



**Local News Map Data
February 1, 2022**

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The Local News Map is a crowd-sourced resource that tracks what is happening to local newspapers, broadcast outlets and online/digital news sources 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 along with the latest data is produced every two months and archived [here](#), summarizes the information available on the map.

The Local News Map displays markers that represent changes to free local daily newspapers, paid subscription local daily newspapers, community newspapers (published fewer than five days per week), private/public radio stations, private/public television stations and online/digital news sources, including online radio stations, newsletters, web-based digital news sites and other online formats as they emerge.

The following types of changes to local news operations are recorded on the map:

- the closing or launch of a news outlet
- service improvements such as a new or extended local television newscast
- service reductions such as a reduction in the number of times a newspaper publishes per week
- mergers of local news outlets that result in the launch of a new entity and/or the closing of an existing news operation
- local free daily newspapers that become community newspapers
- local paid-subscription daily newspapers that become community newspapers
- local news operations that shift to making content available online only

A local news organization is defined as a news outlet that maintains independence from those it covers, demonstrates a commitment to accuracy and transparency in reporting methods, and is devoted primarily to reporting and disseminating timely, originally produced news about people, places, issues and events in a defined geographic area.

When users click on a map marker, a pop-up box displays the name and owner of the news outlet along with information on what changed, the community name, when the change occurred, language of operation and links to the source of information about the change. Filters allow users to sort the markers by news outlet ownership, media type and type of change.

The information that registered users add to the map about changes to local newspaper, radio, television and online/digital news sources is displayed using color-coded markers. Map administrators also regularly add markers. The fact that the pace of change is steady but slow helps ensure the accuracy of map data because, with fewer than a dozen markers typically added each month, administrators are able to verify each crowd-sourced submission. This includes reviewing the contents of links that provide details of the change that has occurred. These links are published with the markers so the source of the information is clear to map users. The journalists, researchers, journalism students, media owners and community members who visit the site and are quick to point out errors also constitutes a form of quality control for the data.

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). Funding for this project has been provided by the Rossy Foundation, the [Ken and Debbie Rubin Public Interest Advocacy Fund](#), the [Canadian Geospatial and Open Data Research Partnership](#), the Canadian Media Union/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).

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Visit the map: <https://localnewsmap.geolive.ca/>

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Worth noting

General

- between 2008 and February 1, 2022, a total of 451 news operations have closed in 324 communities across Canada
- community newspapers, which publish fewer than five times per week, account for most of the closings (344)
- 184 new local news outlets launched between 2008 and February 1, 2022, in 128 communities

Since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020:

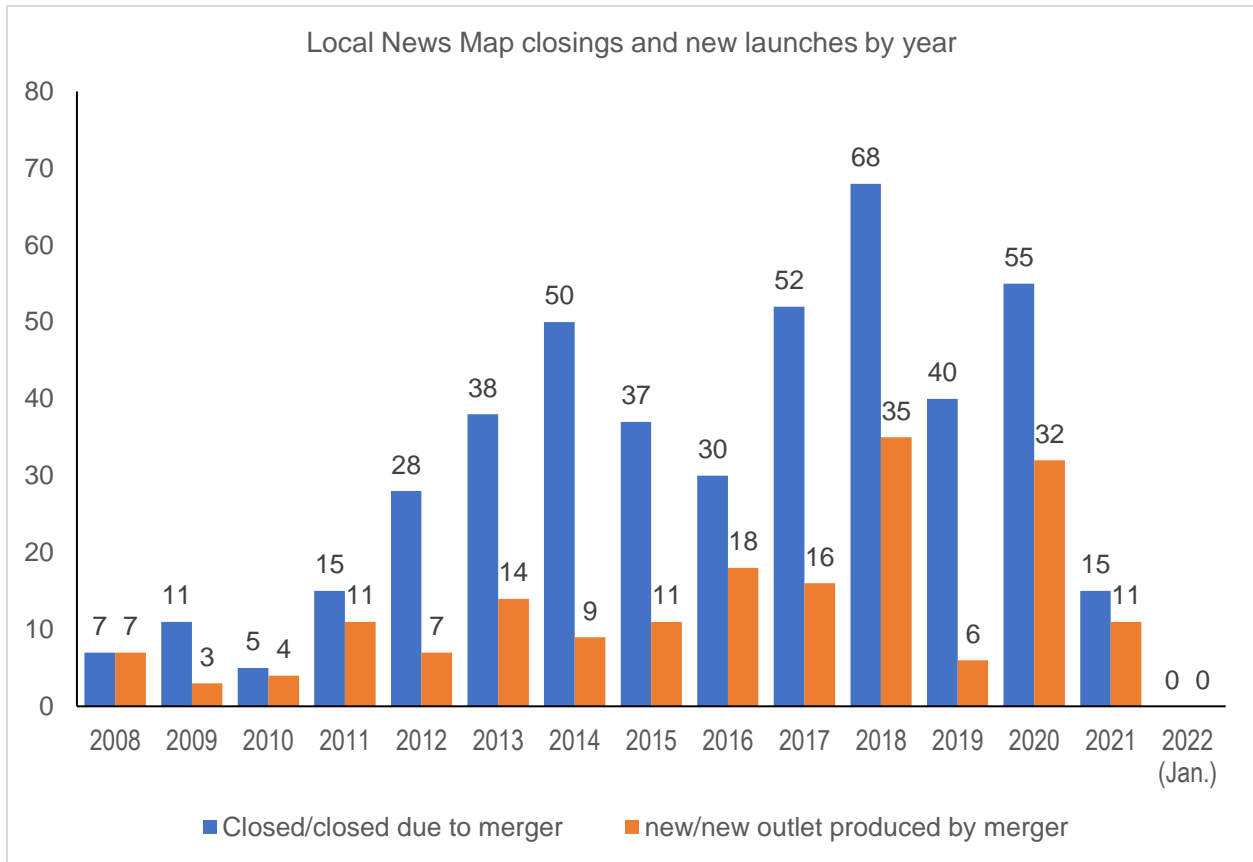
- 64 news outlets have permanently closed including one online/digital news source, one TV station, 10 radio stations and 52 community newspapers that published fewer than five times per week
- 14 daily newspapers have cut one or more print editions
- 5 community newspapers have shifted completely online
- 39 new local news outlets have launched – two TV stations, four radio stations, seven community newspapers and 26 online/digital news sources
- 12 community newspapers closed in Manitoba (Glacier Media closed four in September and Postmedia closed eight in May)
- 10 community newspapers closed in Alberta (Great West Newspapers merged 10 local newspapers into three regional newspapers between the end of March and early April 2020)
- 12 community newspapers closed in Atlantic Canada. One independent newspaper closed in March 2020 and SaltWire Network announced the permanent closing of 11 newspapers in March 2021, one year after they were temporarily shut down.

For additional information on the pandemic's impact on media in Canada, including changes that to date have been labelled temporary, visit the [COVID-19 Media Impact Map for Canada](#).

Since the last Local News Map update on December 1, 2021:

- Eight new markers representing changes to local news media have been added to the map. Some of these new entries date back as far as 2008 but we just learned of them.
- Toronto Standard online newspaper closed in 2015 in Ontario
- Bengali Times online newspaper launched in 2008 in Ontario; Weekly Bangla Mail community newspaper launched in 2012 in Ontario; Afros In Tha City news website launched in 2020 in Alberta; Tri-Cities Dispatch online newsletter and website launched in 2021 in British Columbia; and Gameday London, InsideWaterloo and The Hoser news websites launched in 2021 in Ontario

Local News Map data

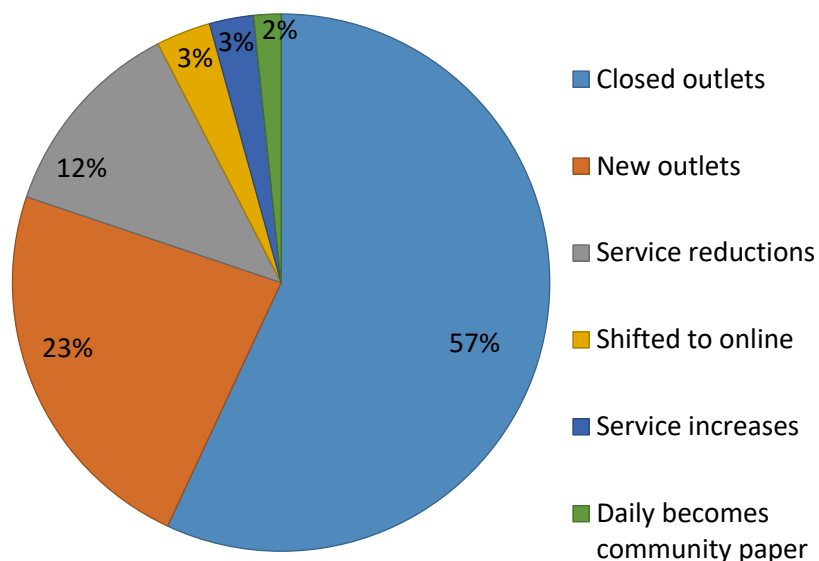


Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 792 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and February 1, 2022.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	349
closed due to merger	102
daily (free) becomes a community paper	3
daily becomes a community paper	10
decrease in service	97
increase in service	21
new	152
new outlet produced by merger	32
shifted to online	26



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	453
daily paper - free	34
daily paper - paid	59
online/digital	122
radio - private	44
radio - public	11
TV - private	41
TV - public	28

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	173
Postmedia	86
Black Press	43
Transcontinental	38
Metroland	37
Torstar	35
Glacier Media	34
SaltWire Network	29
Sun Media	29
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Bell Media	25
Rogers Media	17
Great West Newspapers	16
Quebecor	16
Star News Inc.	12
Village Media	11
Other	163

¹Only owners associated with more than 10 markers are listed except in the case of independent owners

²Owners with fewer than 3 media properties

Local news outlets that have closed since 2008

Total number of closings: 451 (349 direct closings + 102 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 324

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	344
daily paper - free	27
daily paper - paid	13
online/digital	24
radio – private	25
radio – public	6
TV – private	12
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	72
Postmedia	57
Transcontinental	34
Black Press	32
Glacier Media	28
Sun Media	25
SaltWire Network	24
Metroland	23
Torstar	22
Great West Newspapers	13
Star News Inc.	11
Other	110

¹Only owners associated with more than 10 markers are listed except in the case of independent owners

²Owners with fewer than 3 media properties

Newly launched local news outlets since 2008

Total number of markers representing new outlets: 184 (152 new outlets + 32 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 128

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	66
daily paper - free	1
online/digital	91
radio – private	13
radio – public	3
TV – private	5
TV – public	5

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	84
Torstar	10
Village Media	10
Metroland	7
Rogers Media	6
Bell Media	5
Black Press	5
The Discourse	5
CBC/Radio-Canada	4
Glacier Media	4
TVO	4
Your Community Voice	4
Other	36

¹Only owners associated with more than 3 markers are listed except in the case of independent owners

²Owners with fewer than 3 media properties

Increases in service since 2008

Total number of service increases: 21
Number of affected communities: 19

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	2
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	2
online/digital	7
radio - private	0
radio - public	1
TV - private	8
TV - public	1

Note: Examples of service increases include longer local newscasts, the launch of a new local news program, increased frequency of publication for newspapers

Decreases in service since 2008

Total number of service reductions: 97
Number of affected communities: 52

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	19
daily paper - free	2
daily paper - paid	31
online/digital	0
radio - private	6
radio - public	1
TV - private	16
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 February 1, 2022)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 546

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 384 (282 direct closings + 102 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 300

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 67 (35 new outlets + 32 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 61

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 452
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 344 (245 direct closings + 99 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 282
- Total number of new community newspapers: 66 (34 new outlets + 32 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 61

ONLINE/DIGITAL

- Total number of markers representing changes at online/digital news sources: 122
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 91
- Total number of closed online news sites: 24
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 7

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 55
- Total number of new radio stations: 16
- Total number of closed radio programs: 31
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 7
- Total number of radio station service increases: 1

TELEVISION

- Total number of markers representing changes to television stations: 69
- Total number of new TV stations: 10
- Total number of closed TV stations: 12
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 38
- Total number of TV station service increases: 9

Provincial data for changes to local news media since 2008

Breakdown of changes to local news outlets by province/territory

Province/territory	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	56	22	14	0	92
British Columbia	74	33	16	2	125
Manitoba	23	5	5	1	34
New Brunswick	11	6	1	1	19
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	0	3	0	23
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	22	10	4	2	38
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	135	86	51	9	281
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	0	2
Quebec	74	14	33	1	122
Saskatchewan	34	7	4	4	49
Yukon	0	0	2	0	2
Canada (total)	451	184	136	21	792

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

Province/territory	Newspaper	Online/ digital	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	67	10	4	11	92
British Columbia	75	26	18	6	125
Manitoba	25	1	3	5	34
New Brunswick	12	5	0	2	19
Newfoundland and Labrador	19	1	2	1	23
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	31	6	0	1	38
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	184	61	16	20	281
Prince Edward Island	1	0	0	1	2
Quebec	86	9	11	16	122
Saskatchewan	42	2	0	5	49
Yukon	2	0	0	0	2
Canada (total)	546	122	55	69	792