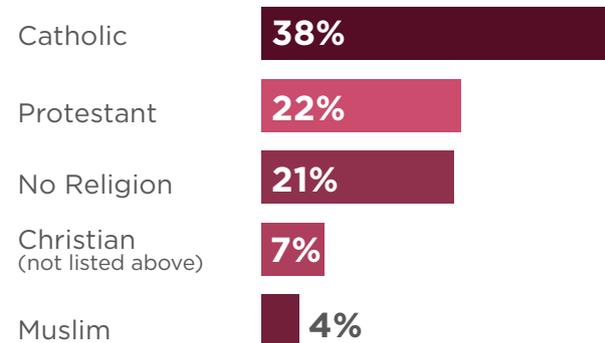
– Paula Lam, Equity and Diversity Coordinator, Halton Equity and Diversity Roundtable

Oakville is becoming increasingly more diverse. The population is aging and growing. New cultural infrastructure—places of worship, community centres and celebrations—are bringing new vitality to an established community.

Largest Visible Minority Groups in Oakville³⁴



Religion in Oakville³⁵



The Interfaith Council of Halton is working to develop mutual understanding and respect among high school students of different faiths through the Interfaith Youth Festival. The annual event offers Grade 11 students an opportunity to share their faith traditions, learn from their peers and ask questions during an open Town Hall forum. Pre- and post-event survey comparisons have shown an 80 per cent increase in understanding of other faiths as a result of the festival.³⁶

MORE OPPORTUNITIES ARE NEEDED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Full inclusion in the community is still a goal for people with disabilities, especially older adults who need age-appropriate services and opportunities to be with their peers.³⁹

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH

Although there is growing awareness of the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity, LGBTQ+ youth often report that they don't feel safe or supported in the Oakville community.⁴⁰ Local agencies are working to change that.

The Positive Space Network in Halton offers training and accreditation for local agencies, and programs and events for LGBTQ+ youth and their families.

SAVIS of Halton provides counselling services to transgender and genderfluid survivors of violence, sexual assault and childhood abuse.

AGE-FRIENDLY OAKVILLE IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE

Age-friendly communities, designed to help older adults live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved, can benefit the whole community.³⁷ The Oakville age-friendly plan is expected by the end of 2015.³⁸

