



Let's all Meet by the Lake

Accessing Lived Experience for Equitable Waterfront

QCBE 2025 Virtual Convention
November 13, 2025
Toronto Metropolitan University

How can we all meet by the lake?

563 lakes $\geq 100 \text{ km}^2$

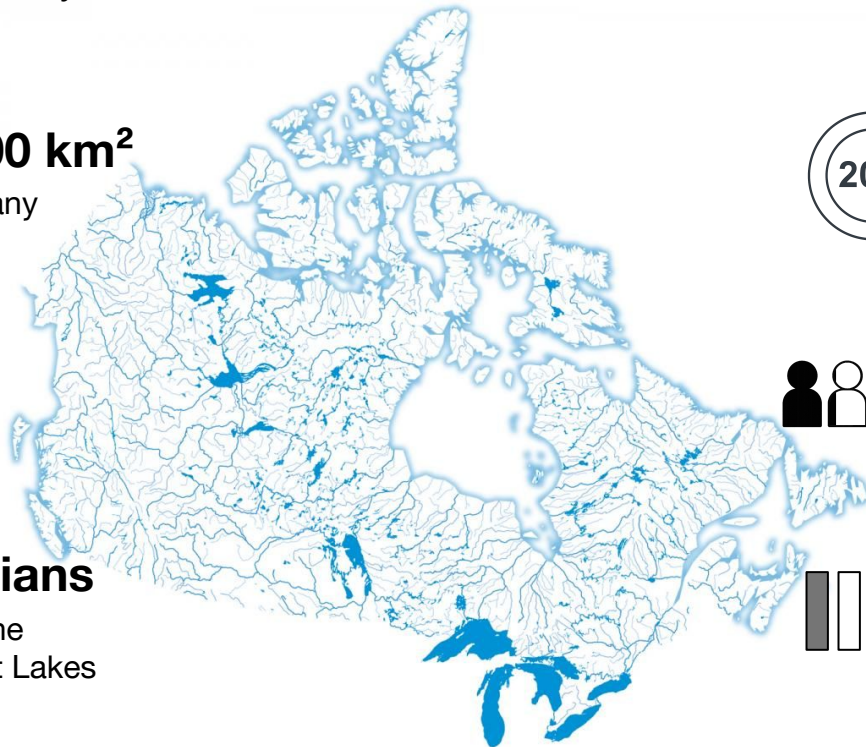
More lake area than any
other country

243,042 km

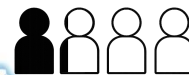
the world's longest
marine coastline

> 45% Canadians

live within 10 km of the
coastline or the Great Lakes



> 20% Canadians
over 65 years by 2030



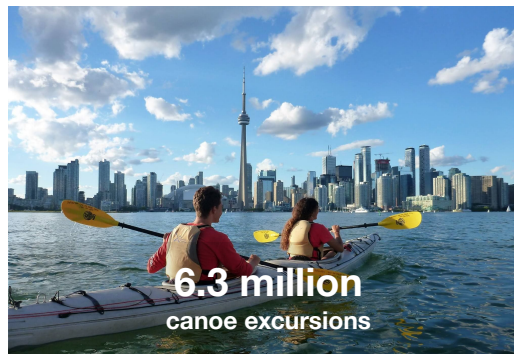
> 27% Canadians
have one or more disabilities



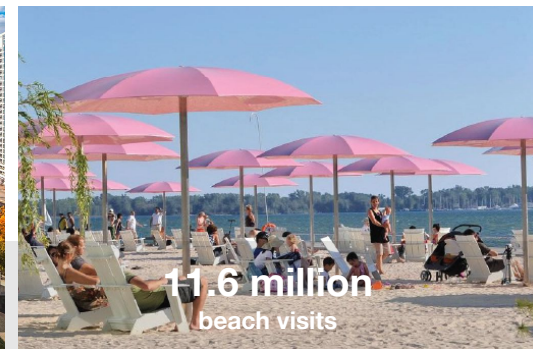
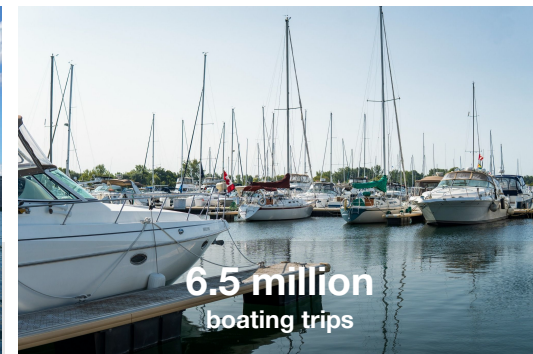
< 20% Off-Road
Pedestrian Friendly Trails
around the Great Lakes

The high volume of visits highlights the need to understand...

1. How do people **from diverse backgrounds and with varying needs** get to the waterfront and what are their experiences?
2. How can **design guidelines and award criteria** for waterfront project be expanded to better address accessibility, equity, well-being, and inclusion?



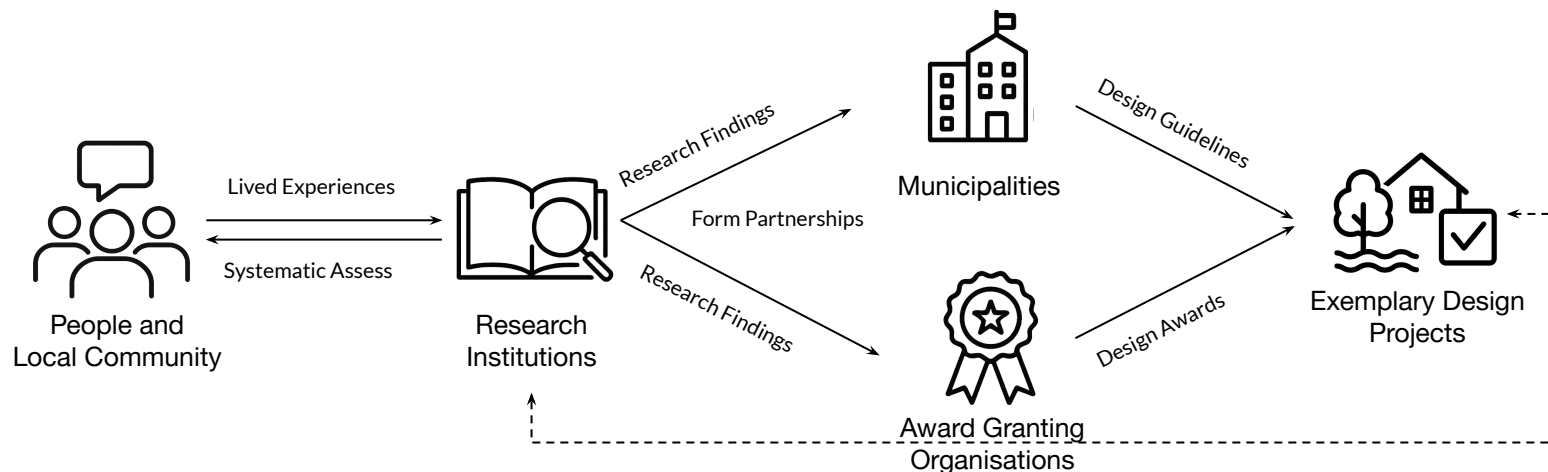
According to Harbourfront Centre (2025).



National counts in 2021, Statistics Canada (2022).

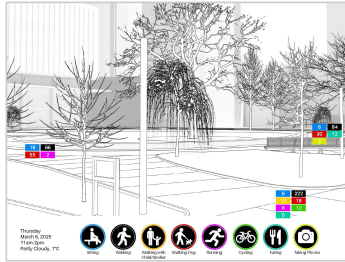
Action we propose:

To inform higher standards of design excellence, municipalities and award-giving organisations should partner with research institutions to develop a **long-term plan for **systematically** studying the lived experiences of diverse groups of people on the waterfront.**



A long-term plan to reassess the design and revise the criteria overtime

The partnership can study lived experiences using various research methods including...



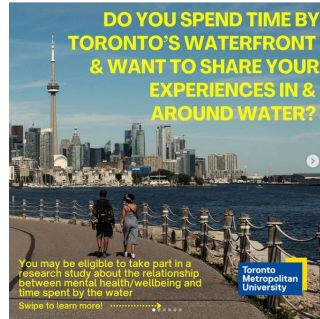
Document public life



Participant Observation



Interviews and Focus Group



Intercept Survey

.....and more

Share your lived experiences on waterfront now!



**Archi
Quali
Data** The Database on Quality, Awards of
Excellence and Lived Experience

<https://livingatlasofquality.ca/share-your-experience/>