Poverty Is Expensive

A new report from the University of Toronto's Martin Prosperity Institute shows that poverty is not just a social issue; it's an economic one with far-reaching costs.

The report, titled "The Cost of Poverty in Toronto," examines the economic impact of poverty in the city and finds that it has a ripple effect on the entire economy. The study estimates that poverty costs Toronto $10.9 billion a year, which is a staggering amount.

The report also analyzes the costs associated with poverty, such as increased healthcare costs, higher crime rates, and reduced economic productivity. It found that poverty costs the city $436 million in crime-related costs alone.

Stapleton, who has spent years understanding social assistance policy, says that this high cost of poverty is a conundrum that many large cities face. He points out that Toronto's poverty rates are high compared to other cities in North America. The study cites Toronto as being the 19th most unequal city in the world, with a gap between billionaires in the Greater Toronto Area and the rest of the city.

"We need a different kind of economy," he says. "An economy that calls for full employment, where everyone has a real chance of getting out of this poverty cycle."