Geog 3010
Fall-Winter 2018-19
Assignment #2: City Profile
City Profile

• Research and prepare a report on one major Canadian city, selected from the list below:
  • Montreal QC
  • Vancouver BC
  • Edmonton AB
  • Halifax NS
City Profile

• Your report should attempt an interpretive summary of the following major features:
Economy

• The city's overall economy. Economic specialties.
• The FIRE sector (Finance Real Estate and Insurance).
• What role does the city play as a place for corporate headquarters?
• What is happening in the land market of the city core?
• What is happening in the city's retail sector?
• Look at aspects of the city's creative economy, including education and training, the city's music, arts and cultural scene. What role does it play as a media and telecommunications centre?
Living Space

• What is happening in the city's suburbs? What is the housing market like, what are the issues of sprawl? Who are the major corporate players in suburban real estate and construction? What role is government playing in the suburbs? Are the suburbs textured by ethnicity?

• Is land being converted to residential downtown or in former industrial sites?

• Which social and ethnic groups find themselves marginalised or excluded, or lower status in the social order?
Environment

• What is happening to the city's environment? Is there a smog problem? a garbage disposal problem? a problem with traffic, transit or gridlock? Is the city developing public transit?
Society

• What about the city's social landscape. Does it face issues of income inequality, poverty, homelessness, of severely disadvantaged groups. What are the main characteristics of the city's population? What is the status of aboriginal people in the city? You will need to look up the census data here.

• Take a look at the city's politics, and get a sense of what issues are in the forefront of the city's political culture.
Research Resources

- **CBCA-Complete:**
- Statscan: Statistics Canada offers a wealth of data, including census and economic data on urban areas. [York University Libraries](http://www.yorku.ca/library/) provide some specialised help for those interested in Statscan data.
- Maps: [York University Map Library](http://www.yorku.ca/library/maps/) has an excellent collection of urban maps and plans for the city you are studying. [Google Maps](http://www.google.com/maps) and Streetview allow you to explore the place online.
- Plus scholarly publications
Write-up

• At some point you have to write up what you have found out.
• Don’t just regurgitate facts.
• Use the write-up to analyse, interpret the city, to offer theory about it, and to build the write-up around these ideas.
Documentation

• Grading will look at how well you did the research.
• The write-up needs to be informed by the research.
• Use the research in the write-up, involve diagrams, tables etc., in the body of the text.
• You need to document it, and the sources used (bibliography, citations).
  • For online sources which were originally printed, you need to cite page numbers, if available.
Housekeeping

• Assignment #2 is due 3 Dec 2018 by 4 pm in the drop box on the north 4\textsuperscript{th} floor of Ross, by the elevators.
• Length: similar to assignment #1, 6-8 pages approx.