A report on the overall quality of life in the city of Toronto.

Who are we? pg 11

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About the Toronto Community Foundation

Established in 1981, the Toronto Community Foundation connects philanthropy with community needs and opportunities in order to make Toronto the best place to live, work, learn, and grow. As an independent public foundation, we work with donors to create endowments and invest in the city of Toronto through philanthropy and our city building work. Our business model is built on the belief that today’s philanthropy is not simply about the allocation of funding and resources, but more so the place where the private sector and the public sector come together to develop innovative solutions to city challenges. The Community Foundation facilitates this by identifying issues in our annual Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report, convening to explore and develop solutions, and supporting these solutions through three grant programs (Vital Ideas, Vital People, Vital Youth), our collaborative city building initiatives, and our Community Knowledge Centre, an online showcase of community organizations working on solutions to issues highlighted in the Report.

About the Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report

The Community Foundation partners with many researchers to produce the Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report. The Report identifies progress we should be proud of and challenges that need to be addressed. It is a consolidated snapshot of the trends and issues affecting the quality of life in our city and each of the interconnected issue areas is critical to the well-being of Toronto and its residents. Citations at the end, and live web links throughout, will take you directly to the sources used in this year’s Report.

The Report is used by residents, businesses, community organizations, universities and colleges, and government departments. In addition, it is a model now being used for strategic planning by cities around the world.

Toronto’s Vital Signs® aims to: inspire civic engagement, provide focus for public debate, and guide donors and stakeholders who want to direct their resources to areas of greatest need. Since Toronto’s first Vital Signs publication in 2001, the Report has been adopted by 30 communities across Canada.

About Community Knowledge and Solutions

Our unique position enables us to be a catalyst for change. We facilitate dialogue on issues highlighted in the Report and mobilize hundreds of individual and family donors, a vast array of high-impact community organizations, and cross-sector leaders to tackle complex quality of life issues in creative and inspiring ways. We collaborate to develop and support innovative solutions through our grant programs, special initiatives, and Community Knowledge Centre.
The Community Knowledge Centre (CKC) is an online showcase of more than 200 community organizations working on solutions to issues identified in the Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report. Through video and prose, it provides a narrative of positive transformation taking place in our city and provides an opportunity to get involved. These stories reflect the impact of the work carried out by community organizations as they improve the quality of life in our communities. This online platform was developed in partnership with IBM.

The Community Knowledge Centre is central to what we do at the Toronto Community Foundation: connect philanthropy to community needs and opportunities. It is a natural complement to Toronto’s Vital Signs® and it answers the “now what” question, offering a jumping off point for inspiration, information and contacts that make it easy for donors and other stakeholders to connect and respond to key issues facing the community.

At the end of each issue area section in this Report, you will find live web-links to organizations on the Community Knowledge Centre that are addressing the issues through their community-based programs.

About Community Foundations

Community Foundations are independent public foundations that strengthen their communities by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments, which support community projects, and by providing leadership on issues of broad community concern.

Vital Signs® is a community check-up conducted by Community Foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Vital Signs® is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. The Vital Signs® trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada.
Toronto: “Not Too Bad” 😊

It’s that time of year when we compile all the research, consult the experts and crunch the numbers that produce the annual Toronto’s Vital Signs Report. Our Community Foundation’s report provides intriguing insights on who we are and what we are becoming and measures the quality of life in Toronto.

So, how are we doing?

To use a Torontoism: “not too bad”.

We’re the 15th most livable city in the world according to the Mercer Quality of Living Survey, the 12th in the world in competitiveness according to the Economist magazine, and Moody’s Investors Service gave the City an Aa1 credit rating for the 10th consecutive year in 2012, just one below the top Aaa.

In June 2012, 189 high-rises were under construction in Toronto, almost twice the 97 that were being built at the beginning of 2011. And when we look at individuals, we recorded the lowest levels of personal bankruptcy since 2000, a 24% decline over 2010 and a 91% drop since the peak in 2009.

“Not too bad”, at all.

This everyday Toronto phrase speaks volumes. Despite the many affirming facts and figures in this year’s Toronto’s Vital Signs, we have a sneaking feeling that all is not well. The world around us seems fragile, on the edge. After all, we are bombarded daily with reminders of how much worse things could actually be -- financial collapse, political instability, war, famine, natural disasters! It goes without saying that our “not too bad” is pretty good.

Who knew that Toronto’s film, television and commercial production would rebound in 2011, close to the peak high of 2001? Posting its strongest production spending in a decade, these sectors, along with digital media earned more than $1.13 billion from on-location shooting in Toronto in 2011.

Yes, our cultural product is strong. Toronto has the largest neighbourhood-based library system in the world welcoming more than 19 million visitors in 2011 and with circulation growing by 2.9% in one year to 33,252,235 – the highest in North America.

Our environmental credentials are not too shabby either. More than 1,000 ‘green’ organizations and businesses in the Toronto Region have already generated 20,000 jobs, with further growth predicted.

The number of buildings that met the LEED Gold standard in Toronto jumped by 88% between April 2011 and March 2012. Close to 70% of the Toronto District School Board’s 591 schools are now certified Eco Schools and 8 of Toronto’s 11 beaches are again flying ‘Blue Flags’ that identify them as some of the cleanest in the world. As residents we’re doing our part too. Per capita residential water consumption has dropped by 18% since 2003.

On the education front, the number of Toronto Region residents with a post-secondary
credential has increased by almost 20% in a decade. More than half of us over the age of 15 have a post-secondary diploma, certificate or degree. The percentage of high school graduates has also gone up from 77.1% in 2001, to 83.6% in 2011.

While we may be somewhat surprised by this rosy picture, it didn’t happen purely by chance. Up to now Toronto has managed change over time quite successfully. We are slowly finding our place in the new global economy and have reaped the benefits of welcoming the world’s best and brightest.

In a 2010 survey, almost everyone (97%) felt that the city in general is safe. This is up from 86% just one year prior. Almost 90% of Toronto high school students felt safe in and around their schools in 2010, and 80% reported that their school wasn’t violent, compared to only 67% in 2001.

These feelings of security mirror the facts. There were fewer property crimes in Toronto in 2011, continuing a six-year downward trend; the number of hate crimes reported in Toronto in 2011 was at its lowest level since statistics were first gathered in 1993; and the overall number of crimes has decreased 35% in just 5 years.

We have good reason to be optimistic, but cautiously so.

This year’s Toronto’s Vital Signs shows that Toronto has emerged as the least equitable metropolitan centre in Canada. We are the only Canadian metro to get a “C” grade on income distribution in the 2012 Toronto Board of Trade’s Scorecard on Prosperity. On this measure Toronto’s ranking among 24 global centres slipped to 16th. We are at risk of becoming a “winner-take-all” city, with profound consequences for all of us.

The poorest 20% of Canadians have more than double the rate of diabetes and heart disease, and a 60% higher rate of suffering from two or more chronic diseases, than the richest 20%.

And while most newcomers report better physical and mental health, including lower rates of depression, mood and anxiety disorders, and alcohol dependence, time here takes its toll. Longer-term immigrants are more likely than newcomers to smoke, drink heavily and be overweight or obese.

For the sixth consecutive year, Canadian children received a grade of “F” on the Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card with close to half spending three hours or less a week in active play. And in Toronto, as many as 1 in 3 children are overweight or obese. Youth are facing even more challenges with the youth unemployment rate in the Toronto Region spiking to 19.8% in 2012, up from 17% in 2011.
Looking ahead, the relentless pace of change will only accelerate. In less than twenty years there will be about twice as many seniors as youth in the GTA and more than three out of four residents will be immigrants or children of immigrants. At current rates, it is estimated that by 2025, almost 60% of Toronto neighbourhoods will be low or very low income.

Some of these shifts are very worrisome. All of them are very real.

Knowing what we know, we must plan for what’s coming. We would be wise to reject simplistic solutions and short term fixes for our complex problems, and trade in short-term spending for long-term investment. We must move beyond old patterns and embrace new voices and new approaches for the challenges ahead. We have what it takes to be so much more than a city that is just “not too bad”.

As Torontonians, we should celebrate the successes highlighted in this year’s Toronto’s Vital Signs. In the great scheme of things we are doing alright. But it takes courage to see beyond the surface and peer deeply into who we are and who we will be. It takes courage to accept our failings and overcome our fears. It takes courage to move beyond “not too bad” and dare to become “great”.

John B. MacIntyre
Chair, Board of Directors

Rahul K. Bhardwaj
President & CEO
1. “Toronto” or “the city” refers to the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, which consisted of the former cities of Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the Borough of East York. “City of Toronto” or “City” refers to the municipal government. “Province” refers to the provincial government.

2. The “Toronto Region” or “Region” refers to the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the largest metropolitan area in Canada, stretching from Ajax and Pickering on the east, to Milton on the west and New Tecumseth and Georgina on the north. Almost half the population of the Toronto Region resides in the city of Toronto.

The Toronto Region is an area slightly smaller than the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and is comprised of the city of Toronto plus 23 other municipalities: Ajax, Aurora, Bradford-West Gwillimbury, Brampton, Caledon, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Georgina Island, Halton Hills, King Township, Markham, Milton, Mississauga, Mono Township, Newmarket, Tecumseth, Oakville, Orangeville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, Uxbridge, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Vaughan.

3. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) refers to the entire area covered by the Region of Halton, Region of Peel, Region of York, Region of Durham and city of Toronto. The area is slightly larger than the CMA.

Note: The Census Metropolitan Area is the ‘Toronto Region’ referred to in this Report.
How to use this report

1. Woven through the Report this year, are a number of Vital Questions. These questions are intended to stimulate your own questions, and act as a catalyst for reflection, conversation and action. Examples have been provided below.

2. The Report is divided into 12 sections for ease of reference. However, as each issue area is closely connected to all the others, readers will discover, for example, that there are indicators dealing with ‘walkability’ in the Health and Wellness section (illustrating the connection between active transportation and health) and indicators of school children’s activities in the Environment section (indicating the connection between learning and the environment).

3. In the 2012 Report, there is no longer a separate section titled ‘Getting Started’. Instead, the health and well-being of various segments of the Toronto population (newcomers, youth, seniors and long-time residents) is highlighted in each issue area.

4. Change over time is illustrated by the use of red and green symbols. The symbol is not attached to indicators that do not include comparisons over time, or where a trend could be interpreted both positively and negatively.

   - Denotes progress
   - Denotes no progress

5. Ideas and Innovations that point the way forward for Toronto are identified with the following icon:

6. See Glossary at the end of the Report for a list of definitions.
Vital Questions

Toronto ranks 15th in liveability out of 51 global cities:
What does the world see in Toronto?

Almost 43% of Torontonians over 18 years old are overweight or obese:
Torontoonians value healthy lifestyles, but how do we get moving towards better health?

A five-year Arts Impact Study is painting a picture of the difference the arts make in the city:
How can the cultural richness of Toronto’s neighbourhoods become more visible?

With declining enrolment, at least one in five potential spaces is unfilled in Toronto schools:
What should be done with all that ‘extra’ space in Toronto’s schools?

Crime rates are roughly where they were in the 1970’s, but almost half of Canadian parents say that fear of child predators leads them to restrict kids’ outdoor play:
The numbers tell us that Toronto is getting safer, but do Torontonians feel safer?

The youth (between 15 and 24) unemployment rate in Toronto remained above 17% in 2011; that’s 51% higher than youth unemployment in 2001:
Toronto does a great job of attracting young workers, but how do we ensure attractive job opportunities for them?

The ratio of housing prices to annual incomes has climbed steadily in the Toronto Region over the past ten years:
How serious are we about resolving our affordable housing crisis?

Toronto is the least equitable metropolitan centre in Canada:
If Toronto experienced an increasing gap between rich and poor during recent boom times, what does that mean for leaner times ahead?

Recent university-educated immigrants experience the same levels of low income as non-immigrants without a high school diploma:
How can we close the employment and earnings gap between Torontonians born in Canada and those who have recently arrived?

Over the next 25-30 years, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) will need to expend $50 billion upgrading transit:
How will Toronto achieve a consensus on funding a much-needed regional transit network?

860,000 ash trees in Toronto are threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer and expected to die within the next 6 years:
Why should you get together with family and friends and plant a tree in your yard or park this year?

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Who are we?

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TORONTO’S SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS

“The demand on services in Toronto has drastically increased as the population ages. Healthy eating, active lifestyles and chronic disease self-management are key factors to improving the health and wellness of seniors, as well as easing the burden on our health care system.”

Roberta Wong  
Director Client Care and Community Services, St. Paul’s L’Amoreaux Centre
Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report 2012

Toronto’s shifting demographics:

New census figures show that Toronto’s population is close to 2.7 million people, making it the 5th most populous city in North America:

• The city’s population is 2,615,060 according to the 2011 census (20.3% of the population of Ontario and 7.8% of Canada’s 33,476,688 people). By comparison, the largest city in the U.S., New York City, comprises only 2.6% of the total U.S. population.¹
  o In each census, a certain percentage of the population is not counted, for a variety of reasons. In 2006, the undercount was 4.6% in the Toronto Region. Assuming a similar proportion in 2011, the actual population of the City of Toronto is now slightly over 2,750,000.

• Toronto’s population grew by 111,779 residents between 2006 and 2011, an increase of 4.5%, (compared with the 0.9% growth between 2001 and 2006 reported in the 2006 census). The ratio of men to women is 92:100 (down from 93:100 in 2006).

• The Toronto Region, the seventh largest metropolis in North America, experienced a growth of 9.2% in the five years between census counts. The Region grew at a much faster rate than the city alone (4.5% growth), or the province, which, at 5.7% growth between 2006 and 2011, was closer to the Canadian average growth (5.9%).²
  o 43.4% of Ontarians live in the Toronto Region, and somewhat less than half (46.8%) of the 5,583,064 people living in the Region, live in the city of Toronto.

• 18.1% of Canada’s population (close to 1 in 5 people) lives in the Greater Toronto Area (2011 population: 6,135,087).
  o Canada’s largest economic region, the GTA is part of the urban cluster known as the Greater Golden Horseshoe, home to more than 8.1 million people, almost one quarter of the population of Canada.
  o 43% of the GTA population is the city of Toronto, (down from 45.1% in 2006).
  o Between 2006 and 2011, growth rates across the 24 GTA municipalities ranged from -5.3% (Brock municipality actually shrank), to 56.4% (Milton’s growth rate).

The median age of Toronto residents rose by 2.3 years between 1996 and 2011:

• The median age in the city (the line at which half the population falls above and half below) rose from 36.9 to 39.2 years over the last 15 years. The median age for the wider Region is 38.6, compared with the Canadian median of 40.6 years. In 1996, the median age in the Toronto Region was 34.6 years.
  o Ontarians (median age: 40.4) are close to the national median, and slightly younger than residents of Nova Scotia, (43.7), British Columbia and Quebec, (both at 41.9), but older than Albertans (median: 36.5).
  o In both the city and the Region, immigration has kept the population from aging as fast as the country as a whole (the national median increased by more than 5 years over the period 1996 – 2011).³
In ten years, the proportion of Toronto’s population under the age of 15 has dropped 2.2 percentage points, to 15.3%. At the same time, the proportion over the age of 65 has risen by almost 1 percentage point, to 14.4% of the population. At some point very soon, the two groups will be the same size:

- Across the Toronto Region, the youth population was higher than the city’s (17.5% at the 2011 census count), and higher than the country’s proportion of youth (16.7%). The population of seniors in the Region was lower than the city’s, at 12.7%. The growth in the percentage of youth was the same in the city and the wider Region, but growth in the over-65 age group was higher in the Region as a whole.
  - The two fastest growing age groups in Toronto are the 60 - 64 year-olds and the over 85 year-olds (by 28.8% and 27.5% respectively, during the last census period). The numbers of children 0 - 4 years old also increased (by 4.1%). However, the population 5 - 14 and 35 - 44 years old decreased.5
As the city and the wider region continues to age, people of young working-age (25 - 44 years old), as a share of the total city residents, decreased by 4.6% over 5 years.

The population of older working-aged people (45 - 65) increased by 8.5%.7

By 2031, there will be about twice as many seniors as youth in the GTA:
- In 2011, close to half of the GTA’s seniors (48%) lived in Toronto (even though the city makes up only 43% of the GTA population).8
Immigration drives the Toronto Region’s growth and potential:

- Economic immigrants in particular are generally younger than the already resident population, have larger families, and compensate somewhat for the country’s low birthrate.
  - Between 2000 and 2011, the natural increase of population in the city of Toronto was just over 146,000 births. International migration swelled the city’s population by more than 648,500 permanent and temporary residents. Factoring in migration within Ontario (5,950 people) and between provinces (552,000 people) resulted in a net population growth of 236,650 in that period.9

Ontario and the Toronto Region receive a smaller share of immigrants as settlement patterns shift:

- Since the early 2000s, immigrants have been settling in higher numbers in the cities surrounding the city of Toronto (primarily to access more affordable housing). By 2006, three cities in the Region beyond the city had higher proportions of foreign-born populations than Toronto (Markham: 56.6%; Mississauga: 51.6% and Richmond Hill: 51.5%). Toronto had just surpassed the 50% mark in 2006.
- After peaking in 2001, with a 60% share of all newcomers to Canada, Ontario received only 40% in 2011. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick more than doubled their intake during that period.

Number of New Permanent Residents, Toronto Region, 1998 - 2011:

- In 2011, 77,739 new permanent residents made their home in the Toronto Region (31% of all the 248,600 immigrants arriving in Canada that year and a 19.6% decrease from the year before). Ontario immigration levels were down almost 28% in 2011.10
- In contrast to immigration figures, numbers of temporary foreign workers continued to climb in the Toronto Region. 54,115 foreign workers joined the Region’s workforce in 2011 (an 8.3% increase over 2010). Numbers across the country rose (on average by 6.3%), except in Manitoba and the Yukon.

- In 2012, the Toronto Region expects to welcome about 85,000 international immigrants. In 3 - 4 years, however, that number is anticipated to exceed 110,000 – equivalent to the entire town of Ajax being absorbed into the Toronto Region every year.

Sources of Migration to the Toronto Region, projected to 2016:

![Graph showing migration sources]

- **F = forecast**
- **Note:** Net interprovincial migration is expected to be negligible over the next 5 years.

8 out of 10 immigrants arriving in the Toronto Region are members of a racialized minority:

- 27% of the immigrants arriving between 2001 and 2006 self-identified as South Asian, and 20% as Chinese.
  - In less than 20 years, 63% of the Toronto Region’s population (5.6 million people) will likely be members of racialized minorities (up from 47% in 2006). By 2031 more than 3 in 4 residents (78%) of the city of Toronto will probably be immigrants or children of immigrant parents.
    - South Asians will likely remain the largest racialized population, tripling in size to 2.1 million residents.
    - Chinese are expected to be the second largest, doubling in the next two decades, to 1.1 million (mostly as a result of immigration rather than high birth rates).
    - Arab and West Asian populations are also expected to grow substantially, each comprising more than 200,000 people.
Toronto on the World Stage

- Numerous studies appear each year, ranking large global metropolitan regions on measures such as prosperity, economic strength, competitiveness and liveability. Although researchers question the methodologies used to compare cities in some studies, the following gives a general impression of Toronto’s ranking on the world stage:

5th in prosperity: (out of 24 global metropolitan regions)
- The fourth annual Toronto Board of Trade Scorecard on Prosperity again measured the Toronto Region and 23 other major global metropolises on 33 indicators, grouped under the headings ‘economy’ and ‘labour attractiveness’. Overall, the Region ranked 5th (up from 8th spot last year) behind Calgary (in 4th place), but well ahead of Vancouver (16th), Montréal (18th) and Halifax (19th).
  - Toronto remains a leader (in 5th place) in providing an environment attractive to labour, primarily on the strength of its relative safety and affordability, its highly diverse workforce and its attractiveness to international visitors.
  - In a few areas, the Toronto Region outperforms all the U.S. regions included in the study. Corporate taxes are lower and professional employment is considerably higher.
  - The Region was in 3rd place (after London and Hong Kong) in knowledge-driven occupations. Boston was in 7th place and San Francisco 9th.
  - On other measures, notably income inequality, prevalence of non-auto travel modes and population in the 25-35 year age group, the Region falls to the bottom half of the rankings.
- The Board of Trade again expressed concern about Toronto’s continuing mediocre economic performance. The Region’s standings on per capita gross domestic product (GDP) (17th), GDP growth (16th), productivity (17th), productivity growth over 5 years (19th) and venture capital investment (10th of 12 cities measured), show an economy that it is slipping further behind leading U.S. metropolitan areas.

15th in liveability:
- The Mercer Quality of Living Survey ranked Toronto 15th in 2011 (among 51 global cities) close to the spot it has occupied for the past 6 years, after 5th placed Vancouver and 14th placed Ottawa. European cities continue to dominate the ranking, with Honolulu still the highest placed U.S. city (at #29).
  - When the cities were ranked on the measure of personal safety, Luxemburg topped the list with Bern, Helsinki and Zurich tied for 2nd. Toronto, Calgary, Montréal, Ottawa, and Vancouver were all tied for 17th place.
13th in domestic purchasing power:
- Based on a review of the cost of a basket of 122 basic goods and services (including rent) in 72 major global metropolises, 30 cities – including Montréal, Miami and Chicago – were more expensive than Toronto in 2012.
- Purchasing power is higher in Toronto than in many places in the world when net hourly wages are factored in (deducting taxes and social security contributions). Average Toronto wages purchased more goods and services in only 12 cities in 2012. (Toronto was in 17th spot in 2009). Zurich, Sidney and Luxembourg occupied the top 3 spots in 2012.
  - One way of measuring purchasing power is by comparing how long someone has to work to buy an identical, readily available product. Out of 72 cities, workers in Toronto rank with Luxembourg and Chicago, in having to work 11 minutes to earn the price of a Big Mac. (1 minute less than in 2009). On average in the global cities surveyed in 2012, it took 28 minutes to earn a Big Mac.17

12th in competitiveness (out of 120 global cities):
- The Economist’s Global City Competitiveness Index used 8 measures to rank 120 of the world’s cities on competitiveness – their ability to attract capital, businesses, talent and visitors.
  - Toronto scored well in the areas of financial maturity, institutional effectiveness, social and cultural character, human capital and global appeal. It was weaker in the areas of economic strength, physical capital and environment and natural hazards.
  - The research determined that cities don’t have to be large to be competitive, but density helps.
  - China’s burgeoning cities, many with double digit annual growth rates, have an economic competitive advantage (on the measure of economic strength Tianjin, Shenzhen and Dalian are the top ranked global cities), but older established cities like Toronto are still more capable of attracting global talent.18
4th as the best place for a tech start-up (out of 25 economic regions):

- The Startup Genome, the brainchild of two young San Francisco entrepreneurs, examines the factors behind the success of start-up companies, and the environments in which they can thrive. Toronto ranks 4th on a list of 25 global metropolises that provide fertile “ecosystems” for successful start-ups.
  - Silicon Valley (San Francisco, Palo Alto, San Jose, Oakland), is clearly still the global leader (3 times larger than New York City) in providing a critical network of support, including financial and human capital, technology and mentorship. Vancouver ranked 16th and Montreal 22nd.
  - Start-ups are major players in creating jobs and wealth. Over the last 30 years, companies less than 5 years old accounted for 44 million jobs (all new net job growth) in the U.S.¹⁹

1. Silicon Valley
2. New York City
3. London
4. Toronto
5. Tel Aviv
6. Los Angeles
7. Singapore
8. Sao Paulo
9. Bangalore
10. Moscow
HEALTH & WELLNESS

“Health equity and access to the determinants of health [including housing] are prerequisites for a healthy and vibrant community. We need to ensure equal opportunities for health and well-being for all residents of Toronto, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.”

Carolina Berinstein
Manager, Access and Equity, Canadian Mental Health Association - Toronto Branch
Health and Wellness:

The City of Toronto’s health check-up:

1,457,614 people (62.5% of the city population) – report good or excellent physical health

269,405 people (11.7% of the population) – report being in fair or poor health

1,678,317 people (73.2% of the population) – feel that their mental health is good or excellent

149,666 people (6.5% of Toronto residents) – judge themselves to be in fair or poor mental health

593,016 people – (26.5% of Torontonians over the age of 15) perceive most days as quite a bit, or extremely stressful

176,983 people (7.6% of the city population) – have been diagnosed with diabetes

370,354 people (15.9% of the Toronto population) – are daily or occasional smokers

263,919 people (11.4% of Toronto’s population) – have more than 5 drinks on a single occasion, at least once a month

960,881 people (41.9% of the population) – report that they are at least moderately active during leisure time

1,330,320 people (58%) – say that they are inactive during their leisure time*

870,076 people – (42.8% of Torontonians over the age of 18) report being overweight or obese**

* Respondents are classified as active, moderately active or inactive based on an index of daily physical activity over the previous three months.

** Using a calculation of body mass index (BMI) based on the respondent’s weight and height.
Health risks are changing in Toronto, but poverty reduction and good neighbourhood design can mitigate those risks and improve health:

- Chronic disease is now the chief cause of death and disability across Canada. Chronic diseases, such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS and obesity, are unevenly distributed in the population because health is so closely linked to good housing, healthy food, parks and recreational facilities, safe, well-designed neighbourhoods, transportation, educational opportunity, and uncontestably, to income. Lack of income impacts physical and mental health by restricting access to all of the above, and increasing the likelihood of damaged social relationships and isolation. 

How should we address the health impacts of chronic disease in Toronto?

An update of Toronto’s Diabetes Atlas finds that prevalence of Type 2 diabetes has doubled in a decade in the city’s northwest and east. In some neighbourhoods, one in five people is living with the disease:

- The 2007 Toronto Diabetes Atlas has been updated to include all of Ontario. The new study finds that two-thirds of people with Type 2 diabetes are in Ontario’s large urban centres and almost half are in the GTA.
  - 1 in 10 adults in the city of Toronto was living with diabetes in March 2011. Areas of northwest and east Toronto have some of the highest prevalence rates in Ontario, outside some northern and First Nations communities, where rates approach 32%. In Brampton and Scarborough, rates range from 12% to almost 23%.
  - In 2001-2002, diabetes prevalence ranged between 2.8% and 7.65% in Toronto, with rates in east and northwest neighbourhoods between 6.6% and 7.6%.
  - A variety of factors make some populations in the city more likely to develop diabetes at an earlier age (those of South Asian, African, Hispanic and Aboriginal origin). But an aging population, increasingly unhealthy lifestyles, and widening economic disparities also impact rising incidence.
  - More than half of Ontarians with diabetes also have another chronic disease. People in Toronto have much better access to management of their diabetes and related illnesses than those in rural and northern Ontario. Rates of chronic complications are 862 per 10,000 in the city (3 times lower than in small rural and northern communities).
1 in 120 adults in Toronto is HIV positive, and every day, two Toronto residents are newly infected:

- 18,000 people in Toronto are living with what has become a challenging chronic disease.
  - HIV infection rates continue at almost the 1990s level, and more than a quarter of newly infected people are under 30. They face decades of expensive and difficult health care.
  - Because of the stigma that still surrounds HIV/AIDS, many people living with the disease live not only with physical trials, but also with unemployment, isolation, poverty, and discrimination. The Ontario AIDS Bureau reports that 30-40% of its clients also cope with mental health problems, housing instability, addiction, violence and lack of life skills.
  - By 2015, half the people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada will be 50 years old or older, presenting new challenges to families and caregivers (HIV, for example, at least doubles the risk of cancer).

- **Casey House**, an organization offering compassionate care to people in Toronto living with HIV/AIDS, since 1988, is developing a new Day Health Program in an expanded facility set to open in 2015-2016. This program is estimated to reduce the number of client visits to emergency rooms and hospital admissions by more than half.²³

**Obesity impacts the lives of 1 in 7 people in Toronto:**
• 14.2% of Torontonians 18 years and older are obese (Body Mass Index of 30 or higher) according to the 2012 Canadian Community Health Survey. That rate compares to 18.0% in Ontario (where 19.4% or nearly 1 in 5 men are obese). The Toronto obesity rate is twice the rate in Vancouver (at 7.0%) but lower than rates in Calgary (15.5%), Ottawa (17.3%), and Montreal (15.7%).
  o Obesity is linked to increased risk of a wide range of diseases and chronic health problems including coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, cancers and stroke.24

Torontoians value a healthy lifestyle, but how do we get moving towards better health?

Walkable and transit-supported communities are healthier – associated with higher levels of physical activity, lower body weight and better air quality:
• In a major new report, the first study of its kind in Canada, Toronto Public Health used a 'walkability index' to determine areas of the city with high and low walkability. Not surprisingly, the maps indicate that walkability and income are related in many parts of Toronto.

Areas of low income and low walkability, City of Toronto:25
Walking is the way most people stay physically fit. Participants in the Toronto Public Health survey rated walkability second only to affordability as priorities when choosing a neighbourhood to live in (and higher than easy access to work by transit). Many were willing to make trade-offs around smaller dwellings, more mixed housing and less yard space, in order to access work, recreation, shops and transit.

- Even in the areas of the GTA outside the city (Halton, Peel, York and Durham), slightly more respondents strongly preferred smaller homes in walkable neighbourhoods, to larger houses in areas designed for driving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Type and Closeness to Shops and Services</th>
<th>Strong Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptions</td>
<td>City of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed housing types, small lots, and less private back yards, with lots of services and activities nearby</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-family houses, farther apart, on lots 10 metres wide or more, with private backyard space, even if it means there are no nearby shops or services.</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Size and Travel Options</th>
<th>Strong Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptions</td>
<td>City of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller homes with less interior living space, where people can walk, cycle or take public transit for trips, because commercial areas are nearby.</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larger homes with more interior living space, where commercial areas are driving distance from home (i.e. a 45-minute walk).</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- However, only 60% of respondents in Toronto and 28% in the rest of the GTA rated their neighbourhood street design and travel options as highly walkable.

- 32% of the respondents living in Toronto’s highly auto-oriented neighbourhoods stated that they want to live in a neighbourhood where they can walk to access shops and services.

- Torontonians in the most walkable neighbourhoods walk as much as 2.7 times more often for utilitarian purposes, than those in the least walkable areas. They also drive 4 times less often, and report a one-point difference in Body Mass Index (BMI) compared to those in neighbourhoods designed for cars.

- Caution should be used in making a simple link between walking and health, in part because Toronto residents living on pedestrian-friendly tree lined streets close to shops and services are likely to be wealthier, and therefore healthier. But walkable neighbourhoods make it easier to be healthier.

- In a Montréal study, women (aged 45 and older) were 53% more likely to walk at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, in neighbourhoods with a high density of shops and services close by.²⁶
The **road to health** includes facilitating more active transportation in Toronto, but the city lags behind leading North American cities like Portland, Washington, Vancouver and San Francisco:

- According to the latest census figures available (2006), 7.1% of Torontonians walk to work and 1.7% bike. At 2006 levels of walking and cycling in the city, there is an estimated saving in direct health costs of about $130 million (in reduced risk of chronic disease and obesity) among those who are walking and cycling.
  - Moving the number up to 12% walking and 6% cycling mode share would prevent an estimated 100 additional deaths per year and save an additional $100 million in health costs.
- Short trips in Toronto are faster by bike or by foot. More than half (55%) of all trips in the city are less than 7 km, and more than 1 in 5 are less than 2 km. Cycling is about as fast as driving for a trip of 7 km or less, in the city, and for very short trips (500 m or less), it is faster to walk than to drive.²⁷

**The Relationship between obesity and combined walking, cycling and transit mode share:**²⁸

Source: Transport Canada (2010), data from Basset et al. (2008).

- Slowing traffic in residential areas greatly increases safety. A pedestrian hit by a car travelling at 50 km/hr. has an 85% chance of being killed. The probability drops to less than 5% at 30 km/hr.
  - Seniors are particularly at risk. According to the World Health Network, pedestrians over 65 are five times as likely to die in a collision, as children under 14.
  - In London, the introduction of 30 km/hr. zones reduced traffic fatalities by 42%. Traffic-calming measures in four European countries reduced fatalities for all road users, by between 14% and 85%.²⁹
When it comes to physical activity, almost half of Canadian children are still getting an ‘F’:

- For the sixth consecutive year, Canadian children received a grade of ‘F’ on the Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card.  
  - 46% of Canadian children spend 3 hours or less a week — including weekends — in active play. In Toronto, that would be equivalent to about 184,400 of the city’s 400,840 children.
  - According to Toronto Public Health, about 1 in 3 children (aged 2 to 11) is overweight or obese.\(^\text{30}\)

- On average, kids spend almost two-thirds (63%) of their free time after school and on weekends sedentary, much of it watching various screens (television, computers and video games).
  - Screen-based sedentary behaviour is increasing. Canadian children are now spending an average of 7 hours and 48 minutes — that’s close to 8 hours — every day, in front of a screen (the guidelines is no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day).\(^\text{31}\)
  - Several new studies have linked screen-based sedentary activities (television and video games) with increased food intake.

- Active play, which for children should be spontaneous, vigorous and fun, has been steadily decreasing in each generation in Canada over the last 50 - 60 years. Between 2000 and 2012, the number of Canadian children who play outside dropped 14%.\(^\text{32}\)
  - In spite of the fact that crime rates are roughly where they were in the 1970’s, almost half of Canadian parents say that fear of child predators leads them to restrict kids’ outdoor play.\(^\text{31}\)

New Canadian activity guidelines suggest that children between 1 and 4 years of age should be physically active for at least 180 minutes every day:

- Equally important, caregivers and parents are encouraged to minimize sedentary activity, limiting sitting to one hour at a time. Screen time should not be part of the day for a child under 2 years old (including tablets or video games), and limited to less than one hour a day for 2 - 4 year-olds.\(^\text{32}\)

Children in Toronto are likely much less physically active than their parents believe:

- Researchers compared parent-reported activity levels of almost 900 Canadian children (aged 6-11) with a direct measure of their physical activity, and found that parents believed their children engaged in significantly more moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) than they actually did (104.5 minutes vs. 63.3 minutes per day). Parents estimated screen time at an average 2.5 hours daily, whereas the children were sedentary for a full 7.6 hours a day.
  - About 22.7% of the children in the study were overweight or obese. The research revealed that an increase of 1 hour a day in directly measured MVPA was linked to a decrease of 1.2 points in BMI.\(^\text{33}\)

- In 2010, almost 4 in 10 (38.2%) of youth (age 12 -19) in the city of Toronto reported that they were inactive during leisure time.\(^\text{34}\)
The fact that only about 1 in 14 children and youth meet Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines of an hour or more of moderate to vigorous physical exercise each day, may have a lot to do with the sedentary lives their parents lead. Only 15% of Canadian adults meet physical activity guidelines of 150 minutes of physical activity per week, and slightly more than one-third of parents (38%) say they often play active games with their children.\(^{35}\)

**The epidemic of physical inactivity is now costing the Canadian economy more than $6.8 Billion (3.8% of total health care costs in 2009):**

- A new study estimates that physical inactivity is behind 15% - 39% of 7 major chronic diseases in Canada. The direct cost attributable to lack of physical activity from three diseases alone (coronary artery disease - $767 million, Type 2 diabetes - $470 million and stroke - $386 million) is close to $1.7 Billion every year.
  - Comparisons with other countries are problematic because of differently funded health care systems, but the direct costs of physical inactivity in Canada are higher than those reported for the United Kingdom (1.5% of total health care costs) and the U.S. (2.4% of total direct costs).\(^{36}\)

**63,069 City of Toronto recreation programs attracted 451,258 registrants in 2011, just slightly higher numbers than the previous year:**

- Total child and youth registrations were up by 2% from 2010, to 382,209. But the 16,673 youth who participated in one or more programs, represented a 2% decrease over 2010.
- Attendance at 5,792 drop-in recreation courses (9.4% more offerings than in 2010) increased by 1.2% to 4,354,889 in 2011.\(^{37}\)

**The City of Toronto Welcome Policy provides free access to City-operated recreation programs for low-income families and individuals:**

- The Welcome Policy is a popular program and plays a crucial role in helping low-income adults and children access recreational opportunities, but faces a number of difficulties:
  - Funding is capped and the demand in recent years has outstripped the available funding. Approved individual memberships for summer programs increased from 41,127 in 2009 to 59,591 in 2011, perhaps because of increased awareness of the program, but also possibly indicating that more residents were unable to afford regular recreational programming.
  - Applicants are required to prove low-income status (below the Low Income Cut-Off – LICO). But apart from that potential deterrent, the practice highlights the essential problem with poverty ‘lines’ in that Toronto residents who are just above the cut-off line are just as much in need as those just below.\(^{38}\)

**Toronto City Council signed a five-year agreement with the Toronto District School Board in May 2012 that will ensure the continued use of 33 school pools for community swim programs:**

- The City is committed to ensuring that every child in Toronto learns how to swim. That goal is furthered in its ongoing pool partnership with the Board. The City shares in pool operation and maintenance costs, and the community is able to access the pools on evenings, weekends and during the summer.\(^{39}\)

**How is the health of newcomers to Toronto compromised?**
Most newcomers arrive in Toronto with a health advantage but many report declining health as they live in the city longer:

- Most newcomers arrive in Canada in better health than the rest of the Canadian population, and are likely to have somewhat healthier lifestyles. They report better mental health, including lower rates of depression, mood and anxiety disorders, and alcohol dependence.
  - Newcomers to Toronto are not generally at higher risk for chronic disease, and are less likely to be overweight or obese or to smoke or drink to excess, than those born in Canada. However, they are less likely to be physically active in leisure time.
  - Some sub-populations of newcomers to Toronto have higher rates of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis B. (Immigrants account for 92% of TB cases in Toronto, and many are newcomers).
  - Over the longer-term, changes in diet, stress and economic marginalization take their toll. Longer-term immigrants are more likely than newcomers to smoke, drink heavily and be overweight or obese. They are also more likely than their Canadian-born neighbours to suffer from chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, with South Asian, Caribbean, Latin American and Sub-Saharan African immigrants at higher risk of Type 2 diabetes. Longitudinal studies of immigrants who have been in Toronto for two and four years show a decline in self-reported good or excellent health. Women, older persons and low-income immigrants and refugees are particularly affected.  

Self-reported Health Status among Newcomers Arriving in 2000 and 2001 at Six Months, Two Years and Four Years after Immigration, Toronto:

- About 12% of the newcomers in Toronto each year are refugees. They have a unique set of challenges and many come to Canada having experienced trauma that impacts their health.
  - Refugees are more likely than other newcomers to be suffering from infectious disease (many suffer from parasitic diseases and the prevalence of active TB is twice that of other immigrant populations). Refugees in Toronto are at greater risk of deteriorating physical and mental health, and are more likely than other classes of immigrants to report “fair” or “poor” health between 6 months and 4
years after arrival.  

- The combination of economic exclusion and social factors such as gender and age can seriously impact the health of newcomers.
  - Immigrant women experience postpartum depression at 3-5 times the rate of Canadian-born new mothers (and again, refugee women are at highest risk).
  - Low-income women are 4 times as likely to suffer depression than newcomer men, and some research examining immigration gender and depression in Canadian cities, found that longer-term immigrant women (in Canada 10 years or more) had higher rates of depression than newly arrived women.

Toronto will suffer because of cuts to health benefits to its most vulnerable population:
- Almost 60,000 refugees arrived in Canada between 2000 and 2009. About 25,000 of them may well eventually become permanent residents and valued citizens. (Of all Canadian refugee claims processed in that period 44% were accepted, and 39% denied).
  - Under changes to the Federal Government Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), privately sponsored refugees, landed refugees, victims of human trafficking and claimants coming from countries not considered to produce refugees (DCOs) will be eligible for medical care, medicine and vaccines only “to prevent or treat a disease posing a risk to public health or a condition of public safety concern.” Refugees who have abandoned their claim or have been denied, are ineligible for any health care.

- Refugees often arrive in Toronto traumatized and suffering from multiple health problems. Rates of active TB, hepatitis B and rubella in pregnant women are higher than in the non-refugee population. Under the new legislation, routine care to diagnose or prevent worsening health outcomes would no longer be available to non-Government-sponsored refugees.
  - Medication for conditions that are not considered a health risk (such as insulin) will not be available. This will have serious implications for the successful treatment of TB in refugees who have underlying health issues, such as diabetes.
  - Refugee women will have no Pap smear screening, despite a rate of cervical cancer higher than the Canadian population.
  - Pregnant women from designated “safe” countries of origin will have no access to pre/post natal care or delivery coverage.
  - Refugee claimants suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after experiences of torture or targeted violence, or the stress of forced migration and resettlement, will have no coverage for counselling or other mental health services that might prevent rapid decline or disability.
- Many Torontonians in this highly vulnerable population have no external resources or support. 24% of respondents in one recent survey of immigrant and refugee women had no money to travel to a health care provider. Some would likely no longer try to access the basic health care they need. Others would be forced to overload Toronto’s local community health clinics with complex, often urgent basic health care needs.

How does poverty impact health in Toronto?
The combination of lack of shelter or unstable housing, mental illness, addictions and poverty create a **perfect storm** of serious illness and early death for Toronto’s marginalized homeless population:

- Ample evidence points to higher mortality rates for the homeless, for those suffering from mental illness and addictions, and for those living in poverty.
  - A 2007 street health survey found three-quarters of homeless people suffering from at least one chronic illness. Those illnesses may be more easily managed when the individual is properly housed, but they don’t disappear.
  - Australian research indicates that the mortality rate for people with mental illness is 2.5 times that of the general population, and the leading cause is not suicide, but heart disease. And research links mental illness to obesity (even adjusting for medication use, diet and education).
  - The poorest 20% of Canadians (compared to the wealthiest 20%) have more than double the rate of diabetes and heart disease, and a 60% higher rate of suffering from two or more chronic diseases.  

- A coalition of Toronto social service agencies and housing providers has observed the combined interrelated effects among Toronto residents who are ill housed, dealing with poverty, addictions and mental illness, and the resultant difficulty accessing good health care. The outcome is very often late or incorrect diagnosis of serious illness, inadequate care and death.

Both high income and low-income patients are more likely to be admitted to Toronto hospitals than middle-income earners – but for different reasons:

- People with low-incomes have higher health risks, are more likely to suffer from complex co-existing health conditions, and are less likely to access preventative care than high-income groups. One would therefore expect a higher representation of low-income patients in Toronto hospitals. However, a recent study found that:
  - Most of Toronto’s 14 central hospitals admit high-income and low-income patients in about equal numbers, and admit fewer middle-income patients.
  - Low-income patients were more likely to be admitted for mental health issues, alternate level care (as opposed to acute care) urgent and less urgent emergency care and complex continuing care. High-income patients were more likely to be admitted for day surgery.
  - In every hospital in the study, the income profile for surgical patients was higher than for medical patients, raising questions about equal access to surgical care.

Numbers of low-birthweight babies (traditionally linked to poverty and poor maternal health) appear to be increasing in Toronto, but conventional birthweight curves risk misclassifying the healthy infants of some of Toronto’s immigrant mothers:

- Researchers at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto have developed new birth weight charts tailored to the region of the mother’s origin. Using these new charts, babies born to mothers of South Asian, Southeast Asian or East Asian descent, who are typically smaller than Canadian-born babies, may no longer be classified as small for gestational age.

**Percentage of Low Birthweight Babies, Toronto Health Region:**
What other public health issues is Toronto facing?

One-time provincial funding of $1.2 million in 2011 helped Toronto tackle an ongoing battle with bed bugs:

- **Bed bugs** affect every part of the city and every income group, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. There is no requirement to report infestations, so the magnitude of the problem is difficult to estimate and track.
  - In 2011, **Toronto Public Health** focused on assisting vulnerable populations – the frail elderly, disabled, and low-income families, who are disproportionately affected.
  - Many of the most vulnerable families are among the 58,500 households living in **Toronto Community Housing Corporation** (TCHC)-owned buildings (including 360 high- and low-rise apartment buildings).
  - Between January 1, 2011 and the end of March 2012, TCHC reported conducting 12,332 bed bug control treatments. Between May of 2011 and March 2012, Toronto Public Health eliminated 1,517 bed bug infestations, including 547 in
TCHC units. These treatments prevented further spread to other units and sites, including community centres or movie theatres.

- Bed bugs also regularly infest the city’s 57 emergency shelters. 32 reported at least one infestation in the last 12 months, and those shelters reported an average of 8 infestations per year.\textsuperscript{52}

**In 2011, the first baby boomers turned 65; many are expected to live longer and healthier lives than their parents, but their growing health care needs as they age will strain caregivers and the home care system in Toronto and across the country:**

- By 2015, seniors (65 years and older) will start to outnumber youth (14 years and younger) in communities across Canada. By 2036, they will make up about 25% of the population.
  - The vast majority (93%) currently live in private homes, and most seniors will want to remain there, receiving the support they need, as they age. Most informal support (80%) for seniors comes from family, friends, and neighbours. (In Toronto, there were 377,445 residents 65 years and older, according to the 2011 census).
  - According to a recent report on seniors and aging, 22.7% of seniors receiving home care in Ontario have some form of dementia. By 2038, the number of new dementia cases in Canada will be two and a half times higher than in 2008, affecting close to 3% of the total population. Nearly two-thirds of those seniors with dementia will be living in their own homes.\textsuperscript{53}

**Number of Physicians:**

- There were 2,923 family physicians practicing in the city of Toronto in 2011, an increase of 23 since 2010.\textsuperscript{54} The rate per 100,000 population was 118 in 2010, compared to only 92 per 100,000 population in Ontario as a whole.\textsuperscript{55}

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Health and Wellness through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
- Agincourt Community Services Association
- Alzheimer Society of Toronto
- Art Starts
- Arthritis Research Foundation
- Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto
- Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention
- Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders
- Camp Oochigeas
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Canadian Red Cross
- Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association
• Casey House
• Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation
• Central Toronto Youth Services
• Centre for City Ecology
• Centre for Spanish Speaking People
• Child Development Institute
• Clean Air Partnership
• Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie
• Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD)
• Community Matters Toronto
• COSTI Immigrant Services
• Covenant House Toronto
• CultureLink Settlement Services
• Daily Bread Food Bank
• Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre
• David Suzuki Foundation
• Distress Centres
• Dixon Hall
• Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club
• Dusk Dances
• East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization
• Elizabeth Fry Toronto
• Evergreen
• Family Service Toronto
• Findhelp Information Services
• FoodShare
• For Youth Initiative (FYI)
• Gilda’s Club Greater Toronto
• Greenest City
• Habitat For Humanity Toronto
• Hospice Toronto
• IMPACT - Indian Martial and Performance Arts Collective of Toronto
• John Howard Society of Toronto
• Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
• Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)
• Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)
• LOFT Community Services
• Make-A-Wish Canada - Toronto and Central Ontario
• March of Dimes Canada
• Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP)
• Nellie's Women's Shelter
• New Circles Community Services
• New Visions Toronto
• North York Community House
• North York Women's Centre
• Oolagen - Youth Mental Health
• Outward Bound Canada
• ParaSport Ontario
• Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
• Peacebuilders
• PEACH – Promoting Education and Community Health
• POGO (Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario)
• Project Canoe
• Regeneration Community Services
• Ronald McDonald House Toronto
• San Romanoway Revitalization Association
• Scadding Court Community Center
• Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
• Second Harvest
• Seeds of Hope Foundation
• Senior Peoples' Resources in North Toronto Incorporated (SPRINT)
• Sheena's Place
• Sherbourne Health Centre
• Sistering: A Woman's Place
• Small Change Fund
• St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre
• St. Stephen's Community House
• Street Health Community Nursing Foundation
• The 519
• The Dorothy Ley Hospice
• The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site
• The George Hull Centre for Children and Families
• The Good Neighbours' Club
• The Living City Foundation
- The Massey Centre for Women
- The National Ballet of Canada
- The Psychology Foundation of Canada
- The Stop Community Food Centre
- Toronto Cyclists Union
- Toronto Foundation for Student Success
- Toronto Lords Community Association
- Toronto Public Library Foundation
- Toronto Youth Development
- Trails Youth Initiatives
- Tropicana Community Services
- Unison Health and Community Services
- Variety Village
- Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation
- Words in Motion
- Workman Arts Project of Ontario
- YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Youth Assisting Youth
- YouthLink
SAFETY

“Addressing the underlying causes of crime through prevention fosters safe and inclusive communities. While Toronto is a safe and vibrant city, some people are at greater risk of crime. Collectively addressing poverty will go a long way in making Toronto safe for our diverse citizens.”

Michelle Coombs
Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Toronto
Safety:

The numbers tell us Toronto is getting safer, but do Torontonians feel safer?

The Toronto Police Service annual statistics indicated a 5.6% decline in reported criminal offences in 2011:
- The overall number of reported crimes dropped for the fifth year in a row in Toronto to 164,144 (over 6,800 fewer crimes).
  - The crime rate in 2011 (excluding traffic crimes) had declined to 5,611 (per 100,000 population), a 35% decrease in just 5 years.

Crime Rate in the City of Toronto, 1998 - 2011.

The rate of reported violent crime in Toronto in 2011 also declined for the sixth year running:
- There were 1,097 reported violent crimes per 100,000 people in the city of Toronto in 2011, a decline of almost one-third (31%) in a decade.
  - The total number of reported violent incidents (31,332) was slightly lower in 2011 than the year before (31,628).

Violent crime rate (per 100,000 population), City of Toronto, 1998 - 2011.
The rate of violent crime decreased across the Toronto Region by 3.3% in 2011, from 906 to 876 reported crimes per 100,000 people. The rate declined 38% over the decade 2002 - 2011.

The number of homicides in Toronto 2011 was at its lowest level since 1999, but increased gun violence in the city in 2012 is cause for concern:

- 49 people died at the hands of others in Toronto in 2011, a 22.2% drop from the 63 homicides reported in 2010, and well below the average of 63 homicides per year since 1995.

- Between January 1 and September 13, 2012, 36 homicides had been reported in the city, below the 2010 number (45) and 1 higher than the 35 reported in the same period in 2011 (a 2.9% increase).

- An increasing level of gun violence in the summer of 2012 alarmed many city residents. Shootings causing injury or death were up by 30.1% by September 13, over the year before. 2012 shootings not resulting in injury had also jumped by about 34.4% by that date. The intense media focus on both the crimes and the communities in which the violent incidents were taking place, fuelled a sense of a new and disturbing trend.

- While there is no one solution to the violence that erupts from the complex and volatile mix of poverty, gang activity, ready access to guns, marginalized youth and drugs, the affected communities desire both to know that they are safe and to be free from stigmatization and an over-emphasis on policing as a single response.

- The Province responded by establishing permanent funding for the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS), which combines additional police presence in communities experiencing violence, with neighbourhood engagement. It also pledged $20 million in increased funding for social programs aimed at creating more employment opportunities and outreach support for youth. 20 new youth outreach workers will be hired in the Toronto area.

Homicides in the City of Toronto, 1995 - 2011:

2,100 young people (aged 12-17) were charged with violent crimes in Toronto in 2011:
Young offenders represented 12.9% of all those charged with criminal offenses in 2011, below the long-term average (the proportion was 14% in 2010).

- 6 young offenders were charged with murder and 12 with attempted murder (slightly below the average since 2001 of 7.2 and 14.5 respectively). It may be that one person is charged with multiple counts, so these figures do not necessarily mean that 18 different people were charged in 2011.  

89% of Toronto high school students felt safe in and around their schools in 2010, and 80% reported that their school wasn’t violent (compared to just 67% in 2001):  

- According to the Toronto Police Service, one of the best indicators of school safety is the students’ report of how safe they feel at school and on school grounds. Their 2010 school survey indicated that a large majority feels reasonably, or very safe.
  - Perception of Safety was not related to gender or grade level.
  - 18% of students felt that the level of crime in and around the school had increased over the year (lower that the 22% who felt that way in 2009 and the lowest reported level in ten years). In response to the question about the most serious policing issue in and around school property, the highest proportion of students cited drugs. The second highest proportion of students said there were no serious problems, in 2010.
  - Violent incidents occurring on school property have decreased somewhat over 5 years (by 6.8% between 2006 and 2010), and overall, crime on school premises decreased by 18% in that time. However, there were still 1,474 violent crimes committed on school premises in Toronto in 2010.  

Sexual assaults increased by almost 4% in Toronto in 2011.  

- One of the few crime figures to increase in 2011, the statistic on sexual assault is troubling. It is a crime that tends to be highly underreported, and it disproportionately affects young people, especially young women.
  - Across Canada, according to 2006 census figures, youth under 18 made up 22% of the population and 58% of the reported victims of sexual violence.
  - Stalking incidents reported to Toronto Police increased by 75% between 2001 and 2010. Three-quarters of those victimized were women.
  - Visible minority women, Aboriginal women and young disabled women are particularly at risk of sexual violence and criminal harassment (stalking). Homelessness adds another layer of vulnerability.  

What should Toronto be doing to improve the safety of its residents?  

- The Youth Alliance Project, a youth-led collective, conducted recent research into the lived experience of young Toronto women. Among the recommendations in their 2011 report were:
  - The development of a collaborative leadership model to address sexual assault, including key stakeholders (youth, youth-service agencies, parents and caregivers, front line police officers and representatives of various police units in Toronto);
  - The creation of opportunities for young women’s leadership in key decision-making bodies in the Toronto Police Service; and
Almost 4 in 10 respondents to the 2010 Toronto Police survey of Toronto high school students (39%) said that they were “somewhat” or “very” concerned about gang activity in their schools.65

• Recent research suggests that youth who join gangs are not more pre-disposed to violence or criminal activity than others. Higher levels of criminal behaviour are more likely to be an outcome of gang membership.
  o Youth are disposed to be attracted to gangs for a variety of reasons including protection, money, respect, and excitement.
  o Risk factors influencing gang membership include unhealthy behaviours and experiences (such as drug use and victimization) socio-economic factors (such as poverty and family breakdown), the school climate, and the influence of peers.
  o Law enforcement agencies and research suggest that keys to curtailing gang activity are to stigmatize gang membership so youth don’t join, to assist youth to safely leave gangs, and to increase reporting of gang criminality (as gangs rely heavily on the silence of those they victimize).66

Chicago, a city with a population the same size as Toronto, and a gang-fuelled homicide rate of 16 per 100,000 people in 2011 (compared to a rate of 1.77 in Toronto), has developed imaginative new approaches to stemming the violence that plagues its poorest neighbourhoods.67

• CeaseFire was launched in 2000, and takes a public health approach to the city’s violence. Treating violence as a disease, and the recent upsurge as an epidemic means detecting outbreaks, interrupting transmission, changing the behaviours of those at highest risk, and shifting community norms.
  o An independent assessment of CeaseFire’s work in 2008 found that in 6 of 7 neighbourhoods where counselling programs mentored and supported high-risk young men, and violence interrupters worked directly with gang leaders and victims of violence, levels of violence (actual and attempted shootings, and numbers of people shot or killed) were down between 16% and 34%, both over time and compared to other similar areas without the program. Identified gun crime ‘hot spots’ were also cooler in four of the 7 areas by as much as 40%. Gang involvement in homicides declined in 3 neighbourhoods and retaliatory killings decreased in 4 areas.

• Now Is The Time is another Chicago-based organization that eschews the traditional model of responding to violence (more policing and higher incarceration levels). The citywide partnership between the Chicago Public Library, Steppenwolf Theatre and *Facing History and Ourselves*, encourages youth to participate in thinking about violence, and contributing to making a positive difference in their communities.
  o In the 2012-2013 season, 15 Chicago theatre companies have joined the collaboration by mounting a campaign called *Now Is The Time to ACT*, agreeing to focus all of their programming for the year on issues of youth violence.68
Where are there indicators of increased safety and what might explain them?

The number of hate crimes reported in Toronto in 2011 was at its lowest level since statistics were first gathered in 1993:

- 123 hate/bias crimes were reported in 2011 (compared to 132 in 2010 and 174 in 2009).
- The most common motives for hate crimes over the last decade have been religion and race.
  - Incidents are likely underreported due to fear of retaliation, shame, uncertainty over the response from the justice system, fear of disclosure of sexual orientation or lack of recognition that the crime was motivated by hate.

Proportion of reported hate/bias crimes by community and motive, Toronto, 2011

Note: Multi-bias refers to an offender targeting one person for two or more reasons (e.g. ethnicity and sexual orientation, or race and gender).

- There were no reported hate crimes motivated by age, language, disability or gender.
- 34 assaults motivated by hate or bias were reported in 2011, compared to 20 in 2010; the majority of victims were targeted because of race or sexual orientation.
- Mischief to property accounted for almost half (47%) of reported crimes. Jewish and Muslim victims were primarily targeted.

Number of reported hate/bias crimes, City of Toronto 1998 – 2011
Ontario had the lowest rate of police-reported family violence in Canada in 2010 (196 reports per 100,000 population):

- Among large metropolitan areas, the reported rate was highest in the Toronto Region (202 per 100,000 population) and lowest in Ottawa (98).
  - The rate of dating violence in Canada (not included in the definition of family violence, but reported together with it) is more than 65% higher than the rate of spousal violence.
  - According to Statistics Canada, women accounted for 81% of 103,000 incidents of police-reported spousal and dating violence in 2010.
  - Women who report physical or sexual assault by an intimate partner are more likely than other assault victims, to have been victimized as a child.

- Toronto Police Service statistics report that calls to police regarding a domestic assault decreased by 30% between 2001 and 2010. However, it is unclear to what extent domestic violence is declining, or non-reporting increasing, over the longer term.

Researchers seek to understand the reasons for a twenty-year downward trend in both the rate and severity of most crimes across Canada and elsewhere:

- The police-reported crime rate and the Crime Severity Index (a measure that assigns a weighting to crime based on sentencing) both fell by 6% in 2011. The severity of crime was lowest in Ontario, and highest in the territories, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

- Various explanations have been suggested for the persistent drop in rates of most crimes since 1992 in Canada. The most likely contributing causes are demographic (a progressive decrease in the high-crime population of 20-34 year-olds); social (a steady increase in the numbers of people completing high school and post-secondary education); technological (dramatic improvements in policing techniques) and possibly, a shift in collective values, akin to the now general disapprobation of public drunkenness or driving while intoxicated.
  - Researchers note that rates dropped in both the U.S. and Canada over the period (although the murder rate in large U.S. cities is far higher than in Canada). The explanation for the drop must lie elsewhere than in higher rates of incarceration or increased police budgets (rates of incarceration and police budgets fell in Canada during the 1990s but not in the U.S.), or in the “war on drugs” (which was waged only the U.S.).
The national police-reported violent crime rate dropped by 4% in 2011 (the 5th consecutive decline). There were fewer violent offenses in most categories, although the number of homicides was up – one of the few offenses that did show an increase nationally (the others were sexual offenses against children, child pornography, criminal harassment, impaired driving and drug crimes). The largest increase in crime was a 40% increase in reported incidents of child pornography. However, variability in this figure from year to year is in part based on police initiatives focused on offenders.

All of Canada’s major metropolitan centres reported a drop in the severity of crime in 2011:

- On the Crime Severity Index (CSI) Regina again registered well above the national average. Only Guelph and Québec had lower CSI scores than the Toronto Region, which was well below the national average.
Police-reported Crime Severity Index, by census metropolitan area, 2011: 

A 7% overall increase in Canada’s homicide rate in 2011 was mostly due to increases in Alberta (up 39%) and Quebec (24%):

- Ontario reported a 16% drop in homicide rates, returning to a rate last seen in the mid-1960s.
The rate of police-reported youth crime was also down in Canada in 2011; youth were charged with 16% fewer homicides and 4% fewer major assaults:

- Both the youth crime rate and the youth Crime Severity Index were 10% lower in 2011 than in the previous year.\(^77\)

93% of respondents to the latest General Social Survey (2009) described feeling personally safe from crime (similar to the previous survey in 2004), but 30% of residents in the Toronto Region believe that crime is increasing in their neighbourhood:

- Most Canadians believe that crime is either stable (62%) or rising (26%) while only 6% believe that crime rates have decreased. In the Toronto Region, the numbers who perceive that crime in their neighbourhood has remained about the same is lower than countrywide at 58%, and the numbers who believe it has increased is higher, at 30%.
  - Younger Canadians (15-24 year-olds) are a little more likely to feel safe (94%) than those 65 or older (89%).
  - 60% of Toronto Region respondents believed that crime rates were lower in other parts of Canada, and 1 in 4 thought they were about the same. Only 11% thought crime rates in other areas of the country were higher than their own neighbourhood.
  - 51% of the Region’s residents reported not feeling worried when waiting for or using public transit late at night (compared to 58% across Canada).\(^78\)

- In an annual Toronto Police Service telephone survey at the end of 2010, 93% of responding city residents felt safe in their neighbourhoods and almost everyone (97%) thought that the city in general is safe (significantly higher than the 86% figure in 2009).
There were no significant differences in responses based on gender, age, visible minority status or neighbourhood.79

- **Guns** are perceived as the most serious problem in the city as a whole. In 2005 (dubbed “the year of the gun” due to the high number of victims of gun violence that year), 52% named it the top problem. In 2010, the percentage had dropped to 22%.
  - About 6 in 10 Torontonians are concerned about guns, gangs, drugs, prostitution and youth hanging about in their own neighbourhoods. Younger residents (aged 18-34) were more likely to worry about drugs, prostitution, and harassment than older age groups. Overall, only 12% of respondents thought there were no serious problems in their neighbourhood (compared to 18% in 2009).80

The Toronto Police Transit Patrol and the installation of closed circuit TV cameras contribute to increasing safety on the TTC:

- The **Toronto Transit Commission Patrol Unit** was initiated in 2009. By 2010, the TTC-reported crime rate had dropped by almost 30% to 0.64 per 100,000 riders even though ridership had increased (the rate was still 9% higher than the 0.52 per 100,000 reported in 2001).
  - The new Toronto Rocket subway trains, which began running in 2011, have a number of improved safety features including cameras, two-way passenger/operator alarm systems, and built-in ramps for faster evacuation.81

There were fewer property crimes in Toronto in 2011, continuing a six-year downward trend:

- **Crimes related to property** dropped by 3.7% in 2011.
  - There were 4,142 stolen vehicles reported (compared to 5,462 in 2009 – a 32% decrease in 2 years).
  - Reported business robberies (including attempted robberies) declined by 7.2% and reported home and apartment break-and-enters were both down by 7.3% and 10.3% respectively over 2010.
  - The property crime rate in Toronto was 3,199 per 100,000 people in 2011, compared to a rate of 3,822 in 2000.
  - Police-reported property crime in the Toronto Region has decreased by more than 45% since 1998. The 2011 rate of 2,222 per 100,000 people was only 63% of the national rate (3,520).82

In the latest Police Service survey, fewer Torontonians reported that they had been the **victim** of a crime and more (3 in 4) had reported the incident to police:

- 6% of respondents to the 2010 Police Service survey said that they had been victimized in the previous year (compared to 7% in 2009). Most had experienced robberies or car thefts.
  - 75% of crime victims had made a police report (in 2009 the figure was only 64%). Generally, the primary reason for not reporting a crime is that the victim does not think it is important enough to report.83
  - Young people (aged 18-34) were more likely, in 2010 to think that they would be victimized (particularly sexually assaulted or robbed), but actual victimization was not linked, in the survey results, to age, gender, visible minority status or area of residence in the city.84
The number of police officers in Toronto remained relatively stable in 2011:

- There were 212 police officers per 100,000 population in Toronto in 2011, (the same rate as in 2009, but a slight drop from the 216 per 100,000 population in 2010).
  - The number of officers across the Region also dropped (by just over 1%) from 181 to 179 officers per 100,000 residents.
  - The gross operating budget for policing services in the City of Toronto was 4.7% higher in 2011 than the previous year and now exceeds $1 billion. Growth in police budgets has averaged 4.8% each year over the last 5 years.

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Safety through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Amadeusz
- Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
- Carefirst Seniors & Community Association
- CTI Canadian Training Institute
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Elizabeth Fry Toronto
- Family Service Toronto
- FIT Community Services – Friends In Trouble
- Interval House
- Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
- John Howard Society of Toronto
- Leave Out Violence (LOVE)
- Macaulay Child Development Centre
- March of Dimes Canada
- METRAC
- Nellie’s Women’s Shelter
- Ontario Justice Education Network / Reseau Ontarien D’Education Juridique
- Oolagen – Youth Mental Health
- Operation Springboard
- Recipe for Community
- San Romanoway Revitalization Association
- Seeds of Hope Foundation
- Senior Peoples’ Resources in North Toronto Incorporated (SPRINT)
- St. Paul’s L’Amoreaux Centre
- St. Stephen’s Community House
- Street Health Community Nursing Foundation
- The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site
• **The PACT Urban Peace Program**
• **The Redwood**
• **UrbanArts**
• **YWCA Toronto**
THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE CITY

“Up to now Toronto has managed change over time quite successfully. We are slowly finding our place in the new global economy and have reaped the benefits of welcoming the world’s best and brightest. But we are at risk of becoming a “winner-take-all” city, with profound consequences for all of us.”

Rahul Bhardwaj
President & CEO, Toronto Community Foundation
The Economic Health of the City of Toronto

Toronto economic momentum was at its highest level in ten years at the end of 2011:

- The City of Toronto ranked first on the Canadian Metropolitan Economic Activity Index, for the second year in a row. The city has ranked in the top five among Canada’s largest 25 metros for more than six years, except for 2009, when the recession caused it to slip into 7th place.

Across 9 sub-measures of economic activity, Toronto was consistently strong, reflecting the diversity of its economy, as well as population and employment growth.87

- Moody’s Investors Service gave the city an Aa1 credit rating for the 10th consecutive year in 2012. The high rating (one level below Aaa) reflects Toronto’s robust and diversified economy, relatively low debt burden, and sound fiscal management. It allows the city to borrow money more cheaply, and sends a strong positive message to investors.88

Ontario attracted a higher level of capital investment in 2011 than all U.S. states and Canadian provinces, except Alberta:

- Ontario’s leadership in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in the renewable energy and information and communications technologies sectors benefits the Province’s and the city’s economy.
  - It was the global leader for renewable energy projects in 2011 and 3rd in total FDI projects (although it is the 7th largest economy among the states and provinces).
  - Ontario also had the 3rd highest number of Information and Technology FDI projects (29) behind California and New York.
  - The region’s stability, highly educated and skilled workforce, market proximity and quality of life are all factors that draw investors.89

Why does Toronto’s downtown matter?

A healthy downtown equals a healthy city, according to a major new study by the Canadian Urban Institute:90

Downtown Toronto makes up:

- 3% of the city area
- 7% of the city population
- 33% of the jobs in Toronto
- 53% of Toronto’s office space
- 25% of the city’s property tax revenue
- 24% of the value of citywide construction
Downtowns provide powerful visible symbols of great cities (one only has to think of the CN Tower, the Sydney Opera House, the Ottawa Parliament Buildings or London’s Big Ben). They are also:

- the discernible sign of a city’s history and heritage;
- the heart of its financial vitality;
- the largest contributor to its municipal coffers;
- the area of densest infrastructure and therefore the most walkable;
- the most culturally dynamic; and,
- the safest area of a city because of its density (despite perceptions to the contrary).

For these reasons, according to the Canadian Urban Institute, protecting, visioning, and investing in the city downtown is vitally important.

Downtown Toronto has experienced rapid and positive growth over the last 15 years. From 1996 - 2006, its population grew by 17%. Unlike some other municipalities, large retail stores were attracted to new densely populated residential neighbourhoods.

- Toronto has five times the number of large grocery stores located in the downtown area as Edmonton, Winnipeg, Halifax or Ottawa.
The downtown faces the common challenges that go with rapid growth. It is becoming relatively unaffordable and not as diverse as the rest of the city (39% foreign born population compared to 50% in the whole of Toronto; 35% of residents in the 20-34 age range compared to 23% across the city). It also contributes to the growing gap between very high-income and very low-income neighbourhoods.

But the biggest challenge it faces is its lack of connectivity to the larger Region. Just outside the city boundaries, there is more office space than in Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton combined, but transit connections to the downtown become more congested in the absence of a coordinated and funded transportation strategy.

Downtown Toronto is also more challenged than many other downtowns, in the size of its city blocks. A finer grid size encourages walkability:

Multiple stakeholders have recognized the importance of investment in Toronto’s downtown. The ongoing refurbishment and redesign of Union station and new investment in post-secondary institutions (The Ryerson Student Learning Centre and the George Brown College campus on the waterfront) are only two recent examples of many.91

The downtown is set for a major re-vitalization of a section of Yonge Street – the busiest pedestrian zone in Canada (one recent study found that 53,000 pedestrians cross the Yonge/Dundas intersection in an 8 hour period). In addition to more than 900 new units of residential housing, the project envisions reduction of traffic to one lane in each direction, the addition of sidewalk cafés, the preservation of heritage storefronts and new subway entrances.92

How well is the City managing its finances?

City Council approved a $9,389,954,200 operating budget in 2012, about $20 million lower than the 2011 budget.93

The City has made some progress towards fiscal sustainability, reducing ‘one-time’ contributions to balancing the budget, from $346 million in...
2011 to $102 million in 2012 (with a goal of eliminating its structural deficit in two years). But at a cost...

- The impact on staffing levels of the 10% cuts to programs and services is more than 2,030 City jobs.
- Budget reductions in 2012 affect almost all City programs and services.

The City operating budget was balanced in 2012 through a combination of cuts to programs and services and increased revenues:

- An initial budget pressure in February 2011 of $744 million prompted Council to approve a core service review. 90% of City services are deemed to be ‘core’ – either legislated or essential – and only 1% is designated as ‘discretionary’ – funding in response to emerging priorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reduced Expenditures and Increased Revenues, City of Toronto Budget</th>
<th>(millions $)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Efficiencies</td>
<td>$(267)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Service Level Adjustments</td>
<td>$(88)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$(355)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased Revenues</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Growth (including $68 million from the Municipal Land Transfer Tax)</td>
<td>$155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenues (including $12 million from increased user fees)</td>
<td>$94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTC Fare Increase</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5% Property Tax Increase</td>
<td>$57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax Stabilization Reserve</td>
<td>$83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$419</td>
</tr>
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$774

Council ultimately voted to restore almost $19 million in proposed cuts to:

- Childcare programming and school-based childcare rent subsidies
- Free programs for children and youth in Priority neighbourhoods
- Ice rink arena programs and pools
- Community grants (arts grants had already been protected) and homeless shelters
- The Immigrant Women’s Health Center (the City’s $50,000 contribution leverages $150,000 in provincial funding)
- TTC services ($5 million)
- Mechanical leaf collection
- Environmental staffing for the Live Green Toronto Community Animator’s program and implementation of the City’s sustainable energy strategy.

The additional funding was drawn from the Tax Stabilization Fund (which is replenished by surpluses from previous years).
Council also voted to not force Toronto Public Library to implement the across-the-board 10% budget cut (a cut that many City Divisions and boards/agencies/commissions were also not able to meet). The Toronto Public Library was required to make a $3.89 million budget reduction (5.9%).

City of Toronto 2012 **Total Operating Revenues** of $9.390 Billion:

![Pie chart showing the different sources of revenue for Toronto's 2012 operating budget]

Note: MLTT is the Municipal Land Transfer Tax
City of Toronto 2012 Approved Total Operating Expenditures, $9.390 Billion (including expenditures funded through property taxes and other sources):

More than half of the growth in expenditures funded by property taxes since 2003 (54%) has been in Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS):

- As in past years, the majority of the property-tax-supported budget (78.3% in 2012) goes to police, fire and emergency services, debt charges, the TTC and provincially mandated and shared services (Long Term Care, Public Health, Children’s Services, Employment and Social Services, and Housing and Shelter Support).
- As the chart below shows, from a 2003 base budget of $2.86 billion, the cumulative increases in Police, Fire and EMS budgets were $443.2 million by 2012, more than half (54%) of all the City’s budgetary growth. Over that same period, the budget for the TTC has grown by 32% ($255.1 million), while the budgets for cost-shared services have shrunk by 3% ($29.3 million).
Cumulative budgetary growth between 2003 and 2012, City of Toronto (from a base tax-supported operating budget of $2.86 billion in 2003)

- As a proportion of the total operating budget, Toronto Police Services increased from 10.5% in 2011 to 10.8% in 2012; Shelter Support and Housing decreased from 9.8% to 8.4%; and Toronto Public Library Services decreased from 2% to 1.8% in 2012.

- The 2012 City budget contains some provision for new or enhanced services and programs:
  - $30 million to the TTC to match ridership growth of 6 million
  - $11.7 million to meet the increased Ontario Works caseload of 5,000
  - $1.2 million added to Welcome Policy funding to subsidize recreation programs for newcomers
  - $1.3 million for the Ontario Summer Games, hosted in Toronto in 2012
  - $1.2 million for waterfront parks.

$9.9 billion (67%) of Toronto’s $14.8 billion 2012 - 2021 capital budget plan is allocated to bringing city infrastructure into a state of good repair.

- The City’s current capital funds can support only 20% of the overall $14.8 billion budget. The rest will have to be acquired through provincial and
federal funding, reserves and development charges. Debt will fund the estimated remaining $4 billion (28%) of the total.

- Even with this expenditure, the City estimates that by 2021, the State of Good Repair (SOGR) backlog will be more than $12 billion.

City of Toronto 2012 - 2021 Tax Supported Capital Budget and Plan, $14.8 Billion:

The TTC will be forced to defer capital improvements of $1.1 billion in the next decade, in order to accommodate its capital debt shortfall:
- Platform edge doors, a new fare system and a yard and storage track for the Toronto Rocket are just some of the projects that will be deferred without increased capital funding for the TTC.

What are the indicators of Toronto’s economic vitality?

Toronto housing starts were up by 20% in the first quarter of 2012, over the same period in 2011:
- There were 18,972 housing starts in the city of Toronto in 2011, still below the 19,710 in 2008 but considerably higher than the 13,425 starts in 2010.
  - The first quarter of 2012 displayed continued momentum, with 5,021 housing starts in the city, representing almost half (47%) of the Toronto Region’s activity.
- The extent of high-rise construction in the city fuels fears of over-building particularly in the condominium market. However, analysis by the City of Toronto indicates that population growth and housing starts are roughly in balance.
Between April 2011 and March 2012 there were 42,050 new housing starts in the Toronto Region. However, to keep up with population growth, about 40,000 new units are required annually. Combined with the 1,000 residential demolition permits issued in 2011 for the city of Toronto alone, and the increase in condos as a share of the Toronto housing market, the ratio of building and demand appears to be in a reasonable equilibrium.

The annual construction value of building permits of all types was $7.65 billion by the end of December 2011 (12.9% above 2010):

- Residential construction was behind the growth ($3.91 billion in 2011 and $2.95 in 2010) while industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) permit values dropped somewhat ($3.73 billion in 2011 compared to almost $4 billion in 2010).
- Toronto still outpaced the surrounding ‘905’ municipalities in ICI construction activity by 71% in 2011.

In June 2012, 189 high-rises were under construction in the city, almost twice the 97 that were being built at the beginning of 2011.
The Toronto Region is a major destination for visitors and tourists; 9.8 million overnight visitors contributed $4.6 billion to the economy in 2011:

- The number of overnight visitors to the Toronto Region increased slightly (by 1.4%) in 2011. The largest increase (5.8%) came from international visitors, who represent about 14% of the total and about 22% of total spending.
  - India replaced Germany with the third highest number of overseas visitors to Toronto, after the UK and China. An estimated 40,000 visitors attended the International Indian Film Academy Awards, hosted in Toronto in 2011.
  - The Region welcomed close to 1,685,000 overnight visitors on business, as well as tourists and visitors to family and friends. Business visits were up by 2% in 2011. 45% of meeting and convention delegates extended their stay in Toronto, half of those by more than 2 days.
  - 50% of delegate activities included museums, theatre, festivals and attractions (compared to 8% for sports activities).
  - Toronto opened 1,235 new hotel rooms (3.4%) in 2011.
  - Major events hosted in 2011 included the U.S. Green Building Council, which attracted 25,000 attendees. In 2012, Microsoft held its International Partner Convention in Toronto, the only location the company has chosen outside the U.S. With 15,000 delegates, 500 associated events taking place around the city and an estimated 50,000 hotel room-night bookings, the convention is the largest corporate event the city has hosted.
In 2011, the number of personal and business bankruptcies in the Toronto Region both declined for the 2nd year in a row:

- 8,050 individuals declared bankruptcy in the Region in 2011, the lowest number since 2000, a 24% decline over 2010 and a 91% drop since a high of 15,423 in 2009. 

- Business bankruptcies were also at a more than ten-year low. 628 Toronto Region businesses went bankrupt in 2011, 12% fewer than in 2010 and 63% below the number in 2009.

Where are the growth sectors in the Toronto Region’s economy?

The Toronto Region’s food and beverage production sector – one of the largest in North America – employs 60,000 people, and employment rates are expected to double in the next 10 years:

- With over 700 businesses, the food and beverage cluster is the second largest employment sector in the city of Toronto.
  - In the ‘new food economy’ consumers are increasingly looking for a greater variety of local food and food products, which will likely contribute to growing the sector.
  - The Toronto Region stands out for the size, employment concentration and density of firms in its food and beverage production sector. However, on the Toronto Board of Trade 2012 Scorecard, it falls behind Calgary and Montréal in recent growth rate (5 Canadian metros are in the top five spots out of 12, with Chicago New York and Dallas at the bottom of the list).

Tourism generates over $1 billion in annual tax revenues in the Toronto Region. It creates jobs for 224,000 people, and both opportunities and challenges for workers and employers:

- Food and beverage services make up the largest share of the tourism sector, supplying jobs to over 39,000 people; more than half live in the city of Toronto. Employment in food and beverage services has increased by two-thirds over the last 15 years.
  - The Canadian Tourism Human Resources Council anticipates a labour shortage of 42,000 people in the Toronto Region’s tourism sector by 2025.
  - Technology is changing the industry, and the skills required by its workers. For example, a hotel room cleaner may now be required to operate a digital inventory device on the cleaning cart.

- The food and accommodation services sectors frequently provide “gateway” jobs for new immigrants. But research shows that they are more likely than Canadian-born workers to be in ‘back of house’ positions, such as cooks or cleaners, than in ‘front of house’ jobs, such as servers and front desk clerks, despite having, on average, higher levels of education.

The not-for-profit sector in the Toronto Region expanded at twice the rate of overall labour growth in five years, but wages are low:
• Between 2001-2006 the not-for-profit sector grew by 17.1%.
  o The sector makes up 3% of the labour force in the city of Toronto (in work such as community food and housing, emergency relief, rehabilitation services, child-care, social advocacy, family services, grant-making and philanthropic activities).
  o The Region is 20% of the provincial population but represents 27% of Ontario’s community, food and housing, emergency and relief agencies and 27.4% of its social advocacy organizations.
  o Women are generally overrepresented (making up 84.4% of the total sector workforce), and salaries for full-time full-year workers average $21,234 - $31,509 in the city of Toronto (made lower by the large number of poorly paid, predominantly female, childcare workers in the sector).\(^{112}\)

Much of the $20 billion invested by the private sector in green energy in Ontario has flowed into the GTA:
  o The 1,000 or more ‘green’ organizations and businesses in the Toronto Region have generated 20,000 jobs and injected $2 billion into the regional economy. Increasing demand should ensure continued growth.\(^{113}\)

What are the indicators of Toronto’s economic vulnerability?

GDP growth in the city of Toronto lags behind growth in the Region as a whole, and trails national GDP growth by almost 1 percentage point:
  • GDP growth in Toronto returned to the low levels of the mid-2000s climbing only 1.51% in 2011 after posting 3.29% growth in 2010. Growth in the Region was somewhat higher, at 2.52%, enough to surpass the provincial growth rate of 2.05% and the national average of 2.41%.
  • Toronto contributes just over 10% of Canada’s GDP and 27.4% of the provincial total, percentages that have declined slightly since 2001.\(^{114}\)

GDP (estimated) in millions of constant 2002 dollars, City of Toronto, 1996 – 2011:

![GDP Graph](image)
The city registered almost no growth in GDP per employed worker in 2011 (rising from $95,088 to $95,199 (in constant 2002 dollars).  ● Compound average annual growth over the decade 2001-2011 was only 0.48% (slightly higher than the 0.45% for the country as a whole).  ●
  ○ Because GDP per employed worker registers place of employment rather than place of residence, the city figure is considerably higher than the whole Region’s GDP per employed worker ($77,286 in 2011).115
WORK

“Work defines your membership in society. Work not only provides an income for yourself and your family, but provides your community a leader whose abilities are being developed through work.”

Ann Lockhart
Program Manager, ACCESS Community Capital Fund
Work:

What jobs are being generated in Toronto, and what jobs would provide fair and secure income across sectors?

Toronto’s 75,100 business establishments included 4,700 that were new in 2011:
- Over one-third (37.8%) of new establishments were in the office sector (businesses such as law offices, security services and health practitioners). The service sector (23.7%) established new restaurants, car washes, laundromats, barber shops and fast food outlets, among others.
  - The 2% growth in new businesses didn’t return the city to its most recent pre-recession high of 75,500 establishments in 2007, but it was higher than in 2010 when there was no growth over the previous year.\textsuperscript{116}

Employment levels in the city of Toronto have weathered the recent recession, but have still not returned to 1989 levels:
- The city gained just over 19,000 jobs between 2010 and 2011 across all sectors. The biggest gains were in the institutional sector. The manufacturing sector shed 1,336 full-time jobs and added just 376 part-time jobs.
  - 1,024,200 people out of an employed workforce of 1,317,300 were employed full-time (a 0.9% increase from 2010).\textsuperscript{117} But part-time employment grew at a much faster rate of 3.3\%.\textsuperscript{117}
Employment levels in the Toronto Region grew by 1.4% between 2010 and 2011, but the employment rate dropped back to the 2009 low of 61.9%.

- In the first half of 2012, the employment rate fell even lower to 60.9%, as large numbers of job-seeking youth found no work.
  - Across Canada, only 63.2% of students (20-24 years old) were employed in June 2012, down from 67.4% in June of 2011, the lowest June employment rate since 1977, when records began to be published.

- The creation of new jobs failed to meet the needs of a rising Regional population, and the employment rate was down by 6.9% from 2010. (In 1987, 68.8% of the Region’s labour force was employed.)
  - Compound annual growth in employment levels averaged 1.6% in the Region between 1987 and 2011. Growth rates in Ontario over that time averaged 1.4% (compared with 2.5% in Alberta). National employment growth was 1.5%.

About 1 in 10 people in Toronto’s workforce were unemployed in July 2012 – a rate one-third higher than the whole country’s (7.3%):

- The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the city was up to 9.6% in July 2012 from July of the year before, when it was 9.0%. Toronto’s July 2012 rate of 9.6% compared to 8.5% for the broader Toronto Region and 7.8% for Ontario.

- The seasonally adjusted employment rate for Toronto residents (based on a three-month moving average) increased only slightly from 59% in July 2011 to 59.1% in July 2012. The size of the city labour force grew by 2.3% between July 2011 and July 2012, to 1,418,700, bringing the participation rate (the labour force divided by the population 15 years and up), to 65.4%.
Unemployment Rate in Major Canadian Centres, January 2008 - May 2012

Toronto does a great job of attracting young workers, but how do we ensure attractive job opportunities for them?

The Toronto Region is a highly attractive place for young workers:

- Toronto continues to score highly on labour attractiveness on the Board of Trade’s Scorecard on Prosperity – overall in 5th place (about the same as last year) and a leader again among 24 global metropolitan centres. The Region is consistently out front for its highly diverse, well-educated population, low teacher-student ratios, safety, and relatively affordable housing (especially compared to other North American seaboard cities). Other global centres (New York, Paris, London and Shanghai) have taken over the designation of “worst commute times”, but stalled progress on transit improvements and Toronto’s 16th place standing (out of 24) on income inequality are two serious detractors from the Region’s otherwise enviable position.

  - The city attracted more net new residents 25 - 44 years old than the municipalities of Halton, Peel, York or Durham, but showed net negative migration in populations 0 - 17 years old and 65 years old and up, in the period 2005 - 2010.
Average net migration figures for the Toronto Region, 2005 - 2010:

The youth unemployment rate in Toronto remained above 17% in 2011:
- On average, 17.2% of young Torontonians (between 15 and 24) were unemployed in 2011. The rate dropped slightly from highs in 2009 (18.36%) and 2010 (18.48%) but remained 51% higher than youth unemployment in 2001.

Youth Unemployment Rate, City of Toronto, 1987 - 2011:

Almost 1 in 5 young residents (15 - 24-year olds) were unemployed in The Toronto Region in June 2012:
• The youth unemployment rate, already much higher than the overall unemployment rate, jumped 15% over June 2011, to 19.8% (unadjusted for seasonality). That’s significantly higher than the 14.2% national youth unemployment figure. Across the Toronto Region, the youth unemployment rate in 2011 averaged 16%, down from the 18.1% who were without work in 2010, but still higher than the 2008 level of 14.5%.

569,140 of the people in the City of Toronto’s labour force had a university degree in 2010, compared to 552,360 in 2008 (a 3% increase in 2 years):

Percentage of the Labour Force with a University Degree:

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*Image of bar chart showing youth unemployment rates across different regions, with Toronto having 16.0% unemployment.*

*Image of line graph showing percentage of the labour force with a university degree from 1990 to 2010 for various regions, including City of Toronto, Toronto CMA, Ontario, and Canada.*
Unemployment Rates in the City of Toronto by Educational Attainment and Period of Immigration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages unemployed</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 years and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landed immigrant</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Canada less than 5 years</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Canada 5-10 years</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a college or university credential (born in Canada)</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a college or university credential (in Canada less than 5 years)</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With less than high school completion</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 24 year olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Canada less than 5 years</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Canada 5-10 years</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 44 year olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a college or university credential</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a college or university credential (in Canada less than 5 years)</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a college or university credential (in Canada 5-10 years)</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2012, the Toronto Fashion Incubator (TFI) celebrated 25 years of nurturing Canadian fashion entrepreneurs:
- Since 1987, the Toronto Fashion Incubator has provided support and training to fledgling designers, 75% of whom are still in business after three years (compared to the national average of 37%). The model has been adopted by 33 cities around the world, and has helped to create more than 15,000 new jobs in the city.

Where are Toronto’s “middle jobs”? Can we get back those that we have lost?

New research on the city’s increasingly ‘hourglass’ economy points to wide wage disparity, and age, gender and country of origin ‘ghettos,’ especially among entry-level jobs:
- Toronto has 40% more knowledge work (jobs that demand a high level of skill and education), than the rest of Ontario. The demand for knowledge workers has risen as
the pool of middle-level jobs, (which require demonstrated skill or on-the-job training, but less experience and education) has shrunk substantially.

Comparison of job distribution by skill categories, Toronto and the rest of Ontario, 2006:  

- Knowledge and entry-level jobs together make up 85% of jobs in Toronto.

- This polarization of the workforce affects Toronto workers in entry-level positions – predominantly youth, newcomers and those without post-secondary education. There are few jobs that pay well, and little opportunity for advancement.
  - Visible minorities and immigrants are significantly overrepresented in entry-level jobs, particularly in the category of ‘servers’ (cleaners and housekeepers, personal support workers and food and beverage servers) – a category that increased by 15% between 1996 and 2006, compared to an 11.2% decrease in ‘pink collar’ (administrative and support) entry-level positions.  

Proportion of Individuals employed in entry-level job categories, Toronto residents, 2006:136

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not a visible minority</th>
<th>Visible minorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All entry-level jobs</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue collar</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth jobs</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales jobs</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Canadian-born</th>
<th>Immigrant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All entry-level jobs</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servers</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue collar</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth jobs</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales jobs</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median After-Tax Income for All Economic Family Units, City of Toronto, 1993 - 2010:137

The median hourly wage in the Toronto Region remained higher in 2011 than the median for the city of Toronto, but wages have been declining in the Region since 2009:

- In July 2012, the (unadjusted) median hourly wage in Toronto was $20.21, unchanged from July 2010. For the Region as a whole, the median was $20.68 an hour, up from $20.19 the year before.138
Median Real Hourly Earnings (in 2002 dollars), Toronto Region:\textsuperscript{139}

![Graph showing median real hourly earnings in Toronto Region from 2000 to 2011.]

How can we close the employment and earnings gap between Torontonians born in Canada and those who have recently arrived?

The initial earnings for successive groups of immigrants entering Canada have declined significantly over the last 25 years:

- The \textit{earnings premium} increased slightly between 1980 and 2000 but then dropped off between 2000 and 2005. \textbullet{} More surprisingly, low-income rates (both relative and absolute) have been increasing more rapidly (relative to Canadian-born workers) among more highly educated immigrants.\textsuperscript{140}
  - Recent university-educated immigrants experience the same levels of low income as non-immigrants without a high school diploma.\textsuperscript{141}

Closing the \textit{wage and employment gap} between immigrants and Canadian-born workers would inject as much as $30.7 billion in earnings to the Canadian economy:

- Immigrants are coming to Canada with increasingly high levels of educational attainment, but their education is neither exploited nor compensated as they languish in unemployment and entry level jobs mismatched to their skills.\textsuperscript{142}
Percentages of Canadian immigrants from five countries, over the age of 25, with a Post-Secondary diploma or Degree (2005):

- RBC research on immigrant employment and income trends over the last 30 years shows that in 2005, salaries of recent immigrants (5-10 years in Canada) were 21% below their appropriate level. Very recent immigrants (0-5 years in the country) were paid at 36% below their skill level. Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal have the widest gaps in compensation and in immigrant/non-immigrant employment levels.

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Immigrant Full-Time Wages, 2005

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics Research
A co-op program that reaches out to technically skilled immigrants was an award-winner for Excellence in Workplace Integration in 2012:

- A Mississauga-based firm, Maxxim Analytics, won the award, given by the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, for a program that has provided more than 400 internationally trained immigrants vital Canadian work experience. The 12-week unpaid job is the same training that new Canadian graduates receive. Half the participants have gone on to work for the company as lab technicians, and IT and human resources specialists.\(^\text{144}\)

Immigrant unemployment levels in the Toronto Region continue to be substantially higher than for those born in Canada:

- In June 2012, the gap in unemployment between immigrants and those born in Canada was 3.1 percentage points (9.0% vs. 5.9%).

Unemployment Rate of 25-54 Year-Olds by Immigrant Status, Toronto Region, 2006 - 2012 (3-month moving average):\(^\text{145}\)

Gains in the Regional job market in 2011 benefitted immigrants, though the biggest increases were in a relatively poorly paying sector:

- Immigrant workers accessed 61,300 net new jobs between January 2011 and January 2012, \(\bigcirc\) while Canadian-born workers lost net 96,500 jobs. \(\bigcirc\)
  - For immigrants, the largest increases were in the accommodation and food service sector (18,600 jobs) professional, scientific and technical services (14,700 jobs) and in construction (11,300 jobs). Canadian-born workers saw big losses in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing jobs (24,900) and in business, building and support services (11,600 jobs).\(^\text{146}\)

Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report 2012
Immigrants in Toronto face high barriers to self-employment:

- Toronto’s immigrants are more prone to be involuntarily self-employed than non-immigrants, possibly because they are more precariously employed and seek self-employment during tough economic times.
  - All self-employed workers need to access capital and arrange financing, understand their markets and make use of all the information and supports available to them. Immigrants in the GTA face additional barriers, such as language, lack of understanding of the Canadian business culture, weak networks, discrimination and, most crucially, difficulty accessing capital and financing.
  - Many resources and programs exist to assist self-employed workers, but research suggests that few address the specific needs of immigrants and none exist in the east end of the city.\textsuperscript{147}

\textbf{ACCESS Community Capital Fund helps Toronto entrepreneurs develop sustainable self-employment through micro-lending and support:}

- With local chapters in 6 low-income neighbourhoods in the city, ACCESS has provided more than 100 loans totalling over $500,000 in the past 11 years. The majority of loan recipients are newcomers to Canada. Most have no collateral or credit history, and face barriers obtaining conventional loans.
  - A pool of more than 100 volunteers counsel and mentor loan recipients, reviewing the health of the small enterprises and linking business owners to other supports in the community.
  - The repayment rate on all the loans dispersed since inception is 88% (and 95% on loans given out in the past 2 years).\textsuperscript{148}

How should Toronto assist vulnerable workers (seniors, low-paid service workers and those without employment insurance)?

In the City of Toronto, less than 25% of unemployed workers are now eligible for employment insurance.\textsuperscript{149}

- In the 1990s, almost 95% of Canadians were entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, but new eligibility rules have cut the numbers dramatically.\textsuperscript{150}

Number of Employment Insurance Beneficiaries, City of Toronto, 2010 - 2011.\textsuperscript{151}
An average of 21.3% fewer people were receiving Employment Insurance benefits every month in the Toronto Region in 2011, compared to 2010. The average of 66,589 EI beneficiaries in 2011 was almost 43% below the high of 95,095 per month in 2009.152

By May 2012, 24,390 city of Toronto residents were receiving Employment Insurance (EI) – a drop of 17.1% from May of 2011, and an indication that many people had likely exhausted their benefit entitlement.153

While the jobs situation worsened for Canada’s youth, employment among those over 55 represented more than half of all new jobs created in Canada between mid-2009 and the beginning of 2012:

- About one person in four (24%) aged 65 - 70 in Canada is still working (up from 11% in 2000).
  - Almost one-third (32%) of employed men and just over half (51%) of the employed women aged 65-69 work part-time.
  - 40% of workers over the age of 65 in Canada are self-employed, and half of them earn less than $5,000 a year.
  - There is a considerable earnings gap between the top 10% of older workers and the rest. The top 10% earn incomes similar to the top 10% in other age groups, while the other 90% averages only 60% of the earnings of workers in the ‘core’ working age group (25 - 64).154

- Many seniors are facing increasing financial pressures that make retirement impossible. Bankruptcy figures show that while the insolvency rate (insolvencies per 100,000 people) increased for the whole Canadian population (18 years old and up) by 139% between 1990 and 2010, the rate for those 65 and older jumped by 1,747%. In 2010, seniors faced an insolvency risk more than 17 times greater than they risked 20 years earlier.155
  - In order to keep more seniors from slipping into poverty, Toronto and other Canadian communities will be challenged to assist older workers find and keep decent jobs, and to combat the age discrimination that older workers often encounter.156
Gender gaps persist for workers across occupational classes:
- Analysis by the Martin Prosperity Institute highlights the continuing disparities in wages and working conditions for Canadians working in creative class as well as service class jobs.\(^{157}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Creative Class Average</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Service Class Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share of Jobs</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.70%</td>
<td>49.30%</td>
<td>63.20%</td>
<td>36.80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Income (2007)</td>
<td>$43,124</td>
<td>$48,422</td>
<td>$37,679</td>
<td>$18,211</td>
<td>$25,599</td>
<td>$20,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Hourly Wage</td>
<td>$28.88</td>
<td>$30.37</td>
<td>$27.12</td>
<td>$15.29</td>
<td>$18.03</td>
<td>$16.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>83.5%</td>
<td>70.2%</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>72.30%</td>
<td>65.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time - Voluntary</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time - Involuntary</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Work through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Alzheimer Society of Toronto
- Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
- Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
- Common Ground Co-operative
- Community Living Toronto
- Community Matters Toronto
- CTI Canadian Training Institute
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Elizabeth Fry Toronto
- Findhelp Information Services
- Frontier College
- Green Innovation Awards
- Interval House
- John Howard Society of Toronto
- Learning Enrichment Foundation
- Local Food Plus/Land Food People Foundation
- New Circles Community Services
• Oolagen – Youth Mental Health
• Serve
• Sheena’s Place
• Sistering: A Women’s Place
• Skills for Change of Metro Toronto
• Success Beyond Limits Education Program
• The PACT Urban Peace Program
• Toronto Artscape
• Tropicana Community Services
• Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation
• Windfall
• Workman Arts Project of Ontario
• YMCA of Greater Toronto
• Youth Employment Services YES
GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR

“Reducing the gap is essential to building vibrant, healthy, secure, productive, prosperous individuals and communities. Poverty makes our communities less secure and less productive; it robs people of their dignity and well-being.”

Sarah Blackstock
Director of Advocacy & Communications, YWCA Toronto
Gap Between Rich and Poor:

Toronto is the least equitable metropolitan centre in Canada:

- According to the Toronto Board of Trade’s latest Scorecard on Prosperity, the Toronto Region is the only Canadian metropolitan area to receive a “C” grade on income distribution. The Gini coefficient (the measure in a community of the deviation from perfectly equitably shared income) has not changed since 2010, but Toronto’s ranking against 24 global centres has slipped to 16th, (from 7th out of 15 a year ago) with a score of 0.42 (zero indicates equal income distribution). However, Toronto remains ahead of the 7 U.S. metropolitan centres on the scorecard. New York has a Gini coefficient of 0.50, while Barcelona scores 0.28.158
  - Denmark, Finland and Sweden are consistently world leaders in income distribution. The U.S. and Italy are the poorest performers among Canada’s peer countries.159
  - In Canada, the gap between median and average household incomes grew by 65% between 1990 and 2009. (The median is the point at which 50% of households are above and below, while the households with very high incomes elevate average incomes.)160

Analysis of income trends in Toronto over the 35-year period 1970 - 2005, by researchers at the Cities Centre, University of Toronto, reveals that Toronto’s middle-income neighbourhoods are disappearing. By 2025, almost 60% of Toronto neighbourhoods could be low-income:

- Projections by University of Toronto researchers predict a virtual disappearance of middle-income neighbourhoods by 2025 (from 66% in 1970 to 20% of Toronto’s neighbourhoods in 2025). The starkest change will be in the proportion of very high-and very low-income neighbourhoods.
- Neighbourhoods with incomes more than 40% above average could make up 20% of the city (up from 7% in 1970).
- Neighbourhoods with incomes more than 40% below average could comprise 30% of all neighbourhoods (compared to 1% in 1970).161

If Toronto experienced an increasing gap between rich and poor during recent boom times, what does that mean for leaner times ahead?

- The Conference Board of Canada suggests that changing demographics (the increase in the number of single-adult households), large increases in the earnings of high-income earners, the impact of globalization, and wider inequality in the distribution of capital, are among the factors contributing to increasing inequality.
  - Income equality improved in Canada in the mid-1990s but declined in the decade after. Over the longer-term, the median earnings of full-time earners in the top income group increased by 16.4% between 1980 and 2005 (the last census period) while median incomes of those employed full-time in the bottom group declined by 20.6%.162
The richest 1% of Canadians increased their overall share of the country's wealth from 8.1% in 1980 to 13.3% in 2007. At the same time, their marginal income tax rate dropped from 43% in 1981, to 29% in 2010. Canada's federal tax benefit system, which offset more than 70% of income inequality before the mid-1990s, now offset less than 40% of the widening equality gap.  

Inequality was exacerbated by a decline in the number of full-time hours worked. The poorest 20% experienced a 15% decrease in annual hours worked between 1987 and 2004, while the top 20% worked only 5% fewer hours.

Poverty costs Canada almost double the amount it would take to ensure that every Canadian lives above the poverty line:

- The National Council of Welfare estimates that the cost of bringing everyone in Canada to a point above the poverty line (based on the after-tax Low Income Cut-off) was $12.3 billion in 2007. A very conservative estimate of the public costs associated with poverty for that year was $24.4 Billion – almost double that amount.
- In Ontario, the public costs related to poverty amounted to the equivalent of $2,299 for every household in 2007 (5% of the GDP).
- The economic cost of poverty includes the direct cost of income support and services; the indirect costs related to health care, policing, court costs and educational support; and the lost opportunity costs that result from joblessness, poor educational outcomes and the wasted energy that people living in poverty expend in getting around, juggling part-time jobs and just getting by.
- Cost benefit analyses of the costs of crime, lack of education and poor health related to poverty, yield some startling figures:
  - $1,400 – the cost to incarcerate a woman for the length of time needed to pay off a $150 fine (80% of women in Canadian prisons are there for crimes related to poverty, 39% of which are for failure to pay a fine).
  - 41% - the percentage of total income tax paid, contributed by university graduates, who make up only 22% of the population.
  - 20% - the percentage of Canadian health care spending attributed to inequality in income distribution.

How is the profile of poverty changing in Toronto?

367,910 households (families and single people) in the city of Toronto (30.3% of all households) were living in poverty in 2010, measured by the standard of the pre-tax Low Income Measure:

- The median pre-tax income of low-income households in the city was $13,480 in 2010.
  - This means that half the low-income households in the city, or 183,955 households, including 82,530 children, were trying to get by on less than $13,480 a year in 2010.
  - There were 2,670 more households in poverty in 2010 than in 2009.

- Based on the Low Income Measure, the number of children (0-17 years) living in poverty in Toronto declined from 2009 by almost 2% to 165,060 in 2010.
However 53% of the children in lone-parent families (almost 70,000 children) were poor.166

The Ontario Government helped 20,000 children move out of poverty in the first year of its commitment to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the province by 25% over 5 years:

• The percentage of children living below the Statistics Canada Low Income Measure (LIM) dropped to 14.6% in 2009 from 15.2% in the first year of Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy.  
  o The LIM is one of the Government’s eight measurements of success in fighting child poverty, which include school readiness, high school graduation rates, educational progress, birth weights, depth of poverty, standard of living (based on a deprivation survey) and whether the household is spending more than 40% of income on housing.
  o On the depth of poverty measure (the number of children in households with an income less than 40% of the median), there was some progress in 2008 as the percentage declined from 8.5% of Ontario children, to 7.3% in 2009 (a decrease of 16.4%).167 

• Major commitments for accomplishing the strategy include implementing full-day kindergarten, free dental care for children and youth, minimum wage increases (the last one was in 2010) and a major review of the income security system (begun in 2009 and slated to report to the legislature in fall of 2012).

The number of low-income lone-parent families in Toronto declined almost 5% between 2009 and 2010, while the numbers of low-income single people—particularly seniors—grew:

• The median income of lone-parent families living below the ‘poverty line’ was $18,320 in 2010.
• The number of low-income adults living without partners or children, increased to 202,330 in 2010, from 193,470 (a 4.6% increase). And this count of ‘census families’ may not include the many low-income residents living in institutions.
• There were over 49,000 low-income seniors in single-person households in the city in 2010 (an increase of 13.4% in one year). The median income for single-person low-income households was only $11,060. Again, this means that half those seniors were attempting to live on less than that amount.168

Children are generally poor because their families are poor. But more than one-third of low-income children in Ontario are children of the working poor:

• In 2009, 111,300 children living in poverty had at least one parent who worked the equivalent of a full-time full-year.169

Percentage of Low-Income Children in Families with Full-time, Full-Year Equivalent Work, Ontario, 1989-2009:
The number of working poor in the Toronto Region increased by 42% between 2000 and 2005, with the highest proportion (70,700 people) in the city of Toronto:

- New research by the Metcalf Foundation reveals that in the Region with the highest cost of living in the country, even full-time employment is decreasingly a way out of poverty. During the most recent census period for which we have information (2000-2005) the percentage of the working population who were the working poor increased in Toronto and in the wider Toronto Region at a much faster rate than in Ontario or Canada, as a whole. Some of the highest increases outside Toronto occurred in the communities of Markham, Brampton, Mississauga and Richmond Hill.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Poor as a Percentage of the Working-age Population:</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
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</table>
The clustering of increasingly working-poor-neighbourhoods in the inner suburbs to the north, east and southwest of the city core is consistent with the 35-year pattern of income trends revealed by the researchers at the Cities Centre, University of Toronto, which show that “Three cities” are emerging in Toronto.

- There has been a shift eastward in the density of high-working-poor neighbourhoods to areas currently poorly served by rapid transit.
The Metcalf Foundation highlights some of the characteristics of the Region’s working poor:
  - They are more likely to be single than other workers.
  - They work just as many hours as the rest of the working population, but are almost twice as likely to have jobs in sales and service.
  - More of them are renters (78% of the non-poor workers owned their own homes in 2005 compared to only 44% of working poor).
  - They are younger, but on average they are about as well educated as the rest of the working-age population (52% had some higher education, compared to 57% of the total working-age population in 2005).
  - Almost 3 out of 4 of them (73% in 2005) are immigrants.

The 10.6% poverty rate in the wider Toronto Region in 2010 was well above the Ontario rate of 8.8% and the rate across Canada (9%):
  - The overall poverty rate in the wider Toronto Region was 10.6% in 2010 (based on another relative measure of poverty - the after-tax Low Income Cut-Off, or LICO). This was closer to the 2008 rate of 10.8% and well below a spike in 2009 to 13.2%.
  - The elderly poverty rate (based on the LICO) in the Toronto Region rose slightly from 8.3% in 2009 to 8.4% in 2010. This still represented a 17.6% decline in the poverty rate over the decade 2000 - 2010.

Elderly (65 years and over) Poverty Rate, based on the after-tax Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO), 1992 base, 2010:

Do rising costs affect Toronto residents disproportionately?

The cost of a Nutritious Food Basket for a Toronto family of four rose 4.7% in a year, from $715 in May 2010 to $748.40 in May 2011:
  - Food insecurity – the lack of availability or inability to afford nutritious food – is a key indicator of poverty. A poor diet is also a major predictor of poor physical and mental health outcomes.
• Each year, Boards of Health in Ontario are required to complete a survey of the availability and affordability of a nutritious diet, and calculate the average cost to feed households of varying ages and sizes. The Nutritious Food Basket reflects the lowest prices for 67 basic food items, regardless of brand. Processed, prepared and snack foods are excluded, as are household items such as laundry detergent and soap. The actual grocery bill for most households would likely be higher than the estimate.
  o There are other costs not reflected in the nutritious food basket:
    ▪ The cost of getting the food home, and the energy cost to store and cook it;
    ▪ The cost to the household that lacks the time or skills to plan and prepare meals from scratch from basic food ingredients;
    ▪ The added expense for households of one, without economies of scale;
    ▪ The inability to buy food in bulk, the higher price of easily stored food, and the cost of food spoilage for the many low-income households that lack storage, or adequate freezers or refrigeration space.174

Rising consumer prices disproportionally affect poor families:
• The cost of food globally rose to historic highs in 2011, and remained there for most of the year. Rising oil prices, uncertain weather, and the increasing diversion of food crops to ethanol and biodiesel production are all likely factors affecting the cost of food. (In Canada, 40% of corn grown is used to manufacture biofuels.)175
  o Overall increases in prices for consumer goods and services (20.2% since 2002 and 2.3% in 2011) masked an even larger jump in some basic items, including food staples:

  o Other consumer goods actually declined significantly in price since 2002, but many tend to be more discretionary items in a household budget, and therefore disproportionately affected more affluent households.176

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items with large price Increases since 2002</th>
<th>% Change in consumer prices over selected periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002 to December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home fuel oil</td>
<td>140.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread (including rolls and buns)</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasoline for passenger vehicles</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calculating expenditures specific to different household types, different ages and income levels, it would appear that households with the lowest incomes bore the heaviest financial burden due to rising prices over the decade, further widening the gap between rich and poor.

Percentage Increase in Consumer Prices by Household Income in Canada, December 2002 - December 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items that cost less than in 2002</th>
<th>% Change in consumer prices over selected periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002 to December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational equipment and services (except vehicles)</td>
<td>-42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home entertainment equipment and services</td>
<td>-34.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveler accommodation</td>
<td>-25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's clothing</td>
<td>-24.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even with a 9% drop in visits to GTA food banks in 2011, food bank usage remains at 14% above pre-recessionary levels:

- GTA residents made over 1 million visits to area food banks in 2011. The drop in numbers from 2010 cannot mask a steady long-term upward trend.
  - More than 711,300 of those visits were to food banks in the city of Toronto (a decrease of 6.7% from 2010).
  - High social assistance caseloads, and new provincial rent guidelines that allow for rental increases of up to 3.1%, are anticipated to increase reliance on food banks in 2012, pushing the numbers higher again.

Source: Calculations by People Patterns Consulting.
Families (and increasingly, single adults) rely on food banks because they do not have sufficient income to pay for both housing and food:

- 67% of food bank users receive income through one of Ontario’s social assistance programs, which are inadequate and not indexed to inflation.
  - Even though 25% of residents who rely on food banks live in households where at least one person works, the median hourly wage for food bank users was $11.60 in 2011, and almost 80% have no drug or dental benefits.
  - 70% of food bank visitors pay market value rents. Food bank users on social assistance pay, on average, 73% of income on housing and utilities, leaving about $5.67 per person per day to spend on food, clothing and all other expenses.179

The Stop has pioneered a ground-breaking Community Food Centre model in Toronto that will launch pilot projects in two Ontario communities in 2012:

- The Stop is more than a food bank. Based on the philosophy that lack of food security is related to a complex set of issues that don’t just involve low income, the organization has expanded over the years to include drop-in meals, a perinatal nutrition program, community gardens, education programs, and a community kitchen in what has become a ‘Community Food Centre’.
  - The Stop now runs close to 20 programs at 2 Toronto sites.
  - In 2009, the organization evaluated the model that it had evolved and considered how it could be replicated.
  - Two pilot Community Food Centres have been created in Perth & Stratford, and The Stop is supporting the creation of more Community Food Centres, through the development of a new organization, Community Food Centres Canada, launched in 2012.180

Close to one in ten Toronto residents was receiving social assistance in 2011, and the numbers are still growing despite punishingly low assistance levels and strict eligibility rules:

- Between 2010 and 2011, the total social assistance caseload in the city grew by 6.5% to 101,127. The number of single people receiving assistance through Ontario Works (OW) grew by 7.3% to over 70,100 individuals while the family caseload increased by 4.7% to just over 30,000 families.181
  - 30,000 people receiving social assistance found work in 2011. However, 50% of people on the current caseload have received assistance more than once in the last 3 years – a sign of the precarious and unstable job market.182

City of Toronto, Social Assistance Caseload 2009-2011:183
Lone parent families have gained some economic ground, but how do we close the equality gap for impoverished individual Toronto residents?

Single adult men are emerging from the 2008 recession as newly vulnerable, while more single parents are escaping poverty:

- Social assistance is the last resort of those who have no work and have exhausted any Employment Insurance (EI) benefit entitlement. Traditionally, the largest group of recipients has been lone parents. But the profile of poverty has shifted in Ontario, and in Toronto:
  - Despite an increase in the two years 2010 and 2011, the numbers of lone parents receiving social assistance in Ontario (mostly women) has dropped by 20% over 9 years (2002-2011). During that time more lone mothers obtained post-secondary education credentials, accessed better child support, received new child benefits and found work (even if it was primarily in the service sector). Crucial to this shift was the ability to obtain income support outside welfare. In Ontario, a mother of two children is currently able to access almost half her income from sources other than social assistance.\(^{184}\)

Annual income for a single parent receiving social assistance, 2003 and 2011:\(^{185}\)
Single people without children – most of them male and young – make up the fastest growing segment of the population receiving social assistance. The Ontario Works (OW) caseload increased by 65% in Ontario between 2000 and 2011, and most of that rise occurred after 2009. (In the city of Toronto, the OW caseload rose by more than 30%).

Reasons for the increase may include the loss of traditional manufacturing jobs and no parallel growth in other sectors (many service sector jobs are filled by women).

Canada’s income support for single adults is one of the lowest in the western world: In Ontario, the maximum annual OW assistance for a single person is $7,000. That’s equivalent to about one-third (35%) of minimum wage – the lowest percentage in 30 years. Since 1995, accessibility rules have also tightened, forcing liquidation of almost all assets – the very assets that would enable single people to get out of poverty more quickly. The asset limit in Ontario is currently $592 and recipients are not allowed to accumulate assets while receiving income through OW.
The correlation between unemployment and social assistance rates has become much more direct since the early 1990s, when EI eligibility changes made EI harder to obtain.


The number of households headed by someone with a disability has increased by 45% in Ontario in the last 10 years; Ontario Disability Support Payments (ODSP) now represent over 60% of the cost of social assistance:

- Factors such as the aging population, better prognoses for people with disabilities, deinstitutionalization and decreased stigmatization may all have contributed to a sharp rise in the provincial disability caseload. However, single persons with disabilities receive 78% more in benefits than other single people, and are able to accumulate more than 7 times more assets.188

How can Toronto’s new Strong Neighbourhood Strategy become a vehicle for citywide public and private sector action on poverty?

June 7 is Destitution Day for single people living in poverty in Toronto:

- A single person living in a large urban centre like Toronto needs close to $20,000 to stay above the ‘poverty line.’ (Statistics Canada’s Low-income Cut-Off, or LIM). Social Planning Toronto calculates June 7 as the day that the more than 70,000 single adults living on social assistance in Toronto run out of money if they are trying to live even at the poverty line.189

- In 2012, Social Planning Toronto and the Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto released 44 "Action on Poverty" profiles, one for each ward of the city. Based on the most recent census data (2006), the profiles show that even in some of Toronto’s wealthier

Source: Statistics Canada

Note: Low-income cut off (LICO) applied to after-tax income.
neighbourhoods, there are thousands of residents living in poverty. These families and individuals may have more difficulty than others attracting and accessing the resources they need to get out of poverty.¹⁹⁰

- Using National Council of Welfare figures, Social Planning Toronto calculated the income of single adults receiving social assistance over the past two decades. In 1992, during a major recessionary period, ‘Destitution Day’ was still more than two months later (August 14) than in 2012.¹⁹¹

**Toronto targets new communities for investment with an updated Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020:**

- In March 2012, the City broadened its emphasis on community infrastructure and development at the neighbourhood level from the 13 “priority neighbourhoods” identified in 2005 as needing particular attention and support. In partnership with [United Way Toronto](#), the City will approve new neighbourhoods as Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs), using various measurements of community health. The 13 priority neighbourhoods will continue to be NIAs.
  - These neighbourhoods will be the focus of targeted investment, improved city services, network- and partnership-building and the engagement of local residents, businesses and community groups. The strategy is clear that a neighbourhood perspective should routinely inform municipal, regional, provincial and national policies, programs and funding.

  - The 2005 Strong Neighbourhood Strategy has resulted in active resident-led associations in all 13 of the priority neighbourhoods, and 114 small community projects have received Resident Action Grants. 5 of the 8 planned Community hubs are now open, where residents in underserved neighbourhoods can organize activities and access services (Dorset Park, Eglinton East-Kennedy Park, Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village, Crescent Town and Weston-Mt. Dennis). 3 more hubs are in various stages of development (Victoria Park, Westminster-Branson and Steeles L’Amoreaux).¹⁹²

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to the Gap Between Rich and Poor through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- [ACCESS Community Capital Fund](#)
- [Agincourt Community Services Association](#)
- [Arts for Children and Youth](#)
- [Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic](#)
- [Canadian Red Cross](#)
- [Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre](#)
- [Community Living Toronto](#)
- [Community Matters Toronto](#)

Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report 2012
• Community MicroSkills Development Centre
• COSTI Immigrant Services
• Covenant House Toronto
• Daily Bread Food Bank
• Dixon Hall
• Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club
  Danny Anckle, Executive Director
• East Scarborough Storefront
• East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization
• Elizabeth Fry Toronto
• FIT Community Services - Friends In Trouble
• FoodShare
• For Youth Initiative (FYI)
• Frontier College
• FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners
• Habitat For Humanity Toronto
• Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
• JUMP Math
• Junior Achievement of Central Ontario
• Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
• LOFT Community Services
• Merry Go Round Children’s Foundation
• Moorelands Community Services
• Nellie’s Women’s Shelter
• New Circles Community Services
• North York Harvest Food Bank
• OCASI (Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants)
• Operation Springboard
• Pathways to Education Canada
• PEACH – Promoting Education and Community Health
• People for Education
• POGO (Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario)
• Ralph Thornton Centre
• Recipe for Community
• Regeneration Community Services
• Scadding Court Community Center
• Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
• Seeds of Hope Foundation
• Sherbourne Health Centre
• Sistering: A Woman’s Place
• SkyWorks Charitable Foundation
• Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI)
• Social Planning Toronto
• St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre
• The Children's Book Bank
• The Dorothy Ley Hospice
• The Good Neighbours' Club
• The Massey Centre for Women
• The PACT Urban Peace Program
• The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
• The Redwood
• The Stop Community Food Centre
• The WoodGreen Foundation
• TIFF
• Toronto ACORN
• Toronto City Mission
• Toronto Foundation for Student Success
• Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club
• Toronto Lords Community Association
• Toronto Public Library Foundation
• Windfall
• YMCA of Greater Toronto
• Youth Employment Services YES
• YouthLink
• YWCA Toronto
HOUSING

“As property values continue to rise there is an increased importance to ensure access to safe, decent and affordable housing.”

Neil Hetherington
CEO, Habitat for Humanity Toronto
Housing:

Is Toronto housing becoming any more affordable?

The Toronto Region has experienced a 40% deterioration in housing affordability since 2004 and affordability is still being eroded:

- According to the 8th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey of housing markets in Canada, the US, UK, Ireland, Australia, NZ and Hong Kong, Toronto’s ranking of 5.5 (median housing price/median household income) keeps the Region in the ranks of ‘severely’ unaffordable markets (a ratio of 3.0 or less is considered affordable). Toronto’s ranking in 2010 was 5.1; 45 out of 325 markets surveyed, were ranked less affordable in 2011.
  - Vancouver was still the least affordable housing market on the continent with a ranking of 10.6 (only Hong Kong is more expensive), and Abbotsford, Victoria and Kelowna are all more expensive than Toronto. Montréal’s ranking dropped from 5.2 in 2010, to 5.1 in 2011.193

In the first few months of 2012, with rising house prices and strong demand, Toronto’s housing market became even more challenging for buyers. According to a Royal Bank of Canada report, to purchase a detached bungalow, (based on $110,000 qualifying annual income) a homebuyer would have to spend more than half (53.4%) their annual income just to cover mortgage, taxes and utilities. To purchase a two-storey house, the buyer would require a qualifying annual income of almost $130,000.194
  - In Montréal, a home purchase required 41.4% of income, and in Ottawa, 41.8%, at the beginning of 2012.

The ratio of housing prices to annual incomes has climbed steadily in the Toronto Region over the past ten years, but average rents as a percentage of income, dropped to pre-1995 levels in 2010:

- The ratio of housing prices to annual incomes in the Region rose 44.3% between 2000 and 2010 (just below the 44.9% increase in Ontario). The rise was steeper in BC where the ratio grew more than 67% over the decade (the national increase was 50.3%).195
- Average annual rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Toronto Region, as a percentage of annual income, dropped in 2010, from a ratio of 16.7 to 15.5 (slightly above the provincial figure of 15% and well above the proportion across Canada, which was unchanged at 13.5%).196
Ratio of MLS Average Residential Prices and Median Census Family Pre-tax Income, Toronto Region, 2000-2010.197

Average Annual Rent for Two Bedroom Apartments as a Percent of Median Pre-Tax Annual Economic Family Income, Toronto Region.198

Percentage of Renter Households Spending More than 30% of Income on Shelter, City of Toronto, 1981 - 2006.199
now costs almost $700,000:

- In December 2011, the average house price in Toronto was 2.3% higher than a year earlier, at $474,270. Total home sales for the year were up 2% at 36,771.200
  - June 2012 average house prices had climbed to $554,077 (8% higher than in June the year before).201
  - The average price of a standard two-storey house in the city rose to $698,694 in 2011 (a 6.3% increase from $657,125 in 2010). Across the Toronto area, a similar house averaged $494,090 in 2011.202
  - Some economists believe that the Toronto housing market is over-valued, spurred on by foreign investment. However, longer-term trends indicate that housing prices have increased in the last 4 years by 24%, compared to the 151% increase in the 4 years that preceded a housing price collapse in 1989.

City of Toronto Housing Price trends, 1979-1989 compared with 2001-2011:

![City of Toronto Housing Price trends chart]

Source: Toronto Real Estate Board - MLS.

The vacancy rate for rental apartments in the GTA fell below 2% in 2011, as the number of young adults in the population grew:

- The overall number of vacant units across the GTA declined by over 30% in 2011 forcing the vacancy rate down to 1.4% (from 2.1% in 2010), the lowest rate in 10 years.203
The aging of children of baby boomers, and still high levels of new immigrants (almost half of which are under the age of 25) combine to make 25-34 year-olds the fastest growing cohort in the GTA population. Over half of the households in that age group are likely to be renters, and they represent almost 25% of all renters, placing severe pressure on the rental market.

Annual Population Growth, GTA 24-35 year-olds

- Availability of rental row housing and apartments in the Toronto Region tightened considerably between 2007 and 2011. Over the 5 years, the vacancy rate for a two-bedroom unit dropped 135% (from 4.0% to 1.7%), well below the 3-4% that is generally considered necessary to ensure a good supply of rental housing.\(^\text{204}\)
Rental rates rose by slightly less than 2% in Toronto between October 2010 and 2011:

- **Average rent** for one of Toronto’s 127,711 private two-bedroom units was $1,417 in October 2011, up from $1,395 the year before (a one-bedroom unit averaged $1,081 and a bachelor, $843 in 2011).
  - Rental rates were slightly lower across the whole Toronto Region for two-bedroom units (average rental $1,149), but only slightly lower for a one-bedroom ($977) and a bachelor ($819).205

How will Toronto protect and renew its stock of high-rise rental housing?

**Vertical Poverty Revisited** confirms the importance of private high-rise rental housing particularly to new immigrants:

- 75% of the residents in Toronto’s inner suburban private rental high-rises are immigrants.
  - The building stock is older (most of it built between 1950 and 1970), and in need of major repairs. Many residents live in overcrowded apartments that they can’t afford.
  - The concentration of very recent immigrants in some of the lowest-income locations suggests that these neighbourhood high-rises are important reception points for many immigrants. Some go on to own homes (home ownership aspirations are generally higher than for non-immigrants). Others struggle with a tight rental market and lack of affordability and remain as long-tenure residents in these high-rises.

- A new study following on a major 2011 United Way report corroborates earlier findings that:
  - These older privately owned high-rises serve both newly arrived immigrant populations and also long-term immigrant and non-immigrant residents;
  - In spite of overcrowding and poor maintenance, residents express a high degree of satisfaction with their living space (close to 74% of all immigrant residents say the neighbourhood is a good place to live, and for one-third, the biggest reason to move would be to buy a home); and
  - These high-rises in Toronto’s inner suburbs are a vital part of the housing mix in Toronto and need to be maintained and protected from conversion to condominiums.206

Exciting international examples of tower renewal demonstrate that high-rise tower blocks aren’t the problem in Toronto, but the lack of infrastructure surrounding and connecting them:

- Architect Graeme Stewart points to European high-rise renewal projects to illustrate that the simple affordable addition of a fruit stand, awnings, or a bike path between buildings, can begin to transform a tower block into a vibrant community.
  - **Living Proof: International Examples of Tower Renewal**, part of the National Film Board’s innovative re-imagining of life for the one billion people who live in high-rises around the world, suggests that residents need to be able to say what
they would like to see, and dream about what could happen to make the systems around tower blocks function well for the community.

- The existing examples cited from other projects – a café or a fruit market (currently prohibited in many tower buildings in Toronto), a mural or a coat of bright paint, a community centre or a courtyard – can provide access to fresh food, local employment and a vital community meeting points. 207

**United Way Toronto** is investing $800,000 so that two Toronto neighbourhoods can revitalize aging high-rise towers:

- Many of Toronto’s aging concrete high-rises were built in the middle of acres of cleared land, surrounded by chain-link fencing and zoned ‘residential, which prevented any mixed use. Part of Toronto’s visionary **Tower Renewal** project includes encouraging communities to imagine expanded options for residential towers (recreation and common spaces, gardens and farmers markets) that revitalize spaces and help to strengthen neighbourhoods.

  - In 2012, United Way Toronto injected significant funding into two such neighbourhoods (Kingston Galloway-Orton Park and Kipling and Finch) to allow local residents and community organizations to upgrade facilities in their residential tower clusters. The **Community Microskills Development Centre** in Rexdale and the **East Scarborough Storefront** near Kingston-Galloway will assist in coordinating the two-year pilot projects. 208

**One in five seniors’ housing spaces** in Toronto was vacant in 2011, but very few were affordable:

- The vacancy rate in the Toronto Region for standard spaces (occupied by seniors paying market rents, and receiving less than 1.5 hours of care per day) was 19.9% in 2011, up from 18.5% in 2010.

  - The average rent for a bachelor or private unit with meals included in the rental cost (6,060 units – about half of all seniors’ housing units) was $3,092 per month in 2011.

  - In the Toronto Region only 1.4% of standard spaces cost less than $1,500 per month, and 83% rented for $2,500 or more per month. This compared to rates across Canada, where 37.5% of standard spaces rented for less than $1,500 per month in 2011.

  - The vacancy rate for a non-standard room (where residents receive more care or pay non-market rates) was far lower across the Toronto Region in 2011, at 4.5% (down from 6.5% in 2010). In Canada as a whole, these units were even harder to find, with a vacancy rate of only 2.7% (a decrease from 4.3% in 2010).

  - The majority of seniors are not living in seniors’ housing. Only 5.1% of the population 75 years and older is occupying either a standard or non-standard unit in Canada. 209
How serious are we about resolving our affordable housing crisis?

In 2012, the City of Toronto has not yet found a way to repair social housing:

- In 1994, the Ontario Government stopped funding new social housing units and downloaded government-managed affordable housing responsibilities to municipalities. One consequence is that the Toronto Community Housing Corporation – TCHC (which holds 63% of Toronto’s social housing stock, much of it provincially developed, aging and in poor shape even before the downloading) now has an estimated shortfall of about $750 million required to bring the public housing stock into a state of good repair.210
  - The City has mandated a Special Working Group on the TCHC to craft a way forward for the Corporation, after City Council decided against selling off a large number of social housing units.211

Investing in housing makes economic and social sense:

- In 2011, the federal and provincial governments signed a three-year Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) agreement that provides $108 million to the city of Toronto to invest in housing allowances, repairs, construction of new affordable housing and affordable homeownership. The funding will support strategic priorities such as:
  - Repair assistance to disabled households and low-income seniors, by providing 600 forgivable loans of up to $10,000 to enable adaptations to allow them to remain at home. (By comparison, the cost to house a senior in a long-term care facility in Toronto is almost $56,000 annually);
  - Renovations to private rental landlords in buildings with low-income tenants, by providing 600 forgivable loans of up to $24,000 per unit, to enable health, safety
and energy efficiency repairs that fulfill the goals of the Tower Renewal Project in the city’s 1,000 older high-rises.\textsuperscript{212}

- The Investment in Affordable Housing program will bring some benefit to an estimated 5,387 households in Toronto, but the funding is short-term and nowhere near enough to meet the need, estimated at $483.7 million \textit{per year} over the next 10 years to address the housing needs of more than 250,000 households in the city. Toronto still needs a comprehensive federal/provincial housing agreement that provides sustainable long-term investment beyond 2015.
  - The federal government’s own Economic Action Plan estimates that every $1 invested in housing generates $1.50 in multiplied economic benefits. In addition, every additional person housed in decent affordable housing lowers the health care costs that are directly attributable to \textit{poor housing and homelessness}.\textsuperscript{213}

\textbf{1,085 units of \textit{affordable rental housing} under construction are slated to be completed in 2012, but the goal falls well short of Toronto’s critical housing need:}

- With an additional 102 affordable units completed and occupied in early 2012, Toronto continues to achieve its goal of building at least 1,000 units of affordable housing per year.\textsuperscript{214}
  - As part of the revitalization of the city’s waterfront, The Toronto Community Housing Corporation has begun construction of an affordable housing project in the West Donlands, the first housing construction in the area, and evidence of the City’s commitment to ensure that housing will be accessible to a range of income levels and ages. In 2013, 243 units of family and senior’s rental housing (including 74 3-bedroom units out of 115 in the \textit{family building}), will be ready for occupancy.

- YWCA Toronto’s new \textit{Elm Centre}, the largest single affordable housing project in Canada in 10 years, opened in the city in May 2012.
  - The $80 million, 300-unit building offers affordable housing to low-income women who are single or single parents, living with mental health issues or addictions, and families of Aboriginal ancestry. The YWCA raised over $15 million, and $36.7 million in funding came from three levels of government.\textsuperscript{215}

\textbf{In July 2012, City Council approved the renewal of the \textit{Alexandra Park} neighbourhood:}

- A decaying 1968 social housing project in the Kensington market area will be transformed over the next 12 - 15 years.
  - 806 subsidized townhouses and apartments will be demolished or refurbished and 1,540 market value units will be built. Two new public parks and redesigned streets will connect the now cut-off community to the surrounding area.
  - Community members are participating in the process to ensure that no residents are permanently displaced and that new mixed uses (such as ground level retail) serve the revitalized neighbourhood.\textsuperscript{216}

\textbf{The monthly waiting list for social housing has reached new record high numbers, every month since the recession loomed in 2008}.\textsuperscript{217}
• There were 68,505 households on the active waiting list for social housing in the city of Toronto at the end of December 2011 (a 3% increase from December 2010), including 20,463 senior households (30%), and 21,333 families with dependents (31%).
  - The list would have been considerably larger, but over 6,500 households were moved to the inactive list. 20% of those (1,332 households) were inactivated because they were homeless and unable to be contacted.
  - Almost 4,000 households were housed in Toronto in 2011 (up 5% from 2010);
    - 1176 (30%) households were given priority because of special needs (such as homelessness, terminal illness, youth, or requirement for supportive housing).

• Toronto represents 20.6% of the population of Ontario, but 44.3% of all households waiting on the active wait lists for social housing in the province.

Should Toronto be encouraging home ownership as a way out of poverty?

Home ownership creates a sense of safety and stability for some Toronto residents who thought ownership was beyond their reach:
• The City of Toronto, working with six not-for-profit community partners, and federal/provincial funding, has enabled more than 1,100 households to purchase homes, over the last 20 years. The goal of the program is to help low and moderate-income families break the cycle of poverty, free up rental housing, and contribute to more socio-economically mixed neighbourhoods. In a first survey of its kind, homeowner respondents described the ways in which their quality of life had improved, and the new challenges they faced:
  - 62% of respondents had not considered owning a home, or had considered ownership out of the question, until the opportunity for government assistance (generally in the form of a down-payment loan) was presented to them. Almost 75% reported that they would have been unable to buy without such a loan.
  - A large majority (78%) was either satisfied or very satisfied with their situation. The most important positive aspects in the move from rental housing were pride of ownership, a chance to build equity, increased housing quality, and financial stability.
  - 43% of owners said their personal privacy had increased; about 35% reported better physical health and feeling of personal safety, and 40% of parents said their children’s performance in school had improved.
  - By far the biggest challenge to home ownership was the higher cost of housing. Only a little over one-third of respondents reported feeling more financially secure as a homeowner; about 13% felt financially compromised. 9% reported having to go without essentials such as food or transportation.
  - 14% of those surveyed had been on the social housing waiting list or were Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) tenants before becoming homeowners.

Habitat for Humanity’s unique model of home building has assisted more than 225 low-income families to become homeowners in the city of Toronto:
• Habitat for Humanity has been enabling households to own homes in Toronto since 1988. More than 225 new homes have been constructed, largely through contributed
volunteer labour and materials, including a ‘down payment’ of 500 hours of sweat equity from the prospective homeowner. These simple dwellings cost about $75 per square foot (half the market rate). Habitat Toronto and its homeowner partners completed 45 homes in the city in 2011.
- Habitat’s financing model ensures affordability and sustainability. An interest free mortgage is amortized to ensure that payments are always less than 30% of income (the measure of affordability). For every 12 homes built, the mortgage income allows an additional home to be built every year (including the land purchase).
- Prior to homeownership, households living in social housing received an average $10,500 annually in housing subsidies. Those not in social housing paid at least 60% of their income on rent. As homeowners, Habitat Toronto households instead contribute in the form of housing taxes – an estimated $454,000 in 2011.
- A third-party survey of Habitat Toronto showed that in 2010, rather than receiving subsidy and paying an average $9,576 in rent, homeowners gained an average $26,800 in net worth through repayments on principal and home appreciation.
- Over the longer term, homeowners have also experienced an average 8% rise in income each year, even through the 2008-2009 recession.
- Habitat homeowners report other positive gains through home ownership. A majority witnessed an immediate increase in their children’s school grades, and they reported that older children gained the stable home life they needed to pursue post-secondary education.221

How are we responding to the homelessness that is often hidden in Toronto?

62.5% of sponsored refugees in the Toronto Region are spending more than 50% of monthly income on housing:
- Households spending half or more of their income on housing are considered at risk of homelessness,
- Part of a larger study of hidden homelessness among refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants in the three large gateway cities – Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver – this research demonstrates the precarious housing situation faced by the majority of this population.
  - The Toronto Region is home to high numbers of refugees and asylum seekers (10,230 in 2009, including government-assisted and privately sponsored refugees and those granted asylum). The Toronto Region also has the largest asylum seeking population in the country (38,786 by 2010). This group experiences the highest housing vulnerability.
  - Affordability is the main housing issue for the Region’s newcomers. More than 80% spend more than 30% of income on housing. But one in three asylum seekers spends 75% of household income on housing and almost half have become homeless at some point and had to resort to a shelter. Although sponsored refugees and asylum seekers have the greatest difficulty, finding secure, decent housing is tough for 75% of other immigrants. Many experience problems with affordability even after 5-10 years in Toronto.
Overcrowding is also an issue for more than half of sponsored refugees and asylum seekers. And more than half live in poorly maintained and unhealthy housing, combating issues such as poor ventilation, vermin and mould. The number of year-round shelters in Toronto declined by 23 between 2009 and 2011, bringing the total to 133:

- The number year-round shelter beds also dropped by 3.7% to 3,253. This doesn't include the seasonal or overflow beds. However, emergency shelter use was up in 2011. The average number of beds occupied per night, in the third quarter of the year was up by 2.6% for single people and 4.5% for families, over the same period in 2010.
- The family shelter system expands and contracts according to need, by contracting with motel operators.

The increasing criminalization of homelessness makes life harder for young people trying to survive on Toronto's streets and fuels the debate about who has the right to use public space:

- A new report raises questions about the city's approach to addressing the very real problem of homelessness through law enforcement – the implementation of the Safe Streets Act (SSA), which criminalizes people not for so much for some particular activity but for who and where they are – homeless and forced, through lack of private spaces, to living out their lives in public ones.
  - The report finds that the number of tickets issued through the SSA more than doubled between 2006 and 2010, without any evidence of increased levels of offending behaviours.
  - Youth (under the age of 25) received 6,400 tickets between 2004 and 2010. None have the ability to pay (99.8% of tickets are outstanding), but their collective debt level is almost $725,000, an enormous burden for a population that already has difficulty seeing a way out of poverty.
  - Young people (who do attract more attention from the police than other homeless individuals) experience the SSA as harassment. The report concludes that it contributes to pervasive negative attitudes towards policing and to the likelihood of further negative encounters.
  - Dealing with homelessness by criminalizing it would not appear to get to the complex roots of the problem.

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Housing through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Agincourt Community Services Association
- Community Living Toronto
- Covenant House Toronto
- East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization
- Elizabeth Fry Toronto
- Findhelp Information Services
- Habitat For Humanity Toronto
- Interval House
- John Howard Society of Toronto
- Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
- LOFT Community Services
- Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP)
- Nellie's Women's Shelter
- New Visions Toronto
- Regeneration Community Services
- Seeds of Hope Foundation
- Senior Peoples' Resources in North Toronto Incorporated (SPRINT)
- Sheena's Place
- SkyWorks Charitable Foundation
- Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI)
- Social Planning Toronto
- The Dorothy Ley Hospice
- The Good Neighbours' Club
- The Massey Centre for Women
- The Redwood
- Toronto ACORN
- Toronto Artscape
- Toronto Atmospheric Fund
- Unison Health and Community Services
- YWCA Toronto
How sustainable is the place we call home?

- Getting Around
  - pg 113
- Environment
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GETTING AROUND

“Transportation is about getting people to where they need to go. A transportation system must focus on making it easier for all people to get around, without polluting the air we breathe."

Franz Hartmann
Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance
Getting Around:

An apparent improvement in the Toronto Region’s commute time relative to other global cities (an average 66 minutes round-trip in 2011), has more to do with upgrades to the method of data collection than any roads or transit improvement:

- The Toronto Board of Trade 2012 Scorecard on Prosperity again gave the Region a failing grade on commute times. Toronto moved from a last-place finish in 2010 to 15th in 2011 (out of 22 metro areas). However, though Toronto commuters may have a shorter trip than in Paris (67.4 minutes), Tokyo (69 minutes) or London (74 minutes), the majority of commuters in those cities take transit, bike or walk to work, (in Paris the figure is 73.7%; in Tokyo, 68% and in London, 58.6%) whereas in the Toronto region, latest figures indicate that less than 1 in 3 (28.8%) choose options other than driving.226

The daily commute takes a serious toll on GTA drivers:

- In 2012, The Pembina Institute surveyed 1,000 drivers in the GTA whose commute is 30 minutes or longer. Among their findings:
  - 70% drive to work five days a week and two-thirds say that commuting diminishes their quality of life. The average commute in that group was 43 minutes – one-way.
  - 84% have to drive on a major highway, and 69% report that the commute is at least somewhat stressful. 50% of those with longer commutes (average time of 50 minutes) find the commute very stressful.
  - More than half of the surveyed drivers (56%) have no rapid transit alternative available to them.227

In 2010, the City of Toronto spent more than $2.8 billion on transportation – the equivalent of $2,723 for every household in the city:

- The per-household transportation cost was more than twice that of other Ontario cities such as London ($937 per household) and Burlington ($1,025).228
  - Toronto’s higher costs are due in large part, to the city’s more expensive multi-modal system (buses, streetcars, light rail and heavy rail).
  - Toronto’s transit expenditures have risen steadily from 2000. A 5.5% increase in the cost per trip in 2010 over 2009 was mostly due to the increases in wages, fuel and electricity prices, and maintenance. However, when the cost of transit is calculated in relation to number of passenger trips taken, Toronto’s costs are almost the lowest among 11 Ontario municipalities.229
Cost of Conventional Transit per Passenger Trip and Average Number of Passenger Trips per in-Service Vehicle Hour (Efficiency):

### Table: Cost of Conventional Transit per Passenger Trip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Cost per trip</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lond</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Ham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wat</td>
<td>$3.78</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$5.67</td>
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<td>York</td>
<td>$7.28</td>
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### Table: Average Number of Passenger Trips per in-Service Vehicle Hour

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Trips per in-service hour</th>
</tr>
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<td>Durh</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
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</table>

### Text:

How will Toronto achieve a political consensus to fund the regional transit network we so badly need?

Canada’s transit systems will need to invest almost $39 billion between 2012 and 2016 to meet the demand for new service and alleviate pressure on current transit systems:

- The country’s major metropolitan areas, Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Greater Montréal and Metro Vancouver, account for over 80% of expansion demand. 40% of the capital required is not available in current funding envelopes and will have to be generated through new funding sources.
  - Over the next 25-30 years, the GTHA will need to expend $50 billion upgrading transit. Metrolinx, the provincial agency mandated to coordinate and integrate transportation within the region, is slated to present a major report on its investment strategy to the Ontario Government by June 2013.

Toronto is proceeding to build Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines to serve the inner suburbs, but the region is still without an affordable, long-term funding strategy for transit:

- In early 2012, after months of stalled progress, Toronto City Council weighed various options for $8.4 billion in dedicated provincial transit funding, and committed to building 4 Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines – the first phase in the 2007 Transit City plan proposed jointly by the City and the TTC, with funding from the Province:
  - Finch West LRT
  - Eglinton Crosstown LRT
- Sheppard LRT
- Scarborough LRT

- Much of the debate at City Council focused on a proposal to bury all of the Eglinton LRT, at a cost of $2 billion. Ultimately, the Council was persuaded that moving the Eglinton LRT above ground and using the $2 billion in savings for LRT construction would most effectively serve the greatest number of people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost/Benefit Comparison: Burying the Eglinton Line or LRT Construction$^{232}$</th>
<th>Burying all of Eglinton LRT</th>
<th>Finch West LRT + Sheppard LRT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional km of rapid transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Torontonians served</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional riders per year</td>
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<td>20.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenhouse Gas reductions (from additional transit users)</td>
<td>25,000 tonnes</td>
<td>34,000 tonnes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Torontonians sometimes confuse LRT trains with streetcars, which run on existing streets. Although some LRT lines will follow existing street grids, the
trains operate in a dedicated right of way, away from road traffic.

- LRT is rapid. Trains run at close to the speed of subways, with somewhat more frequent stops. The lines are designed for commuting (rather than a line like the St. Clair streetcar line.)
- LRT carries more people than streetcars, board more quickly, and run much more often (LRT has a carrying capacity of 25,000 per hour vs. 10,000 for streetcars).  

The new Finch West LRT line will serve people who badly need better transit options in one of Toronto’s most underserved inner suburbs:

- This area of Toronto, identified by the University of Toronto’s Cities Centre as part of City #3 of the Three Cities within Toronto has a high proportion of low-income, single parent and immigrant households.
  - Many residents don’t have the option of driving, and commute long distances to low paying jobs.
  - Finch West currently has one of the busiest bus routes in the city.
  - Replacing diesel buses with cleaner LRT will mean less pollution and longer-term health benefits for local residents.

A new map paints a picture of Toronto’s uneven transit availability:

- Using the most recent data available, researchers at the Martin Prosperity Institute divided the city into 250m x 250m grids and created a transit score for each square. The score is determined by the number of transit stops within 500 metres of the centre of the grid, the frequency of service, and the capacity of the available transit vehicles.
  - The white squares on the grid have a score of zero, (no transit availability).
  - The yellow squares are below the city average score of 29.5.

City of Toronto’s Transit Score: 
LRT in Toronto is only a small part of the much larger GTHA regional transportation fix. Building connectivity between the city core and its inner and the outer suburbs presents a much bigger challenge:

- Successful metropolitan regions around the globe have a mix of highly integrated transit systems (light rail and bus rapid transit + subways + commuter rail + high-occupancy vehicle lanes + surface transit operating in traffic). The GTHA is challenged not only to integrate various smaller regional transit systems, but also to do so in a way that allows commuter traffic to flow in all directions.
  - Many Torontonians are making a “reverse commute” each day, as they head out of the city to work in the outer suburbs. Others travel to work from one suburb to another in the Region.
    - The GTA has 200 million square feet of office space (one of the four largest such regions in North America), but less than half of it is currently within reach of rapid transit.\(^\text{236}\)

The older mixed-use areas of Toronto in the ‘in between’ spaces between the dense and highly visible downtown core and the burgeoning outer suburbs are often seen as simply spaces to leap over or cut through rather than as part of a vital web of connectivity and productivity in the city:

- Researchers at York University have depicted the invisibility and also the vulnerability of this in between zone; an area of the city/Region characterized by an incongruous mix of older, now primarily low-income housing alongside clusters of strip malls and big box stores, an assortment of industrial sites, remnants of older agricultural and recreational land, and entertainment facilities ranging from massage parlours to theme parks and go-cart race tracks.
  - Their recent publication points to the challenges of building new transit infrastructure (or of ‘un-building’ old infrastructure) in such a landscape – a wide-lot, lower-density suburban area built for automobile transportation.
  - The researchers highlight the dangers of focusing improvements in transport infrastructure only on connecting “premium” transportation hubs (the downtown with the outer suburbs – Union Station with distant commuter rail parking lots), at the expense of the communities in between them. Global competitiveness, they argue, will be best enhanced by the social cohesion and liveability that come with a broader, wider connectivity.\(^\text{237}\)

A revised version of The Big Move (the 2008 Metrolinx regional transportation plan) is expected within the year:

- Experts are suggesting that part of the solution to regional gridlock is to convert GO Transit from a commuter service to an all-day service running in all directions, vastly expanding its current 60 million annual ridership and alleviating subway congestion.
  - Even without conversion, GO Transit ridership is expected to reach 75 million by 2016. Other regional transit systems are also experiencing ridership growth and pressure to expand capacity. Current system-wide investments include:
Meeting transit needs in the GTHA means finding a way to raise about $3 - 4 billion in new funding every year to cover capital, operating and maintenance costs:

- In the absence of a region-wide political body, arriving at a consensus on funding options among the GTA and Hamilton’s 31 municipalities appears unlikely. Transportation specialists suggest that the Province will probably need to legislate long-term revenue sources to fund The Big Move (authorizing the levying of new taxes, tolls, congestion charges, parking fees, or other options). Research suggests that GTA residents would be willing to support new funding initiatives that make an immediate tangible difference in their daily lives.239

GTA residents are open to a variety of options to fund rapid transit, including congestion fees, road tolls, and regional sales tax increases, particularly if the revenue is dedicated to funding new transit:

- Half the respondents in a 2011 poll of GTA residents (54%) said that transportation in the region is good, but 40% characterized it as poor, and only one-third thought that the system would improve in the next 5 years.
  - More than half believe that public transit is the highest funding priority, and 55% supported the implementation of a ‘congestion fee’ similar to that introduced in London. (A fee is charged on each non-exempt vehicle entering the Congestion Charge Zone in the city core.) However, two-thirds of respondents were opposed to a 1% increase in the sales tax, and only 26% thought it was a good, or very good idea.240
  
- Respondents to the 2012 Pembina Survey of drivers’ attitudes towards various funding options indicated that:
• Just over half of GTA drivers (54%) approved of a 1% sales tax increase as a reasonable funding option. However, a much higher 70% of the drivers surveyed were more willing to pay a user fee if they knew that the revenues were being used to fund rapid transit.

• 57% responded that a road toll was a somewhat, or very reasonable way to fund GTA transportation infrastructure. The approval ratings were higher (69%) if the funding was dedicated to rapid transit development close to the same route or transit that connected their community to the broader rapid transit network.

• 68% of drivers in the GTA would be at least somewhat interested in taking either a subway or light-rail transit (LRT) if it were built along their commuting route. 40% said they would be very interested in using a LRT option.241

• An April 2012 Environics poll confirmed that a large majority of GTA residents (74% of respondents) support a 0.5% sales tax increase, if the revenue is used for transit improvement. Support for the idea was consistent across the GTA, but lowest in Halton Region at 67%.242

While debate on transit expansion stalled in Toronto other jurisdictions modeled a better way to move forward:

• In 2008, facing the prospect of perpetual gridlock and no money to pay for improvements, two-thirds of Los Angeles residents voted for a half-cent sales tax hike. It will generate $40 billion over the next 30 years, to pay for ambitious transit expansion, road improvement and even bike paths. The anticipated tax revenue allowed the city to borrow federal money, and construction has begun on a dozen rapid transit lines (light rail and bus) that will serve the whole area. Subway expansion is part of the plan and will begin in 2013, but is expected to take 30 years to complete.243

  o 60% of Seattle voters approved the same tax increase in 2008 to raise $17.5 billion over 20 years, for transit infrastructure.

  o Vancouver and Greater Montreal have instituted a gas tax (of 2 cents and 1.5 cents respectively) to help pay for transit.

In 2011, the TTC set a new ridership record for the second year in a row, transporting more than half a billion passengers:

• 22,862,000 additional trips in 2011 pushed annual TTC ridership levels to 500,219,000 (a 4.8% increase over the record 477,357,000 in 2010). Ridership has increased every year since 2003.244

  o The per capita rate of transit use also increased by 7.6% between 2000 and 2010 from 160 -172.1 trips per person in Toronto.245

  o 1.6 million people take the TTC on an average weekday and the system recovers about 70% of costs through fares – one of the highest rates of cost-recovery in North America.

  o TTC service improvements in 2011 included the addition of 11 (of a projected 70) fully accessible new Toronto Rocket subway trains, increasing capacity of a 6-car train from 890 to about 960 people. Construction also began on a new signalling system that will allow trains to run more frequently during rush hours (an anticipated reduction from the current 2.5-3 minutes to 90 seconds).246
In June 2011, the tunnel-boring phase of construction began on the Toronto-York Spadina Subway extension (TYSSE) – an 8.6 km, 6-station extension of the current TTC Yonge University Spadina line from Downsview to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. Construction is anticipated to create about 20,000 jobs before scheduled completion in 2015. The first expansion of the system beyond the municipal boundary of Toronto, the $2.5 billion cost is jointly funded by the federal and provincial governments, the City of Toronto, and the Regional Municipality of York (one of the fastest growing areas in the region).

**GO Transit**, the regional transit system for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), transported 61 million passengers in 2011, an increase of 4 million (7%) over 2010:

- GO transit (a division of Metrolinx) serves a population of more than 7 million people, and connects to all 16 municipal transit systems in its service area. In January 2012, weekly ridership averaged 219,000 passengers, on the train and bus network. 96% of train commuters (over 159,000 people) pass through Union Station.
- The conversion of the GO rail system from diesel to electric vehicles is still estimated to be more than ten years away, despite a 2011 Metrolinx Electrification study that concluded that electrification would result in significant benefits, including operating cost reductions of up to $18 million per year (25%) and faster and more frequent service.
- In 2011 Metrolinx agreed to purchase 12 “clean diesel” units (that meet U.S. Tier 4 emission standards) for use on the new Air Rail Link, scheduled to open in time for the Pan/Parapan-American Games in 2015. The locomotives can be converted to electric propulsion when the rail corridor becomes electric.

Passenger traffic has rebounded at Canada’s busiest airport after a downturn in 2009:

- A record 33,435,280 passengers transited Toronto’s Pearson International Airport in 2011, an increase of almost 4.7% over 2010, and 10% over 2009.
- One quarter of the population of Canada lives within easy driving distance (160km) of Toronto, and 60% of the population of the United States is located within a 90-minute flight away. But Pearson’s potential as a major continental hub is constrained by local road congestion and still un-built direct transit artery to the city centre.

What steps is Toronto taking to increase active transportation?

A blocked path on Don Mills Ave:
Lack of pedestrian infrastructure and busy roadways isolate and endanger high-rise residents in Toronto’s inner suburbs:

- A 2009-2010 walkability study of 8 Toronto high-rise communities (7 of them in the inner suburbs) highlighted the many challenges that residents face getting around in neighbourhoods designed for fast-moving traffic rather than pedestrians.
  - The population in the study is made up of large households (52% with 4 or more people compared to 24% for the city as a whole), with low household incomes (79% reported annual household incomes of less than $40,000), but relatively high levels of educational attainment (57% with post-secondary credentials). Two-thirds of the participants were women.
  - In a landscape designed for cars, 42% of households and two-thirds of single parent households didn’t own cars. Only a little over one-third of women participants had a driver’s licence.
  - Almost one in three participants relied on walking to buy groceries, and another one in five walked one way and returned by transit or taxi.
  - Major roadways, constructed to move traffic quickly and efficiently are often the “main streets” in these high-rise neighbourhoods. Residents are forced to use narrow unsafe sidewalks, cross roads with few traffic lights or crosswalks where signals are too short to cross multiple lanes of traffic. In one community, a major artery encircles a core of schools and services. In others, shops and community amenities have no direct accessible routes to them, and residents have to negotiate muddy shortcuts, broken fences, or roads without lights.
  - Instead of encouraging walking, these environments create dependence on cars. More than half (52%) of survey respondents said they hoped or planned for a car in the future.
  - Overall, two-thirds of participants were positive about their community as a place to walk (with variation between high-rises). But more walkable neighbourhoods could do much to stabilize communities, enhance safety, encourage connections between residents, and increase pride in their surroundings.253
For 2 in 3 men and 1 in 3 women over the age of 65 in the Toronto Region, driving is their main form of transportation:

- In 2009, almost 80% of men and 49% of women over the age of 65 living in the Toronto Region had a valid driver’s licence, according to a recent profile of seniors’ driving habits. Almost as many (76.5% of men and 42.3% of women) had driven in the previous month.
  - Many seniors live in areas of low density housing, where public transit may require a walk to a bus stop or subway station. However, among senior men, 67% of men living in the highest density residential areas in the country reported that they had driven at least once in the previous month (compared to 36% of women over 65); for 56.3% of men over 65 living in the highest density neighbourhoods and 25.8% of women in that category, driving was still the main transportation mode.
  - About one-third of seniors in the Toronto Region had used transit in the previous month in 2009. But seniors do not tend to increase their use of public transit as they get older and most use accessible transit and taxis only after the age of 85.
  - As the seniors’ population grows, the gap between men and women drivers will lessen. Men and women aged 45-54 hold licences in almost equal proportions (96% and 90% respectively), Accessible, convenient, safe alternative transportation options will need to be a priority for the Region, or there could be many more older drivers on Toronto’s roads in the coming years.\textsuperscript{254}

Gender, socio-economic status and age of housing are determinants in whether children use active transportation to get to and from school; but even Toronto children who regularly walk to and from school are unlikely to meet physical activity guidelines:

- A recent study examining how the built environment influences active transport tracked the transportation patterns of Grade 5 and 6 students in a wide range of urban and suburban neighbourhoods across the city.\textsuperscript{255}
  - Across all neighbourhoods, about two-thirds (65.8%) of students walk to school, and 25.9% are driven. The numbers who walk home are slightly higher. Toronto compares favourably to the wider GTA, where not quite half (48.1%) walked, according to 2006 estimates, with even lower numbers in the ‘905’ region (36% - 42% in 2006). More children living in low-income neighbourhoods and areas with older housing walk to school in Toronto (70% - 77%).
  - Across Toronto, boys walk to school more often than girls. Girls living in neighbourhoods with older housing and newer low-income communities are more than 3 times more likely to be driven to school than boys.
  - Both boys and girls living in new high-income neighbourhoods are 2.5 - 3 times more likely to be driven rather than walk, even though 94% of parents in these neighbourhoods state that they value active transportation and 90% believe that the neighbourhood is safe.
Mode of Transportation to and from School, Grade 5 and 6 Students, City of Toronto:

Across Toronto neighbourhoods, children who walk to school are more likely to meet recommended activity guidelines on school days, than those who are driven. However, when their activity levels were objectively measured, less than 1% (0.2%) met the recommended guideline on 6 days out of 7; and two-thirds did not meet recommended activity levels on any day.

Among girls, the findings were more starkly evident of how inactive Toronto children are. 78.2% measured below recommended activity levels every day of the week.

Across varied neighbourhoods the vast majority of children and parents (90%) reported ease in walking or cycling in the community. Most children live within walking distance of the school (among those who were driven, 70% live within 1.6 km of the school).

If the choice were theirs, 90.2% of children would choose to walk or bike to school.

In 2011 the City removed more bike lanes than it constructed:

- At the end of 2010, the City of Toronto had installed 116.8 km of on-street bike lanes (just over 20% of its planned 495 km). In 2011, it added 2.7 km, but removed 5.9 km.
  - City Council has voted to upgrade several downtown bike lanes to develop a 14 km network of bike lanes separated from traffic.
  - Transportation Services is also studying the feasibility of a new east-west cycling corridor across Toronto’s downtown core.
  - One of the new separated north-south routes will be an upgrade to the bike lanes on Sherbourne St., installed in 1996. However that comes at the expense of a controversial decision in 2011, to remove bike lanes installed in 2009 on Jarvis St. – an adjacent north-south artery. The decision was challenged in 2012, and may become subject to environmental assessment.
Data collected by the City for the year after the installation of the Jarvis St. bike lanes indicated that the volume of vehicle traffic remained stable, but that bike traffic increased by 300%. Such a short period of data collection may not indicate a trend, but overall, collisions on the street declined by 23% (pedestrian-vehicle collisions declined from 9 to 1). And while vehicle-bicycle collisions more than doubled (from 7 to 15), fewer collisions resulted in personal injury (73% vs. 77%), and compared to the increase in bike traffic, the collision rate decreased.  

Proposed new off-road trails will connect existing multi-use trails in the city:

- The City of Toronto’s Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan approved in May 2012, prepares the groundwork for a network of 77 km of new off-road trail development over the next 10 years.
  - The plan includes short-term (over 1-5 years) and medium-term (6-10 years) priorities. Environmental assessments, upgrades to current trails and new construction is expected to cost $30 million in the first 5 years, and another $30 million in the next 5.
  - Short-term projects include the completion of the Waterfront Trail along Queen’s Quay, completing the Don Trail system as far as the Gatineau Hydro Corridor Trail, extending the West Toronto Railpath, and extending the Finch Hydro Corridor Trail across North York and Scarborough (in total, about 30 km of trails and 11 km of environmental assessment).
  - Approximately 25 km of off-road trails were developed in 2011, primarily along the Gatineau and Finch hydro corridors, bringing Toronto’s total to 286 km of off-road multi-use trails.

City of Toronto, Bikeway Trails – Proposed New Connections:262

In 2012, Toronto received a Bicycle Friendly Community Award (Silver Level) from the League.
of American Bicyclists:
- The Bicycle Friendly Communities Program was established by the League of American Bicyclists to rate cities on a wide range of measures, including on-street and trails network, bike parking, cycling mode share, transit access for bicycles, the number of bike shops and clubs available, alternative transportation policies and plans, and data collection. Toronto was recognized for its progress in moving towards being a bike-friendly city.
  - Through the Share the Road Cycling Coalition the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program has now been established in Ontario, and the Province’s cites and towns are able to use the same metrics to rate their communities.263

Toronto’s public bike-sharing program – BIXI – logged 554,389 trips in its first year of operation:
- BIXI launched in Toronto on May 3, 2011, with 1,000 bikes, 80 stations and 1,500 docking points in the downtown core. Bixi is the only system of five in Canada to operate year-round, and attracted over 5,000 subscribers in the first year. (There are systems in Montréal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Waterloo and Calgary that close in the winter).
  - By September 2012, BIXI had logged 889,374 trips, and reported 4,518 current subscribers.
  - The system is designed for short one-way trips of under 30 minutes. There is demand from Toronto cyclists for many more stations, but expansion beyond the city core will be costly, because it depends on high density of docking stations to ensure that cyclists have a place to leave their bike.264

Cyclists in Toronto felt less safe in 2010 than they did in 2009, and some may have stopped biking altogether in Toronto:
- According to the latest Toronto Police community survey, only 52% of cyclists felt safe on Toronto roads (down from 59% in 2009, and compared to 76% of pedestrians, whose sense of safety rose slightly in 2010). However, 26% of cyclists responded ‘don’t know/not applicable’ to the question, compared with only 15% who gave that response in 2009.265

Collisions in Toronto between cyclists and cars were 13.4% above the average for the previous 5 years, in 2011:
- There were 1,314 police-reported collisions in 2011, compared to 1,268 in 2010. 51 cyclists received major injuries (10 more than in 2010) and there were 2 fatalities (the average number over the past 6 years).
  - The majority of collisions occurred when bicycle and car sideswiped each other (17% of total), a motorist turned into the path of a cyclist (35% of total), or a cyclist was struck by a car door opening (12% of total).
  - Toronto has a considerably lower cyclist collision rate that Vancouver. However, Vancouver has a higher percentage of commuters who walk or bike to work (16%, compared to less than 10% for Toronto according to the 2006 census).266

Cyclist Collision Rate, Toronto Compared to other Canadian Cities, Latest Available Data:267
The total number of collisions involving pedestrians in Toronto has been relatively stable over the past 5 years, although fatalities were down in 2011:

- 2,275 pedestrians were involved in collisions and 18 pedestrians lost their lives in 2011 (compared to 20 casualties in 2010). The 5-year average (2006-2010) is 2,205 collisions and 26 fatalities.
  - According to the most recent available data, Toronto is the second most dangerous large city in Canada to be a pedestrian.

### Pedestrian Collision Rate, Toronto Compared to other Canadian Cities, Latest Available Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Pedestrian Collisions</th>
<th>Pedestrian Collision Rate per 100,000 population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
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<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Imaginative designs for ‘complete streets’ in Toronto take all road users into account, and could contribute to building vibrant, healthy neighbourhoods:

- **Complete streets** are defined as those that provide a safe, accessible, and positive environment for all users. Streets that accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, children, store owners and seniors, as well as drivers, are more likely to improve safety, moderate surface temperature (and therefore greenhouse gas emissions), move traffic efficiently, provide a greater number of transportation options and encourage use, thereby strengthening the community and stimulating the local economy.
  - In 2012, the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) engaged in a creative visualization that “completed” 6 typical Toronto streets. The exercise maintained existing curb and roadway dimensions and proposed affordable,
context-specific designs for both major suburban arteries and quiet residential side streets, which could be applied to other Toronto roadways.

- Some of the re-designed streets are, or will be undergoing reconstruction. For example, a major transit project will change the face of Eglinton Avenue East and Commonwealth Avenue in the coming years. This major artery connects to residential apartment towers, strip malls and the bikeway network, and has four of Toronto’s most dangerous pedestrian intersections.

- The complete street re-design compensates for current lack of shade and green space close to the roadway, the high density pedestrian population and speed of traffic.

The Complete Street Design

Current Roadway

Before...
The old industrial sites of the West Donlands are about to be transformed into a model pedestrian-friendly community:

- The streets intersecting this new mixed-use 32-hectare (80 acre) redevelopment will be woonerfs – an innovative Dutch design that allows the roadway to be equally shared by all users but prioritizes cyclists and pedestrians (vehicle traffic is restricted to walking speed).²⁷⁰

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Getting Around through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Canadian Red Cross
- Centre for City Ecology
- Clean Air Partnership
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Dixon Hall
- Evergreen
- Family Service Toronto
- Jane’s Walk
- Macaulay Child Development Centre
- Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
- Pollution Probe
- Toronto Atmospheric Fund
- Toronto Cyclists Union
- Toronto Environmental Alliance
- Windfall
ENVIROMENT

“Toronto is a living city with wild, accessible nature in a vibrant, diverse city. Nature makes a city come alive. It dazzles us, inspires us and soothes us.”

David Love
Executive Director, The Living City Foundation
Environment:

“Quite simply, the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change will be won or lost in cities.” (The David Suzuki Foundation, responding to the failure of international climate change negotiations):271

- By 2050, three-quarters of the population of the planet will live in cities. Toronto has been a leader in its membership of C40 – a 58-city network committed to meaningful climate change action. Around the globe, these cities have already taken 4,700 climate change actions and more than half have adopted comprehensive emissions reduction targets. Toronto can learn from and be inspired by:
  - New York City’s PlaNYC which is promoting solar and wind development in 5 city boroughs, expanding the hybrid taxi fleet and dramatically reducing private vehicle use through tolls and fewer traffic lanes;
  - Seoul’s commitment to retrofit 10,000 buildings by 2030;
  - London’s plan to have 100,000 electric vehicles on its streets by 2020;
  - Rio de Janeiro’s incentives of bonuses to public sector workers who meet emission reduction targets.272

The protected farmlands, river valleys, forests and wetlands adjoining the Toronto Region are home to a fragile biodiversity including 78 of the 190 species at risk in the province:273

- One of the most populous places in Canada (one in three Canadians live within or close to its borders) is also a rich and varied habitat (one of the highest per square inch in Canada) that hosts the monarch butterfly and shelters the hooded warbler. The 1.8 million acres (728,434 hectares) of Ontario Greenbelt, established in 2005 by the Ontario Government, is a precious store of natural capital. It’s also continually under siege. The greatest threat is habitat loss and fragmentation exacerbated by urban expansion, road traffic, and pollution.
  - Depleting our natural capital courts disaster, not just for individual species, but also for human communities. Biologically diverse ecosystems keep water pure and air clean, pollinate plants and control pests, prevent soil erosion and flooding, and maintain genetic diversity. Research attests to the benefits humans derive from access to nature, including improved mental health, higher academic achievement among school children and increased longevity.
  - The annual economic value of the Greenbelt’s natural capital has been estimated at about $2.6 billion, or $3,487 per hectare per year.
  - In concert with an overarchi ng Greenbelt Plan, and stewardship incentive programs to encourage restoration of Greenbelt land, the Ontario Government developed criteria in 2009 to encourage municipalities to expand the Greenbelt. Six municipalities, including Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville and Toronto have responded positively. Toronto is one of the municipalities considering incorporating the public lands bordering major river systems (the Humber and Don rivers) into the Greenbelt.274
Toronto is beginning to reap the benefits of investment in green infrastructure, but could go much further:

- A [2012 report](#) by the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (an alliance that began in 2010 and now comprises more than 80 organizations, agencies and businesses) makes a strong case for increased investment in green infrastructure. Though infrastructure is traditionally thought of in terms of roads and sewer lines, the benefits of green infrastructure (such as, replacement of conventional storm water controls, green roofs, porous sidewalks and the urban forest) may assist the Province and its municipalities in dealing with the challenges of increased urbanization, an aging and increasingly inactive population, a post-manufacturing economy, and climate change.

- Environmental benefits of green infrastructure:
  - Improves air quality by reducing street-level particulates
  - Mitigates effects of climate change and improved adaptability to the related impacts of severe heat and storm events
  - Increases carbon sequestration and storage.

- Social and psychological benefits of green infrastructure:
  - Enhances the liveability of neighbourhoods
  - Increases opportunities for recreation and connection to nature
  - Reduces heat and pollution-related illnesses and hospitalizations.
    - Local [green spaces](#) encourage active living, and are likely to improve wellbeing, neighbourhood connections and a sense of safety.  

- Economic benefits of green infrastructure:
o Reduces energy costs
  ▪ Toronto’s Green Roof Bylaw, which requires a percentage of green roof coverage on all new buildings with a gross floor area of 2,000 m² and up, has saved an estimated 1.5 million kWh of electricity since its inception in 2009, and created 125 new full-time jobs.
  ▪ Toronto residents save $9.7 million annually in heating and cooling costs through the shading and windbreak effect of its urban forest.²⁷⁶

o Reduces health care costs
  ▪ In 2005, the Ontario Medical Association estimated that 78,000 people in Ontario are admitted annually to emergency rooms and hospitals with health problems that result from exposure to air pollution. They estimated that, unmitigated, the numbers would rise to 112,000 by 2026, increasing the total economic cost to the Province (including loss of life and lost productivity) to $12.9 billion, annually.

o Extends the life of aging and overloaded traditional infrastructure

o Increases property values and consequently, increases tax revenues
  ▪ New York City’s 2010 Green Infrastructure Plan aims to save the city $2.4 billion in management costs over 20 years and reduce sewer overflows by 40%. It estimates that every acre of green infrastructure (with complete vegetation cover) will provide annual benefits of $8,500US in reduced energy demand, $1,040 in better air quality and $4,725 in higher property values.

o Generates new employment
  ▪ Combined, the horticultural industry and public parks/conservation areas already employ 140,000 people in Ontario²⁷⁷
  ▪ More than 1,000 ‘green’ organizations and businesses in the Toronto Region have already generated 20,000 jobs, with further growth predicted²⁷⁸

Why should you get together with family and friends and plant a tree in your yard or park this year?

In Toronto “every tree counts”:
  • Toronto has an estimated 20% tree canopy cover. In 2005 the City’s stated goal was to increase the urban tree canopy from about 17% to 30-40% (the percentage recommended for a healthy urban forest).

  o The City planted an average of 84,000 trees per year between 2004 and 2009. Continued planting at that rate would achieve a tree canopy of 35% in 50 years.

  o One-third of the tree cover is maple; about 8.4% is ash (860,000 trees), currently threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer and expected to die within the next 6 years. 60% (6.1 million trees) of the forest cover is on private land, and it will be important for residents to play their part in replacing ash with other native species²⁷⁹

  ▪ More than 1,000 volunteers participated in the city’s 13th annual tree-planting event in spring 2012. Trees Across Toronto added 2,400 native trees and shrubs to Toronto’s un-treed land²⁸⁰
• **Toronto’s urban forest** contributes over $60 million in ecological benefit to Toronto each year through energy savings, improvement in air quality and decreased carbon emissions.\(^{281}\)
  o Tree cover in the city captures 46,700 tonnes of carbon annually, and stores 1.1 million tonnes – as much as the emissions from 733,000 cars. The value of carbon storage is estimated at $31.6 million.

  ▪ The city calculates these ecological benefits using [i-tree Eco](#) – a new highly sophisticated software application that is able to analyze urban forests and assess their contributions to such assets as carbon storage, and energy savings. Used by a number of southern Ontario towns and cities (including Pickering, Richmond Hill Brampton, Ajax and Vaughan), i-Tree Eco ensures standardization, and will enable comparisons between municipalities.\(^{282}\)

**Where is Toronto making good progress on the environmental agenda?**

**Toronto’s Eco-Roof Incentive Program is reducing Greenhouse gas emissions in the city by about 88 tonnes per year and keeping over 7 million litres of storm water out of the sewers:**

- The [Eco-roof incentive program](#) has provided funding of $1.32 million since March 2009 to 85 projects (73 of which have been completed). Existing industrial, commercial and institutional buildings, and new building not mandated by their large size to install green roofs, can apply for funding to install either green or cool eco-roofs.
  o Green roofs help reduce storm-water runoff. Cool roofs reflect back sunlight, and both can reduce the urban heat island effect, where air and surface temperatures in urban areas rise markedly in relation to the non-concrete and more porous areas around them.
  o Widespread installation of green roofs in the city could reduce the local temperature by as much as 2%.
  o Building owners have already saved 466,000 kWh of electricity and created more than 23 new person-years of employment. Beyond the direct economic benefit, the 13,600 square meters of green roofs will lead to increased biodiversity in the city.\(^{283}\)
Crescent Town Community Health Centre and Social Service Hub, recipient of an Eco-Roof Incentive Program grant:
number of buildings that met the LEED Gold standard in Toronto jumped by 88% between April 2011 and March 2012, but high-level participation in the BOMA BEST program dropped off significantly:

- 59 new buildings in the city of Toronto have now been certified to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, including 32 at the Gold level (up from 17 a year ago). There are 617 LEED certified green buildings across the country, 38% of them in Ontario.  
- BOMA BEST, an accessible program that engages building owners and managers to make environmentally responsible decisions about upgrading and improving existing buildings, had 86 participants at Level 3 or 4 in Toronto in May 2011 (Levels 3 and 4 are considered green buildings). By May 2012, that number had dropped to 71 (a decline of 17.4%).

68% of the Toronto District School Board’s 591 schools are now certified Eco Schools:

- 411 TDSB EcoSchools scattered across the varied neighbourhoods of the city are working hard to conserve energy, minimize waste, establishing and caring for vibrant school grounds and creating the healthy, safe, ecologically literate communities that are essential to tackle the major environmental issues facing their city.
  - 16 Platinum schools in Toronto (a new level introduced in 2008-2009) are achieving the highest level of environmental stewardship in any English-speaking school district in the world.
  - In 2006, an external report estimated that EcoSchools used on average, 12% less electricity and 7% less natural gas than non-EcoSchools. Applied to the 2008-2009 year, 264 EcoSchools certified that year likely saved the Board about $2.5 million in energy costs.
  - Since it began in 2003 with 13 schools, the award-winning program has been replicated in over 600 schools in other Ontario school boards.

From the TDSB Gallery of Vibrant School Grounds:
The ClimateSpark Venture Challenge discovers that Toronto has great ideas to deal with climate change:

- The Toronto Atmospheric Fund, the Centre for Social Innovation and the Toronto Community Foundation came together in 2011 to initiate the ClimateSpark Venture Challenge. The goal is to support outstanding Torontonian social entrepreneurs to pursue innovative ventures that impact climate change. From among ten outstanding finalists, the first winners were announced in February 2012:
  - ZooShare is a non-profit renewable energy co-operative that is developing a 500 kW biogas plant on the grounds of the Toronto Zoo. The plant will turn the Zoo’s manure (as well as food waste from GTA-based grocery stores) into electricity, heat and fertilizer. The plant will also generate revenue for the zoo.
  - Young Urban Farmers CSA (now Cultivate Toronto) is a youth-led organization that aims to re-connect Toronto neighbourhoods to the food grown in their own back yards. The team of urban farmers provides training and education to help Torontonians cultivate and access local produce, bringing unused land into production and providing local produce to residents using the model of community-shared agriculture (CSA).  

Air quality continues to improve in Toronto; smog days were at an 11-year low in 2011:
Based on the provincial Air Quality Index, Toronto experienced 1 smog alert day in 2011, the lowest number since 2000 (down from 7 in 2010). Over the past 10 years, there has been an average of 15.8 smog alerts each year in Toronto.

Number of Smog Alert Days, City of Toronto, 2000-2011:

At no time in 2011 did the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) average the “high risk” level across Toronto:

- Toronto has a health-based air quality index. The AQHI is a number from 1-10, which indicates the level of health risk associated with air pollution. An AQHI level of 7 or greater indicates a “high risk” for vulnerable persons (particularly the elderly and those with respiratory problems).
  - Although the AQHI did not reach an average of 7 or more in Toronto in 2011, it did reach 7 or more at individual air monitoring stations.

Number of “high risk” days on the Air Quality Health Index, City of Toronto, 2004-2011:
Toronto beaches are again flying ‘Blue Flags’:  

- For the second year in a row, 8 of the city’s 11 beaches were awarded the international Blue Flag designation in 2012.  
  - A total of 14 beaches and 3 marinas in Ontario are Blue Flag designated, which means that they meet strict criteria for water quality, environmental management and education, safety and service.  
  - Toronto’s beaches were safe for swimming, on average, 91% of the time during the summer of 2011. Rouge, Marie Curtis Park and Sunnyside, the non-Blue Flag beaches, were posted “unsafe” most often (26%, 23% and 21% of the summer days, respectively).

City of Toronto Beaches:

[Map of Toronto beaches]

Source: City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Toronto Public Health has developed new tools to help industries curb pollution and allow neighbourhoods to track toxic substances:

- **ChemTRAC** is a new City program that requires local industrial, institutional and commercial facilities to annually track and report on the use and release of 25 ‘priority substances’ (chemicals, including solvents, metals and combustion by-products present in the local environment and of concern to human health)
  - It also encourages and supports the use of green business practices and provides information to Toronto residents on key chemicals in their community.
  - In the first ChemTRAC phase of implementation (2010), 274 facilities reported, including printers, manufacturers of chemicals, food and beverage operations and facilities operated by the City. They manufactured or used 66,000 tonnes of priority substances and 122 facilities released about 5,000 tonnes (8% of the total) into the air.
Pollutants released in the highest amounts were those contributing to smog (volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and fine particulates.) As the program is phased in over three years, more analysis will be available on the health risks to local communities, and the possibilities for improving local air quality.

How vulnerable is the city, as the temperature rises?

Heat Alert days in Toronto increased for the third year in a row in 2012:

- Toronto Public Health monitors the heat alert system in Toronto from May 15 to September 20, and advises people most at risk of heat-related illness to take precautions. On average, heat contributes to 120 premature deaths each year. The 21 heat alert days recorded by the end of August 2012 exceed those in 2010 and in 2011 (including more extreme heat alerts than in any year since 2005).

Number of Heat Alert Days, City of Toronto, 1999 - 2012.

Note: Alert days in 2012 include only those recorded up to August 31.

- For every increase in summer temperatures of 1 degree centigrade, there is an almost 4% increase in energy consumption.
As the climate changes extreme weather becomes more frequent; two 1-in-10 year storms and six 1-in-50 year storms struck Toronto in the 15 years between 1996 and 2011:

- The Weatherwise Partnership—more than 50 groups from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors in the Toronto Region, including three levels of government, were brought together in 2011 by the City and CivicAction to identify the risks and effects of extreme weather events and to prioritize actions to help Toronto respond. The group identified maintaining electrical power during extreme weather as a key priority and will bring forward an action plan in late 2012.²⁹⁶

How can we speed up progress in waste diversion and reduced water consumption?

Residential water consumption was down 2.7% in Toronto in 2011:

- Per capita residential consumption has dropped by 18% since 2003, as a result of the city’s Water Efficiency program, as well as the impact of increased water rates and residential water meters.²⁹⁷

Source: Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey, Environment Canada.
Two winners of the 2012 Green Toronto Awards are helping Torontonians cut back on bottled water:

- In the water efficiency category, Water on Wheels (WOW) was a 2012 winner for its mobile water refill stations. Since 2010 WOW has been helping special events in Toronto cut down on the use of commercially bottled water.

- Natalie Rizzo was the winner in the Youth Leadership category for her successful campaign to make every school in the Toronto Catholic District School Board bottled-water-free. Her actions included letters to 201 school principals and a national student rally. Natalie’s motion to the School Board proposing the elimination of bottled water sales passed unanimously.  

Toronto still diverts less than 50% of residential waste from landfills – a long way from the goal of 70% diversion:

- The good news is that the city generated slightly less waste in 2011 (799,812 tonnes compared to 813,429 in 2010 – an absolute decrease of 1.7%, even with population growth).
  - 49% of total waste was diverted (391,610 tonnes, up from 380,890 in 2010). There was no increase in blue bin tonnage, and residents recycled 16.4% less large appliances and scrap metal and 6.7% less electronics.
    - In 2012, Ontario Electronic Stewardship acknowledged Toronto as the lead municipal contributor to its successful target of 100,000 tonnes of recycled electronics in three years.
  - Green bin recycling increased by 8.6% as more multi-unit dwellings began participating (multi-unit waste diversion increased from 15% in 2008 to 20% in 2011). The bad news is that 80% of multi-unit residences are still not diverting waste.
Residential waste diversion, City of Toronto, 2010

- The City of Toronto generated $28,374,000 in revenue from the sale of recycled materials in 2011 ($10 million over budget and 26% more than in 2010).

Toronto City Council voted to ban plastic bags starting in 2013:
- In July 2012, the mandatory 5-cent fee for single-use plastic bags was scrapped in Toronto (although at least one large grocery chain announced that it would continue to charge the amount), and a complete ban on plastic bags (including those labeled biodegradable or compostable) is slated to come into effect on July 1, 2013. Toronto is the largest Canadian city to take such action (Fort McMurray banned plastic bags in 2010, although with a number of exemptions).
  - The City has not said how it will advise residents to bag waste, including kitchen compost.
  - In 2007, the Irish Government began heavily taxing plastic bags (charging 33 cents /bag). Usage has dropped an estimated 90% and the country has generated millions of dollars in revenue.

How is the city ensuring future food security?

The food and farming cluster in the Golden Horseshoe region contributes $12.3 billion to Ontario’s economy each year, and the region’s food processing businesses employ more people than the auto industry:
- The one million acres of farmland in production in the region (the core of which stretches from Niagara Falls in the southwest to the boundary of Oshawa in the east) are some of the most productive in Canada, generating $1.5 billion annually in gross farm revenue from about 200 agricultural products. In spite of good soil and plentiful
water supply, the farmers and secondary producers in the region face many challenges:

- Competition for expensive land in a near-urban environment, which often puts it beyond the reach of farmers and leads to good farmland being taken out of production.
- A lack of integration in the sector and multiple, disconnected policies and regulations that unnecessarily absorb time and energy.
- Traffic congestion that impedes the movement of goods, rising fuel prices and the unpredictable impact of climate change.
- Food illiteracy and consumer demand for imported fruit and vegetables. (Ontario imports $4 billion in food each year. Five apples are now imported for each one the Province exports.)

- In a 2012 report, the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee presents a strategy for the next ten years. Among its priorities for the Golden Horseshoe food and farming cluster, by 2021:
  - Foster innovation: Attract skilled entrepreneurs to the food and farming cluster and invest more heavily in training and applied research.
  - Make the link between farming and health: Increase local food literacy, focusing on youth and working with local health units to promote local food consumption.
  - Harmonize regulations: Develop the policies and tools that will support profitability for food and farming businesses.

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to the Environment through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Clean Air Partnership
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Earthroots Fund
- Evergreen
- FoodShare
- FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners
- Green Innovation Awards
- Greenest City
- Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
- Lake Ontario Waterkeeper
- Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)
- Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)
- Local Food Plus/Land Food People Foundation
- No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment
- Not Far From The Tree
- Pollution Probe
• Second Harvest
• Small Change Fund
• The Living City Foundation
• The PACT Urban Peace Program
• The Stop Community Food Centre
• Toronto ACORN
• Toronto Atmospheric Fund
• Toronto Environmental Alliance
• Toronto Park People
• Toronto SwiftWatch
• Toronto Wildlife Centre
How vibrant is our community?
LEARNING

“Education is the great socio-economic leveller. As we prepare the next generation of Torontonians for their future in a knowledge-based economy it is our shared responsibility to improve opportunities for all students.”

Catherine Parsonage
Executive Director & CEO, Toronto Foundation for Student Success
Learning:

What should be done with all the ‘extra’ space in Toronto’s schools?

Fewer children in the population means that there are currently 70,000 ‘empty’ spaces in Toronto’s elementary schools:

- The average elementary school in Toronto now has 431 students (down from 442 students in 2009). The Ontario average is just 318. Enrolment in the Toronto District School Board has dropped by 13% over the last decade, and in the Toronto Catholic District Board by 6%, seriously impacting school budgets (two-thirds of school board revenue is based on enrolment numbers).
  - Decline in enrolment is expected to level off in the next 5 years, but school buildings with smaller classes are no less costly to maintain and operate.
  - 15 schools are slated to close in Toronto in 2012 and more will likely follow. Changes in provincial funding (resulting in a proposed cut of $116 million to Ontario boards over the next two years) may force many underused urban schools to amalgamate.
  - The average utilization rate for elementary schools is 76% and for high schools is 78%, which means that overall, at least one in five school spaces is unfilled. In the ‘905’ region, some school boards are at more than 100% utilization rate. Moving closer to 100% utilization in Toronto would mean the closure of up to 140 schools.
  - Schools are often the heart of a neighbourhood, and a closure is a contentious and generally unsatisfactory process. But boards face difficult choices. Without wider financial support to retain schools as important community hubs, all schools and students bear the brunt of maintaining costly surplus infrastructure.
  - The Declining Enrolment Working Group has recommended that the Ontario Government require (and support) the agencies and services that it funds to consider using space in local schools, before renting in the community.

In an era of declining enrolment, Toronto schools need to be connected to the broader community:

- The 2012 People for Education annual report on Ontario schools highlights the importance of new and enhanced school connections to libraries, community services and health services, in a time when many school buildings are under-utilized. The issue is not simply about renting space, but about the ongoing need for effective integration of important services that impact the health and wellbeing of students.
  - In 2011, school principals were invited to rate the connections or collaborative efforts between their school and other organizations in the community. In Toronto:
    - About 1 school in 5 (22.2%) reported frequent cooperation with municipal recreation programs.
    - 45.4% reported that they often worked with public health agencies
    - 19.1% regularly collaborated with settlement programs
    - 5% reported frequent contact with mental health organizations.
Student-teacher ratios distinguish Toronto among global metropolitan centres:

- Student-teacher ratios are often used as an indicator of the health of a school system. Toronto continues to rank highly among 16 global metropolitan areas. The four Toronto school boards average almost 74 teachers per 1,000 school-aged children (in 3rd place) in 2012. Montréal is the leader in this area with a student-teacher ratio of 87 teachers per 1,000 school-aged children. 307

The number of Toronto elementary schools with full-time librarians rose slightly for the second year in a row to 23% – a figure that still represents an almost 50% decline since 2000:

- Almost all elementary schools in Toronto (98%) have teacher-librarians, at least part-time, and the percentage has been rising since 2008. But without full-time staffing, library access is restricted, particularly affecting low-income students, who may lack resources at home. 308

Just over half of Toronto’s elementary schools now have full-time health and physical education teachers, but students’ activity levels don’t appear to be improving:

- Toronto has the highest percentage of elementary health and physical education teachers in the province teaching at least part-time, but less than half of them (46%) reach all students in the school.
  - The Province mandates at least 20 minutes a day of physical activity (DPA) within the school day for every elementary student. The wide gap between policy and implementation is illustrated by recent research using accelerometers to measure actual activity levels of over 1,000 Toronto school children. Less than half of the elementary students in the study received 20 minutes of DPA, and no student in the entire group sustained moderate to vigorous physical activity for 20 minutes at a time.
  - In the most recent annual survey by People for Education, half of Toronto’s elementary schools report that there is insufficient time in the school day to deliver DPA. However there is abundant evidence to show that physical exercise improves academic outcomes, even with less time spent on other academic pursuits. 309
  - More than three-quarters of schools say they need more supports or resources to provide DPA. But other research indicates that almost half of Ontario school board health and physical education consultants/instructional leaders do not even have a physical education-related degree. 310

Percentage of elementary schools with full- or part-time Health and Physical Education teachers, City of Toronto: 311
In Toronto school boards, the number of elementary students waiting for special education services has grown by about 50% in a year:

- Reversing a recent downward trend, the number of children waiting for assessments for special education increased to approximately 1,800 in 2011/2012. Over one-third of elementary schools (35%) report that not all students identified as needing support were getting it (compared to 25% a year ago and 34% across the province in 2011/2012).
  - In the GTA, the ratio of elementary special education teachers to students is 26:1, and many teachers are coping with fewer educational assistants (EAs). Among the recommendations of the Drummond Commission were cuts to “non-Teaching” staff – the largest group being Ontario’s 9,700 EAs.
  - About 18% of elementary students in Ontario require some form of educational assistance, and the numbers are growing. In 2011, the Ontario Government introduced a broader definition of an “exceptional” student, allowing many more students to qualify for assessment and services. The number of students on waiting lists is expected to rise significantly. However, many school boards in Ontario (including almost one-third in the GTA) cap the number of students permitted even on waiting lists for assessment.312

Beyond 3:30, the highly successful Toronto after-school program launched in 2009, continues to provide a safe and constructive environment for 1,024 youth in 13 middle schools in some of the city’s low-income neighbourhoods:

- Participation in Beyond 3:30 is free, and community support has grown substantially. Twenty-one community partners now contribute to programming, which runs on school nights between 3:30 and 7:30 pm – a time when youth are particularly at risk of unsafe behaviours, assault and gang activity.
  - At the core of the program are physical activity, daily homework support and food. A Junior Chefs Club helps students learn how to prepare healthy meals and improves food literacy. Parents join with participating youth in monthly community meals.
  - Over 70% of surveyed youth report that their academic performance has improved as a result of participating in the program (important because up to 20% of youth in their neighbourhoods could fail to graduate from high school). They also report higher levels of physical activity.313
In 99% of Toronto’s elementary schools, newcomer students need support learning English:

- An average of 8% of students are English Language Learners (ELL) (down from 13% in 2010/2011), but in some Toronto elementary schools the number is as high as 90% (as it has been for several years).
- The number of schools with ELL students who have no specialized language teacher has risen to pre-2009/2010 levels. More than a quarter of Toronto elementary schools (27% of schools, up from 23% in 2010/2011) are unable to meet the ELL needs of their students.314

10% of Ontario elementary schools raise as much money annually, as the bottom 75% put together:

- The pattern of fundraising in Toronto elementary schools has shifted slightly. While 76% of schools continue to raise $10,000 or less annually, the percentage of schools raising more than $20,000 has dropped by almost 42%, as the percentage of schools fundraising between $10,000-$20,000 has risen (to 12%).315

The number of Ontario schools charging course fees has dropped significantly since the publication of new provincial guidelines prohibiting fees for essential learning material, but many schools will be looking for other means to replace lost revenue:

- The 2012 People for Education survey found that 45% of Ontario high schools were still charging some form of course fee (down from 68% before the guidelines were published).
  - Schools charging fees for art classes had dropped by almost half (from 53% to 24%); 26% of schools were still charging a Physical Education fee (compared to 41% the year before) and 16% were charging music fees (down from 26%). However, three-quarters of schools are still charging athletic fees and almost all high schools (91%) collect “student activity” fees at the beginning of the school year.
  - Schools cannot charge for anything considered a “mandatory” learning element, but the guidelines still allow for “enhanced” materials, leaving open the definition of what constitutes basic material.
  - Some Ontario schools were generating as much as $90,000 in fees in 2011.316

How are the learning needs of Toronto’s most vulnerable youth being addressed?

Ontario’s youth in care of the Children’s Aid need a stronger support system as they transition out of the child welfare system:

- There are currently close to 2,400 children in the care of the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, and more than 960 youth (18 and older) who are financially supported until they turn 21, at which point the institution has no further legal or financial responsibility for their welfare. 763 young people were “discharged” from the Children’s Aid Society’s care in 2011-2012.
  - Less than half (44%) of youth in care in Ontario graduate from high school (compared to 81% of all Ontario youth).
  - 82% of the 17,000 children in Ontario’s child welfare system have diagnosed special needs.
• Legislative hearings in the fall of 2011 resulted in a report compiled by youth within Ontario’s child welfare system which calls for major changes to a system that leaves youth emotionally and financially exposed at an age when many are still trying to complete schooling.
  o The report recommends that the Province raise the age of support from 21 to 25, and allow youth to stay in (funded) foster care beyond the age of 18. It also recommends that every child and youth in the state’s care should have an ongoing health and education plan.
  o A 2011 report by Ontario’s Advocate for Children and Youth also advocates raising the age of financial and social support to 25, stating that over 40 years, Ontario would reap a financial benefit of $132 million (2012 dollars) in reduced social assistance and criminal justice costs, and increased tax revenues.
  o Swift action on the recommendations might lessen the chances that children currently in care end up living in poverty, or on Toronto’s streets (more than two-thirds of homeless youth in the Province come from foster homes or group homes).317

As the Pathways to Education program celebrates its 10th anniversary in Toronto, a new assessment confirms both the need for, and the value of its innovative approach to students at risk:

• Extensive research shows that high-school graduation is critical in breaking the cycle of poverty. High school dropouts are three times more likely to come from low-income families, but multiple factors within the school system, the family system and the community, contribute to the likelihood of a student dropping out of school.
  o Since 2001, Pathways to Education has demonstrated, first in Regent Park and more recently in Generation 2 sites in Lawrence Heights, Rexdale and also in Ottawa and Kitchener, that a multi-pronged community-based approach, including academic support, mentoring and funding for further education, can dramatically reduce dropout rates and increase post-secondary enrolment.
  o Among 700 participants in the Regent Park program, dropout rates have been reduced by about 70%, high school graduation rates have doubled and enrolment in post-secondary education has tripled. Enrolment in university programs by Pathways graduates is 10% higher than the national average.

• An independent BCG evaluation of the program estimates that for every charitable dollar invested, 24 dollars are generated in payback. The annual costs of the program (about $5,000 per student) result in a cumulative benefit to the wider community of about $600,000 per student:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of Educational Attainment</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased Tax Revenues</td>
<td>Higher employment income; increased consumer spending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased Government Spending</td>
<td>Reduced government transfer payments; lower crime rates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quantifiable Benefits to Society | Better health outcomes; reduced incidence of smoking, diabetes and heart disease.
---|---
Non-quantifiable Benefits to Society | Economic growth due to a better educated labour force; increased time volunteering.
Second Generation Benefits | Reduced societal burden from children with better educated parents; children with better educational attainment.

- The students at the Generation 2 sites are meeting or exceeding the Regent Park program performance, and the 2011 evaluation concludes that another 27 ‘at-risk communities’ in Toronto (neighbourhoods with high unemployment, low-income and low educational attainment) would benefit from an investment in Pathways to Education.\footnote{318}

**The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has approved an Africentric high school for the city:**
- Building upon the early success of its Africentric Alternative School, which has posted above average scores on standardized testing of its close to 200 students, the TDSB has approved an Africentric high school for Toronto. The site of the new school has yet to be determined.
  - There are 41 TDSB alternative schools in the city, serving the needs of diverse groups of students. 9 new specialized schools are slated to open as early as 2013. Under-enrolled schools across Toronto have been chosen as sites for 2 Leadership Academies (one for Grade 4-6 boys and one for girls); 5 Sports and Wellness Academies; and 2 vocal music academies.
  - The proliferation of specialized schools raises questions about equal access to quality education in Toronto. Out-of-district schools are likely more accessible to higher-income families who are well able to navigate the school system and to commute across the city. The Africentric elementary school, which serves a relatively high-risk population of students (of the close to 30,000 students of African descent in the Board’s schools, as many as 40% drop out), has 200 students on its waiting list.\footnote{319}

**A broad community partnership enables Toronto’s promising young sports leaders to get the quality training they need to find jobs as coaches, lifeguards, instructors and camp counsellors:**
- Since 2006, 800 young people have graduated from the Toronto Sport Leadership Program. Youth (16 and up) from diverse neighbourhoods across Toronto, who could not otherwise afford training programs, receive certification in a variety of sports leadership roles, better enabling them to find employment. A number of graduates go on to work with the City Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division.
  - The six founding partners in the project (The Toronto Community Foundation, The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation division, the YMCA, United Way Toronto, the TDSB and the TCDSB) are supported by organizations such as the Ontario Basketball Association, Tennis Canada, the Canadian Ski Instructors’ Alliance and the Ontario Soccer Association, who waive fees or subsidize the cost of equipment.\footnote{320}
Are secondary and post-secondary graduation rates continuing to improve in Toronto?

Some of the highest job growth in Canada in the next 10 years will be in areas that require a background in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), but many Ontario students are cutting themselves off from these opportunities:

- When Canadian students pursue science courses, they generally do well. But enrolment numbers in high school sciences in Ontario are much lower than those in some other provinces.\(^{321}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Enrolment as a % of total Grade 12 enrolment</th>
<th>Alberta</th>
<th>British Columbia</th>
<th>Newfoundland</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Saskatchewan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fewer students in Toronto are being hampered in their learning by drug use:

- The use of a number of drugs, including cannabis, cigarettes and the non-medical use of prescription drugs declined significantly between 2009 and 2011 among Toronto’s high school students. Consumption of alcohol and energy drinks, and use of cannabis and cocaine are all below provincial averages.\(^{322}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7% to 8%</td>
<td>Toronto high school students who smoke at least occasionally (11.7% across Ontario in 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Toronto students who report smoking contraband cigarettes (40% in Ontario in 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Toronto high school students drinking alcohol within the last year (66% in Ontario in 1999)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Toronto high school students who drink harmfully or hazardously (18% across Ontario in 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Toronto high school students using cannabis within the year (25.6% across Ontario in 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Toronto students in Grades 7-12 who report no substance use in the past year, including cigarettes and alcohol, but excluding high-caffeine energy drinks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- One of the most encouraging signs of decreasing drug use is the higher age of initiation. In Ontario in 2011, less than 2% of grade 7 students had smoked a whole cigarette before the end of Grade 6, compared to 41% three decades earlier.\(^{323}\)
  - 13% of grade 7 students in Ontario in 2011 drank their first alcoholic drink before the end of Grade 6. In 1981, the average was 50%.\(^{323}\)

The number of Torontonians with a post-secondary credential has increased by almost 20% in a decade:
• 56.2% of the population of the Toronto Region (15 years and older) has a post-secondary diploma, certificate or degree, and the percentage has been steadily increasing each year, from 46.9% in 2001. Across Canada, the percentage is now 52.7%. In a decade where most new jobs required post-secondary education, the percentage of high school graduates has also risen – from 77.1% of Toronto Region residents in 2001, to 83.6% in 2011. 16.4% of the population (15 years and over) has not completed high school.

• Almost 70% of the city labour force (aged 15 and above) had earned a post-secondary credential in 2011.


Growth in enrolment slowed in 2010 - 2011 as the Region’s colleges and universities faced increased costs and flat provincial funding:

• 87,991 students were enrolled in the Toronto Region’s five colleges (Centennial College, George Brown College, Humber College, Seneca College and Sheridan College), 3% more than in 2010. The pace of growth slowed from the previous year, when enrolment numbers were up 6.7%.

• University enrolment at the Region’s universities (OCAD University, Ryerson University, The University of Toronto and York University) grew by only 2.3% from 154,191 to 157,764 (compared to 5.45% growth in 2010).

In 2011, one-third of students entering Ontario’s college system lacked key numeracy skills taught in middle school:

• The 2011 report of the College Mathematics Project discovered that for the third year in a row, significant numbers of college students in Ontario have low numeracy skills. Older students tend to perform better than recent graduates. 8,300 Ontario students,
including many at the five colleges located in the GTA, are taking preparatory and foundational math courses, to learn basic math concepts taught in Grades 6 to 8.

- The report recommends that the Province require math specialists to teach the subject in middle school (as in B.C. and Alberta), and consider the use of a numeracy test for teacher candidates similar to the tests introduced in England and Wales in 2012.329

Is Toronto making any progress in providing subsidized childcare to children who need it?

In July 2012, there were 21,605 children on the City's waiting list for a childcare fee subsidy, an increase of 9.1% in just 9 months, and up 21% from June 2010: ●

- Toronto has lost over 3,100 childcare centre spaces since 2010, ● although an increase in home-based licensed childcare brings the total to 57,000 spaces in 2012 (stable compared to 2010 and 2011). According to the most recent census, there are now 268,575 children (0-9 years old) living in Toronto. About 1 in 5 children (21%) is served by the available licenced childcare spaces.

- There were 5 fewer municipal and 26 fewer non-profit childcare centres in 2012 than in 2010, ● although commercial centres grew from 25% to 26% of the overall share.

- The number of childcare fee subsidies available to Toronto’s low-income families (24,000) has not increased in spite of the steadily growing waiting list. ● The City reported in 2012, that subsidies support 28% of Toronto’s low-income children (based on the Statistics Canada Low-Income Cut-Off or LICO), a percentage unchanged since 2010.330 ●

Number of children waiting for subsidized childcare, City of Toronto, 2005-2012:331

Both child poverty and access to childcare subsidies are unevenly spread across Toronto:
• The shaded areas on the map below are neighbourhoods with more than 50 young (0-5 year-old) low-income children. Access to childcare subsidy in these predominantly low-income neighbourhoods, varies considerably.

**Access to childcare fee subsidy for children 0 - 5 years old, City of Toronto:**

![Map showing access to childcare subsidy]

Most of Toronto’s Aboriginal families experience difficulty accessing subsidized childcare:
• Almost 1 in 4 respondents to the 2011 Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) named poverty and poor parenting skills as major sources of stress (75% and 73% respectively). Another recent study found that Aboriginal families face major barriers accessing childcare support, including the long wait list and inability to afford transportation costs to get to childcare centres.
  o One of the recommendations coming out of the TARP study is that in order to improve opportunities for training and employment, Aboriginal Families need better access to childcare. It recommends that priority be given to families on the subsidy wait list to access culturally specific Aboriginal childcare spaces.

61% of Toronto schools now support a school-based childcare program – a 12.8% increase since 2009/2010:
• 154 more schools in Toronto boards will be implementing full-day kindergarten in 2012/2013, bringing the total to 266 schools – about half of all elementary schools in Toronto. All publicly funded elementary schools in Ontario are anticipating offering the program by September 2014.
  o In Toronto, only 1 school in 4 has before- and after-school programs for students up to the age of 12 (compared to 33% across the province).
  o Childcare operators are faced with costly renovations to provide spaces for infants and toddlers in rooms left vacant as four- and five-year-olds graduate to full-day kindergarten. The City had expressed concern that as many as 7,300
childcare spaces could be lost without financial support from the Province in capital and operating grants. In the spring of 2012, the Ontario Government committed $51 million in funding, although much more will be required to maintain and expand the childcare system in Toronto.\textsuperscript{136}

What are the challenges and successes in Aboriginal educational attainment in Toronto?

Toronto’s Aboriginal residents have made significant strides in educational attainment over three decades:

- The GTA has the largest urban Aboriginal population in Ontario. Estimates of numbers range from 31,900 (2006 census) to 70,000 (estimate by agencies working in the community). A recent increase in the urban Aboriginal population is not so much a result of residents moving from reserves to the cities, or of natural population growth, but a result of legislative changes that broaden the definition of status and a greater willingness on the part of residents to affirm their Aboriginal identity.
  - The Aboriginal population is much younger than the general population in Toronto. Recommendations from a major new Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) commissioned by the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council emphasize the importance of addressing the learning needs of these young Torontonians.

Age Profile of City of Toronto Participants in the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project: \textsuperscript{337}

- In 1979, roughly 3\% of Aboriginal Toronto residents had completed post-secondary education. By 2011, a majority (55\%) had obtained either a college diploma or university degree.
  - Women and two-spirited Aboriginal Torontonians are more likely than Aboriginal men, to have finished high school and gone on to post-secondary education. 21\% of the men participating in the TARP study had not completed high school:
Educational Attainment of Participants in the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project:

Note: Two-spirited participants represented 3% of the total population in the study.

- The TARP study confirmed that many Aboriginal children and youth deal with the challenges of poverty and poor housing, often in families trying to cope with unlearned parenting skills and addictions. At the same time, they are part of a revitalization of Aboriginal culture in the city that needs to be nurtured. One of the recommendations of the study is that:
The TDSB establish an Aboriginal School, at the middle and high school level, outside the downtown core, on the model of the Africentric Alternative School; and that the school incorporate an Aboriginal language immersion project. The school would function separately from the city’s elementary First Nations School.

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Learning through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Agincourt Community Services Association
- Amadeusz
- Applegrove Community Complex
- Art City in St. James Town
- Art Gallery of Ontario
- Art Starts
- Arthritis Research Foundation
- ArtReach Toronto
- Arts for Children and Youth
- Ashoka Canada
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto
- Boundless Adventure Association
- Camp Oochigeas
- Canadian Stage
- Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation
- Central Toronto Youth Services
- Centre for City Ecology
- Child Development Institute
- Clean Air Partnership
- Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD)
- Community MicroSkills Development Centre
- Covenant House Toronto
- CTI Canadian Training Institute
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre
- Dixon Hall
- Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club
- East Scarborough Storefront
• East York East Toronto Family Resources Organization
• Education Through Media
• FIT Community Services – Friends In Trouble
• FoodShare
• For Youth Initiative (FYI)
• Framework
• Frontier College
• Future Possibilities for Kids
• Geneva Centre for Autism
• Habitat For Humanity Toronto
• Harbourfront Centre
• Harmony Movement / Harmony Education Foundation
• Hot Docs
• imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
• Inner City Angels
• Interval House
• Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
• JUMP Math
• Junior Achievement of Central Ontario
• Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
• Learning Enrichment Foundation
• Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)
• Licensed to Learn Inc.
• Lost Lyrics
• Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity
• Macaulay Child Development Centre
• Manifesto Community Projects
• March of Dimes Canada
• Merry Go Round Children’s Foundation
• Nightwood Theatre
• OCASI – Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
• Ontario Justice Education Network / Reseau Ontarien D’Education Juridique
• Outward Bound Canada
• Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
• Pathways to Education Canada
• PEACH – Promoting Education and Community Health
• People for Education
• POGO (Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario)
• Regent Park School of Music
• Ronald McDonald House Toronto
• Roots of Empathy / Racines de l’empathie
• Scarborough Centre for Health Communities
• Second Harvest
• Shakespeare in Action
• Sheena’s Place
• Sherbourne Health Centre
• SKETCH Working Arts
• Skills for Change of Metro Toronto
• Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI)
• Social Planning Toronto
• Soulpepper Theatre Company
• Success Beyond Limits Education Program
• Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir
• The Amadeus Choir
• The Children’s Book Bank
• The George Hull Centre for Children and Families
• The Massey Centre for Women
• The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
• The Psychology Foundation of Canada
• The Redwood
• The Remix Project
• TIFF
• Toronto Artscape
• Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development
• Toronto City Mission
• Toronto Foundation for Student Success
• Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club
• Toronto Public Library Foundation
• Toronto Youth Development
• Trails Youth Initiatives
• Unison Health and Community Services
• UrbanArts
• Variety Village
• Windfall
• Words in Motion
• Working Skills Centre
• Workman Arts Project of Ontario
• YMCA of Greater Toronto
ARTS & CULTURE

"Toronto offers a multitude of creative possibilities – the arts make these physical and allow us to act on and connect to our social conditions."

Julie Frost
Executive and Artistic Director, Arts for Children and Youth
Arts and Culture:

How well is the City meeting its commitment to increase per capita funding of arts and culture?

- Toronto’s overall investment in arts and culture includes:
  - Supporting 97 city-owned heritage and cultural buildings at 60 heritage sites.
  - Helping community arts organizations access municipal services and facilities.
  - Operating three major Theatres – the Sony Centre, the St. Lawrence Centre and the Toronto Centre for the Arts.
  - Hosting approximately 108 special event days each year such as Nuit Blanche, Tasty Thursdays, Fresh Wednesdays, Summerlicious and Winterlicious.

The 2012 City budget of $16.3 million in grant funding to cultural organizations was unchanged from 2011 and 2010:

- In an acknowledgement of the crucial economic impact of Toronto’s arts and culture sector, grant funding to The Toronto Arts Council Grant Program ($10.3 million) and the city’s Major Cultural Organizations ($6 million) was maintained at 2011 levels. However, the City Economic Development and Culture division received less funding in 2012, resulting in reduced capacity to sponsor special events.

There are two quite different ways of assessing the City of Toronto’s funding of arts and culture:

- In 2010, Toronto’s municipal arts grants represented just 4.7% of the $355 million in gross revenues generated by the receiving arts and cultural organizations.
  - Toronto invests in 9 major cultural institutions and festivals, known as ‘the Majors’ (The Art Gallery of Ontario, The Canadian Opera Company, The National Ballet and Ballet School, The Gardiner Museum of Ceramics, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto International Film Festival, Pride, and the Scotiabank Caribbean Festival) and provides operating grants through the Toronto Arts Council to about 223 arts groups, as well as one-time grants.
- From the perspective of fiscal ‘efficiency’, Toronto was in one of the strongest positions relative to other municipalities in 2010, in the dollars its grant recipients were able to leverage from other levels of government, private sources, and earned revenues:

Arts Grants Received as a Percentage of the Recipient’s Gross Revenue, 2010.
• However, Toronto’s arts organizations have seen a decline in municipal funding, relative to inflation and to other municipalities, since the 1990s (municipal grants represented about 9% of total revenues in 1991), and have to work that much harder to generate revenues from other sources.
  o There are important reasons for Toronto to prioritize arts and culture spending:
    ▪ Matched funding sends a signal to the creative community (including those who might be attracted to make a home and living in the city), that the municipality is as supportive of arts and culture as other funders.  
    ▪ In Canada, private sector funding generally follows the lead of the public sector.
    ▪ A thriving cultural sector is not only good for the local economy but fosters greater citizen engagement and sense of belonging, higher levels of giving and volunteering, and improved health.

Governments’ spending on Culture between 1999 - 2003, showing the origins of the wide
expenditure gap between Toronto and other governments.$^{346}$
Toronto trails other major Canadian cities in cultural investment, and the gap is widening:

- A new study on comparative cultural investment by five large Canadian cities puts Toronto in last place behind Montréal, Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa.
  - The cities were compared on the same basis, for 2006 - 2009 expenditures, including operating and capital expenditures to: performing arts, visual and media arts, museums and heritage sites, special events, creative and cultural industries and facilities, support of cultural districts and public art.

- Not only does Toronto rank last in per capita cultural investment, it is falling further behind as other cities significantly increase their investment levels year over year: $38, $42, $19, $26, $49, $38, $29, $19.
Montréal achieved its high ranking due to 3 decades of sustained investment by the Quebec government, municipal infrastructure dedicated to the diffusion of culture across the city, and an effective culture plan coordinated by a steering committee that includes local cultural workers, the mayor, and government ministers at both provincial and federal levels.\textsuperscript{348}

Where are the Toronto Region’s cultural workers living and working?

Building, supporting and connecting the dense and lively clusters of cultural enterprise in Toronto is vital to the cultural economy and to the economy of the whole city:\textsuperscript{349}

- For two decades, the creative sector in the Toronto Region has been outpacing the growth of other key sectors such as financial services and the food and beverage industries, and it continues to expand, attracting talented workers and investment, and supporting tourism.

  - Employment in cultural industries has grown 47\% (in absolute numbers) since 1987. The sector still represents just over 3\% of total industries in the Region.
A new tool that identifies the locations of clusters of cultural workers in the city confirms that there are no ‘cultural deserts’ in Toronto:

- Toronto has a new policy tool for connecting its cultural economy and its built environment. The Martin Prosperity Index and OCAD University have developed a Cultural Location Index that provides a picture of where cultural workers live and work in the city.
  - Clusters of cultural work are spread across Toronto, although some areas are more densely populated.
  - Toronto’s cultural economy doesn’t follow the standard form of separating working, living and consumption spaces. The city’s dynamic cultural clusters blend and erase the distinctions between living, manufacturing, retail and entertainment spaces.
  - The cultural economy functions best when a large and diverse mix of talent and forms of production exist in close proximity, held together by a major player with global networks and a large stable employment base.
  - In 4 city census tracts (Liberty Village, the Entertainment District, Historic Queen Street and Scarborough at the 401) cultural industries employ between 20% and 36% of the workforce.
  - The Downtown Cultural Work District (bounded by Queen St. West, Simcoe St., Front St., and Bathurst St., is the core cultural cluster in Toronto. All 48 cultural occupations are represented there (at 401 Richmond St. W. more than 140 studios, production units, microenterprises, services, and social innovation organizations occupy one renovated historic warehouse.)

- For planners and City policy-makers, identifying and strengthening clusters of creative and cultural workers/facilities take on an added importance and value as Toronto’s workforce shifts away from a traditional manufacturing base (low-skilled, mass assembly of cultural products) to more specialized high-tech and niche-market cultural production.351
The Cultural Location Index identifies census tracts with a high proportion of cultural facilities, combined with places where cultural workers live and places where they work. For a larger version of this map, click here.
Ward by ward, the City is asking what Toronto neighbourhoods need to make space for culture:

- Acting on a recommendation from the Creative Capital Gains report, endorsed by Council in May 2011, the City has organized consultations to determine priorities for local investment in affordable, sustainable cultural infrastructure. Ten Making Space for Culture consultations took place throughout the summer and fall of 2012 and more will continue on into 2013.\(^{352}\)

Toronto film, television and commercial production rebounded in 2011, close to the peak high of 2001:

- Posting its strongest production spending in a decade, the City’s thriving film, TV and digital media sector earned more than $1.13 billion from on-location shooting in Toronto in 2011. •
  - Major production spending increased by almost one-third (32%) over 2010. •
  - The previous overall high of $1.23 billion in 2001 occurred at a time when the Canadian dollar was an attractive $0.65 U.S. In 2011, the dollar was at par. Nonetheless, U.S. production spending increased by 47% in 2011 (from $360 million to $530 million), due mostly to television series and major feature films shot in Toronto. Feature film production moved closer to traditional levels, increasing by 67% in 2011 to $287.6 million. • (The average for 2000-2005 was $289 million annually).
  - Major feature film production has intensified in large part due to the opening of the new Pinewood Studios on an 11-acre site (the largest of its kind in Canada) in Toronto’s Port Lands area.
  - There was a modest increase in domestic production (6% over 2010) to almost $427.5 million. •
  - $621 million in TV series production spending in 2011 (not including in-studio or post-production costs) set a new record in Toronto. Growth in this has averaged 23.6% annually over the past 6 years.\(^{353}\) •

Can the cultural richness of Toronto’s neighbourhoods become more visible?

The vivid imprint of Aboriginal artists on Toronto’s cultural scene belies the fact that many Aboriginal artists feel isolated and perceive that what they do goes largely unrecognized:

- Toronto is home to a large and talented Aboriginal arts community. Organizations such as the ImagINATIVE Film Festival, the Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Native Earth Performing Arts, 7th Generation Image Makers and Red Sky Performance showcase Toronto’s many Aboriginal actors, filmmakers, artists, writers, musicians and media producers.
  - As well as making important contributions to the city’s cultural wealth, Aboriginal artists play a key role in forging community meaning and identity, and promoting healing and positive growth.
• However, in a recent major research project Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP), many Aboriginal artists report feeling unsupported by members of their own community and express concern about the lack of connection between arts organizations (whose members are more representative of Toronto’s emerging and growing Aboriginal middle class) and Aboriginal social service agencies, all of which, in some form, base their work in cultural traditions and events. A challenge for the whole city is to reinforce strong and much-needed partnerships between these two sectors.

77% of Toronto’s Aboriginal community participates in cultural activities:
• Cultural activity is enormously important to Aboriginal Torontonians.
  o In response to the question about what they would change if they could change one thing for Aboriginal people living in Toronto, the highest number of respondents in the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) said that they would wish for more opportunities for cultural participation and language immersion.
  o A strong recommendation coming out of the new research is the need for an Aboriginal arts centre in Toronto. Almost all (96%) respondents to a community survey identified the importance of a dedicated physical space, to enhance the visibility of Aboriginal arts in the city.

A new festival in the Kingston-Galloway/Orton Park neighbourhood in 2011 highlights the power of Toronto’s youth-led arts initiatives:
• The first Subtext Multi-arts Festival in 2011 brought together young performers and artists, and neighbourhood arts organizations, to celebrate The Bridging Project – the transformation of the columns beneath the 6-lane bridge dominating the skyline into a vibrant mural. Youth are taking leadership in an area better known for poverty and gang violence, reimagining its possibilities and grasping its potential.

Youth-led community organizing (ventures where youth draw on other youth, their communities and their own experience) has strong support in the city:
• One private Toronto foundation embarked on a 5-year project in 2008 to focus all its granting and dissemination activities on youth organizing, recognizing that
  o youth use arts-based approaches to address issues;
  o youth step up to address environmental and community health concerns;
• The foundation is convinced that “engaged young people are a “cornerstone of a healthy and inclusive society.”

A new Artists for Community Engagement (ACE) award honours the ways that Toronto artists are enriching their culturally diverse communities:
• The first ACE awards were handed out in Toronto in 2012. The Toronto Arts Foundation’s Neighbourhood Arts Network has partnered with a DiverseCity Fellows team (an initiative of CivicAction and the Maytree Foundation) to offer two new awards:
The ACE ‘Opportunities’ award celebrates an individual artist who is making a significant contribution to enabling Toronto’s culturally varied youth to access and contribute to arts and culture in the city.

The ACE ‘Impact’ award, sponsored in 2012 by the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, is given to an arts organization that has made a major contribution or reached a new milestone by collaborating with Toronto’s culturally diverse neighbourhood arts groups, or developing a project with a culturally diverse perspective.  

A five-year study aims to better understand the impact of the arts in Toronto’s neighbourhoods:

- Launched in 2012, the Arts Impact Study is a five-year community-based study examining how residents in various Toronto neighbourhoods create, interact with, and appreciate the arts.
  - A project of Toronto Arts Foundation’s Creative City: Block by Block in partnership with Art Starts, OCAD University and York University, the project has begun meeting with local artists, arts advocates and organizations working through the arts, trying to construct a picture of the difference arts make in the community.  

Are Torontonians increasing their participation in arts and cultural activities?

In 2011, over 18.2 million people attended City-funded or City-programmed cultural events:

- Audiences grew by more than 800,000 over 2010, in part due to the inclusion of estimated numbers of people attending Luminato and also to a major increase in the audience numbers reported by the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) as it completed its first full year of programming in the new TIFF Bell Lightbox.  

Recent research indicates that Canadians participated in arts, culture and heritage activities in record numbers in 2010:

- All Canadians aged 15 and over, took part in at least one of 18 cultural activities in 2010.  
  - Almost half (48%) visited a museum and more than one-third (36%) visited an art gallery. Attendance at galleries has increased consistently since 1992.  
  - 72% attended an arts performance or cultural festival  
  - 74% visited a heritage site (including zoos, gardens, observatories, nature reserves and conservation areas).

- According to the most recent General Social Survey, recent attendance (since 2005) for many arts and culture activities has increased significantly. However, the numbers may indicate that there are many more events to choose from, rather than signifying greater participation in any particular event(s).
The survey also asks Canadians about their reading habits. Newspaper reading has remained relatively stable since 2005, at a little over 86%, but more people are reading magazines (82% up from 78% in 2005), and many more are reading books for pleasure.362
How do new citizens access Toronto’s cultural assets?

Toronto has the largest neighbourhood-based library system in the world; its 99 branches welcomed more than 19 million visitors in 2011:

- Working with community partners, a re-vamped website and new outreach approaches (including social media), the Toronto Public Library (TPL) was successful on almost all measures in serving Toronto’s diverse residents and neighbourhoods in 2011.
  - Circulation increased by 2.9% over 2010, to 33,252,235 (the highest in North America).
  - The redesigned website means that the collection is now fully searchable.
  - Visits increased by almost 4% to 19,064,857 (about 7 visits per capita).
  - Program attendance was up by 9.4%. The number of programs increased by 10.8% from the 28,706 offered in 2010. Significantly larger numbers of teens, adults and school-age children participated in 31,804 programs in 2011.
  - Use of wireless stations; increased dramatically. All 99 branches now have wireless service and the number of wireless sessions rose by 126.5% to over 2.5 million.
  - There were 163,474 new registrations in 2011, a decline of 3.3% over 2010 (when a registration campaign resulted in a 4.4% increase) but still 1% higher than the number in 2009.

- In developing a new strategic plan the TPL assessed its 2008 - 2011 Strategic Priorities and results over the three years, including:
  - Bridging the digital divide:
    Free computer access through the public library is a vital resource for newcomers and low-income residents, especially in Toronto. Among households with incomes below $60,000, 17.1% living in Toronto rely on library computers to access the Internet, compared to only 11.1% in the rest of Canada.
  - Supporting academic success:
    Homework clubs have expanded to 11 branches. After School Newcomer Hubs at three city branches offered free tutoring to 13,771 youth in 2011.
  - Engaging youth:
    The number of programs for youth increased by 37% between 2008 and 2011, and youth attendance was 51% higher by 2011 than three years earlier.
  - Adult literacy:
    There was a 42.2% increase in three years in adults gaining crucial literacy skills through TPL adult literacy programs.

- The cost per use of library services dropped to $1.71 in 2010 (from $1.74 in 2009) due to increased usage and more efficient service without reducing hours (self-service check-out is now available in 42 branches).

Toronto’s Vital Signs® Report 2012
Municipal operating investments in libraries in 5 large Canadian cities totalled $346.3 million in 2009; half of that figure ($172.2 million) was Toronto’s:

- Between 2006 and 2009, net operating investment (funded from the tax budget) grew by 14% in the City of Toronto. This was also the average for all five cities, but investment growth varied widely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Per Capita Investment in library operations, 2006 - 2009</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montréal</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship’s Cultural Access Pass program (CAP), which began in 2008 by offering Toronto’s newest citizens free access to 6 Toronto arts institutions, now offers all of Canada’s new citizens free access to museums, historic sites, national and provincial parks, as well as discounts on travel.

- The objective of the program is to foster inclusion and open doors for the country’s newest citizens through Canadian culture. In their first year of Canadian citizenship, new Toronto residents have an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of cultural experiences as well as access to volunteer and employment resources.
  - In 2011, 12,343 new citizens registered for a Cultural Access Pass in the GTA. To date, more than 53,000 people across the country have registered for CAP.

The Royal Ontario Museum is the GTA’s most popular attraction:

- More than 1 in 4 respondents (26.6%) to a recent entertainment survey rated the ROM as the number 1 attraction in the GTA. The museum’s popularity crosses age groups and geographic regions in southern Ontario. Innovative young adult programming such as a new 10-week Friday Night Live, and reduction of admission prices by almost one-third have helped improve attendance and draw younger visitors.
  - The 2012 survey (of southern Ontario residents 18 years and older) also found that the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the National Ballet and the Canadian Opera Company also appealed to all age groups. (All three have programs to attract younger audiences, and strong educational programming, such as the TSO’s Adopt a Player program).

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Arts and Culture through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Art City in St. James Town
- Art Gallery of Ontario
- Art Starts
- ArtReach Toronto
- Arts for Children and Youth
- Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
- Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
- Canadian Stage
- Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre
- Clay & Paper Theatre
- Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie
- Community Living Toronto
- Creative Trust
- CUE
- CultureLink Settlement Services
- Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society
- Dixon Hall
- Drum Artz Canada
- Dusk Dances
- Education Through Media
- FIT Community Services - Friends In Trouble
- For Youth Initiative (FYI)
- Framework
- Greenest City
- Harbourfront Centre
- Hot Docs
- imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
- IMPACT - Indian Martial and Performance Arts Collective of Toronto
- Inner City Angels
- Jumblies Theatre
- Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
- Lost Lyrics
- Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity
- Mammalian Diving Reflex
- Manifesto Community Projects
- Nightwood Theatre
- No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment
- Peace Theatre
- Regent Park School of Music
- Shakespeare in Action
• Sistering: A Woman’s Place
• SKETCH Working Arts
• SkyWorks Charitable Foundation
• Soulpepper Theatre Company
• St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre
• Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir
• The Amadeus Choir
• The National Ballet of Canada
• The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery
• The Remix Project
• TIFF
• Toronto Artscape
• UforChange
• UNITY Charity
• UrbanArts
• Words in Motion
• Workman Arts Project of Ontario
• YWCA Toronto
LEADERSHIP, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & BELONGING

“As a society we can no longer afford to operate in isolation from one another. Our problems are too complex for any one solution alone. Our collective impact can create the kind of change our society, and indeed our world, needs. We owe it to each other, and to ourselves, to experiment with the power of collective impact.”

Anne Gloger
Storefront Director, East Scarborough Storefront
Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging:

What do we need to do so that civic leadership reflects Toronto’s diversity?

Elected officials still have a long way to go to reflect the population diversity of the GTA; visible minorities made up only 7% of 253 municipal council members in 2011, and only 11% of all elected officials:

- The collective ‘face’ of a community’s elected leadership is a powerful indicator of how inclusive it is. Leadership that is reflective of the population creates a sense of accessibility and strengthens belonging. Elections at all three levels of government in the GTA between October 2010 and October 2011 enabled measurement of the numbers of visible minorities (40% of the population) who chose to stand and who won federal, provincial and municipal seats.\footnote{The ‘diversity gap’ is not closing in diverse municipalities like Toronto:}

- In 2009, the five GTA municipalities (out of 25) with the highest visible minority populations (Markham, Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto and Richmond Hill) had elected 22 visible minority candidates in all three levels of government. In 2010-2011 there were 28 successful candidates in those municipalities.

- In Mississauga and Brampton, both with about 50% visible minority populations, visible minority representation is 1 of 11 and 0 of 12 respectively. However, Toronto fares little better with just 5 visible minority council members (11.1%) out of 45, rather than the 21 who would more accurately reflect the city’s diverse population.

City of Toronto Municipal Council, Percentage Visible Minority Representation:\footnote{City of Toronto Municipal Council, Percentage Visible Minority Representation:}

![Graph showing percentage of visible minority representation in Toronto's Municipal Council from 1994 to 2010.]

(Note the trend line (black) that hovers around 10-11% over more than ten years.)
More than one quarter (26%) of the GTA’s members of the provincial legislature are visible minorities, due in part to a high number of visible minority candidates running in 2011. They tended to be elected in ridings with highly diverse populations, although a number of visible minority sub-groups have no representation in any level of government in spite of being highly present in the population. Candidates of South Asian and Chinese origin each represent 39% of all visible minority elected members while those of Arabic, Filipino, non-white Latin American and Southeast Asian background have no representation at all.\textsuperscript{371}

Women are seriously underrepresented in senior leadership positions in the GTA, while visible minority women are almost completely absent:

A five-year research project assessing the number of women in senior leadership roles in the GTA, found that in 2011, though women are 51.3% of the population, they hold less than 30% of senior leadership positions across seven sectors:

### Representation of women in senior leadership positions in the GTA, by sector, 2011:\textsuperscript{372}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Total Sample</th>
<th>Average, 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elected officials</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sector executives</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate sector boards and executives</td>
<td>1,089</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary sector boards and executives</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education sector boards and executives</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government appointments to agencies, boards and commissions</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal sector leaders</td>
<td>2,455</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,081</strong></td>
<td><strong>28.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The education sector leads with over 40% of leadership positions filled by women, compared with only 17% women on the corporate boards and executives of the 119 companies included in the study\textsuperscript{373}. But there is also significant variation within sectors. One-third of college boards and two-thirds of college executive teams are at least 40% female. In the corporate sector, only 4.3% of companies surveyed had 40% or more women on their boards, while more than 38% had no women board members at all. 11.9% of corporate executive bodies were at least 40% women, but more than twice as many (25.4%) were all male.

- The situation for visible minority women is much more dismal. There are roughly equal numbers of visible minority and non-visible minority women in the GTA (25.6% and 25.8%). Visible minority women account for only 2.6% of 4,605 women in leadership across all sectors. They make up less than 1% (0.6%) of corporate sector leadership. Even in the voluntary sector, with 34.8% women leaders, only one in ten (3.5%) is a visible minority woman.

- The benefits of increased diversity in leadership are well documented. Companies with more women in senior management out-perform those with
fewer women. Diverse teams are able to meet the needs of increasingly global markets, attract talent from a broader pool and think more creatively. Most importantly, women’s leadership helps to inspire and motivate new young women leaders, overcoming the detrimental social and economic effects of exclusion.374

- The City of Toronto is now in the third year of its campaign to increase participation by women in local politics. 30 young women have been paired up with the City’s 15 women councillors for a year, to provide them mentoring and first-hand experience in municipal government.375

Leadership diversity in the not-for-profit sector moves one step forward and two steps back, in the GTA:

- In 2012, visible minority representation in the not-for-profit sector edged up to 14.35% among senior executives (an increase over the 9.9% in 2011 but a slight decrease from the 15.5% in 2010). Three times as many would have to be serving, to match the demographic mix of the region:
  - Of 4,254 board members in 420 of the GTA’s not-for-profits surveyed in 2011, only 15.6% were visible minorities (up from 13.3% in 2011). By ethnic origin, those of Korean descent have the least representation (0.33% of the total) and Blacks and South Asians have the highest (3.1% and 3.4% respectively).
  - However, almost 78% of the boards studied have at least one visible minority member, and 24.5% reported more than 30% diversity on their boards.
  - A growing number of organizations appear to recognize the importance of leadership diversity for improving board governance, stakeholder relationships, strategic direction and fundraising. 44% of the not-for-profits surveyed have developed a formal diversity policy.376

- Launched in 2005 in the GTA, DiverseCity onBoard seeks to connect public institutions (agencies, boards and voluntary organizations) with the leadership they need in order to reflect the increasing diversity of their constituencies.
  - Currently, the program has more than 1,500 qualified and pre-screened potential board candidates from visible minority and immigrant communities, who are waiting for the right opportunity to serve. More than 60% have senior management experience and over 60% have previous board governance experience.
  - In 2011, DiverseCity onBoard celebrated its 500th successful appointment, and was awarded a United Nations Intercultural Innovation Award.377

Optimism waned through 2011 among Canada’s charitable organizations, as demand for services and stress levels remained high:

- A survey of more than 2,200 registered Canadian charities indicated that about half experience difficulty carrying out their mission. More than a quarter believe that the existence of their organization is at risk and fewer predict that they will be in a stronger position in the near- to mid-term.378
  - About one in ten of the approximately 81,000 charitable organizations in Canada is located in the Toronto Region.
More than half of organizations in the Ontario not-for-profit and voluntary sector are run entirely by volunteers. One third of the smallest organizations (with annual revenues under $30,000) account for only 1% of total employment in the sector.379

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Health of Canada's Charitable Sector, 2011 - 2012</th>
<th>Late-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiencing an increase in demand for products and services</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty fulfilling mission</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existence is at risk</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty covering expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The rest of this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next quarter or next year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difficulty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stress (among Ontario organizations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No stress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confidence in performing mission in 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will be weaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will be about the same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will be stronger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does Toronto build effective and innovative public services, when the people who need them most, are the least likely to vote?

City of Toronto voter turnout in the federal election in May 2011 was 61.9% (compared to 60.7% across the Toronto Region and 61.1% nationally):
- Only 56.7% of Toronto’s eligible voters cast a ballot in 2008.380

Young people, recent immigrants, and single parents of young children are the least likely to vote.381
- Of the 7.5 million eligible voters in Canada who reported that they did not cast a ballot in the last federal election, more than one quarter (27.7%) said that it was because they were “not interested in voting.” Almost one quarter more (23%) said they were “too busy” to vote.
  - Among the approximately 50% of youth (aged 18-24) who didn’t vote, about 30% stated lack of interest as the reason.
  - Just over half of all recent immigrants (51%) didn’t vote; 35% reported being too busy (compared to 23% of all of Ontario non-voters). Only 13.8% of recent immigrant non-voters gave lack of interest as the reason, compared to 25.4% for Ontario non-voters.
Voting rates tended to vary substantially among immigrants depending on their region of birth. 60% of recent immigrants from South Asia voted, compared to only about 48% from Southeast and East Asia, and only about 40% from West Central Asia and the Middle East.

In line with established trends, single people, especially single parents, and those with less than high school attainment were significantly less likely to vote than older people and those with high educational credentials (only 36% of single parents with children under the age of 5 voted).

Almost half of Torontonians think that people living in Canada who are not yet citizens should be allowed to vote in municipal elections:

- Although a large majority of Canadians (89%) believe that someone born outside the country can be as good a citizen as someone born in Canada, support for municipal voting rights for non-citizens is much higher in large cities like Toronto, than in the country as a whole (46% vs. 38%).

Since 2006, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship’s national “Building Citizenship” program has taken a mandatory part of the citizenship process – the citizenship ceremony – and placed it in the newcomer’s own community. Rather than a formal ritual in a remote government building, ceremonies can take place in libraries, parks and community spaces. The events are planned by local community groups and can incorporate the unique culture and character of the community and its new citizens.

- An important part of the celebration is a round-table discussion preceding the ceremony, where new citizens and established residents have an opportunity to talk together about their experiences and what citizenship means to them.
- In 2012, the Building Citizenship program has organized ceremonies at Fort York, the Parkdale Public Library, the Scarborough YMCA and the Ontario Science Centre, among others.

- 22.5% of city of Toronto tax filers made charitable donations in 2010; the median donation was $380.

Charitable Donors as a Proportion of Tax filers, City of Toronto, 1998 - 2010:
The proportion of tax filers making donations in the Toronto Region has declined somewhat since the recession, although median donations rose for the second year in a row:

- 22.8% of tax filers reported charitable donations in the Region in 2010, down from 24.1% in 2008.⁸⁸⁶
- Over the period 1999-2010, the percentage of tax filers in Ontario donating to charity dropped by 13.8% (from 28.0% to 24.6% of tax filers). Rates fell in most Canadian provinces over that time, but Ontario’s was the largest decline. Manitoba had the highest percentage of givers in 2009 (26.1%).⁸⁸⁷
- Among tax filers in the Toronto Region, the median charitable donation returned almost to the 2006 level in 2010 ($350). The median for Canada was $260 in 2010. Median charitable donations in the Region rose by 44% between 2000 and 2010 (in current dollars).⁸⁸⁸

According to the 2010 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (GSGVP), 84% of the Canadian population over the age of 15 made at least one donation to a charitable organization in 2010. The average donation was $446.

- Immigrants were as likely to make donations as people born in Canada, and on average, donated higher amounts ($554 compared to $409 for Canadian-born donors). This is particularly relevant in a city like Toronto, where more than half the population was born outside Canada.
- Across the spectrum of household income, immigrants also donated a higher percentage of their income (an average of 1% of household income in 2012, compared to 0.7% for Canadian-born households).
  - Immigrants with household incomes of less than $40,000 donated almost twice as much to charity as those with the same incomes who were born in Canada (on average, $404 compared to $214).

*Source: Financial and charitable donations data collected by CRA, Statistics Canada*
People with strong religious affiliation and who consistently attend religious services are likely to give more to charity, and this may explain the higher donation rates of immigrants who are twice as likely as Canadian born residents to engage in weekly religious activities. Slightly less than half of Canadians over the age of 15 (47%) engaged in some form of voluntary activity in 2010 (the highest participation rate - 58% - was among those aged 15-24). The rates are largely unchanged since 2007.

15% of volunteers account for one quarter of all voluntary activity. Among those who didn’t volunteer, 45% said it was because no one had asked them to.

More than half (57%) of the Canadians who volunteered in 2010 received some form of support from their employer to do so:

In Ontario, the rate was higher than the national average, at 62% (compared to Manitoba at 50% and Quebec at 51%). The rate was unchanged from 2004, but one third of employed volunteers reported that their employer had a policy or program to encourage volunteerism (higher than the 29% reported in 2004).

Volunteers who receive support from their employer (such as adjusted work hours, paid time off, or in-kind donations of facilities or equipment) are likely to give more time to volunteering than those who don’t received such support. The median number of volunteer hours for employer-supported volunteers was 60 (down from 69 in 2004), compared to 40 hours for those who were not supported (unchanged from 2004).

How can Toronto capitalize on its ethnic diversity to build social capital and increase a sense of belonging among young Torontonians?

Toronto residents have a strong sense of belonging to their city:

- 87% of respondents to a recent poll said that “Torontonian” best describes who they are. The sense of identification with the city was stronger in Toronto than in the other three of Canada’s largest cities. Only 75% of Calgary residents chose to identify with the city rather than the province.
  - However more people in Calgary (89%) describe their city as liveable, innovative (73%) and a city on the rise (90% compared to 60% in Toronto). Torontonians identify their city as enriched by diversity (90%), a global financial centre (79%) and a city that embraces newcomers (86%)
  - 80% of Torontonians expressed satisfaction with life in the city. But one-third of respondents named traffic and transit as their main headache, and only 28% of them thought that municipal government was doing a “good job” (compared to 62% in Calgary, 42% in Vancouver and just 22% in Montréal).

Overall, more than three quarters of Toronto youth (aged 12 - 19) felt that they belonged to their local community in 2011, although economic and social exclusion may significantly diminish a strong sense of identity among immigrant youth:

- 79.1% of youth in the city report a somewhat strong, or strong sense of belonging to their local community, according to estimates on the 2011 Statistics Canada Health Indicator Profile. The numbers fluctuate somewhat year over year, but have remained
above 75% for the past 4 years (from a high of 79.6% in 2008 to a low of 75.1% in 2010.)

- Past studies of immigrant youth in Toronto have demonstrated how the stresses of the immigrant experience (loneliness and isolation, a disconnection between home and school life, the effects of racism and economic discrimination, and academic challenges) may impact positive self-identity and nudge some youth to seek a sense of belonging and empowerment ‘outside’ the community (in gang membership, for example).

**Percentage of Young Adults (20-34 years) who feel a strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging to the community, City of Toronto, 2003, 2005, 2007 - 2011.**

A majority of Canadians (64%) believe that multiculturalism works, and that Canada has a model to share with the world, but opinion is still divided, often along generational lines:

- **A 2012 poll** suggests that young people (aged 18 - 24) are more likely to have positive views of multiculturalism than older Canadians (those over 65):

**Responses of differing age groups to questions on multiculturalism:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada's model of multiculturalism should be exported to other countries to help address their ethnic, religious or linguistic conflicts.</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's easy for Canadians from different racial, religious and cultural communities to establish close relationships with each other.</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcomers to Canada accept people of different cultures, races and religious traditions.</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2012 Poll commissioned by the Mosaic Institute in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies.
The fact that many youth have grown up in highly diverse urban environments (especially compared to their grandparents), and that many more of them are immigrants or the Canadian-born children of immigrants would appear to have increased a sense of acceptance and respect for difference. This is particularly relevant finding for a highly multi-cultural city like Toronto.

**Over the long-term, ethnic diversity builds rather than erodes social capital:**

- Another recent study is positive news for Toronto’s diverse neighbourhoods. It compares Canadian workplaces and schools with those in France, the United States and the United Kingdom, and concludes not only that Canadian schools and workplaces are the most diverse, but also that increased contact with multiethnic groups creates a stronger, broader sense of social solidarity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My workplace/school is ethnically diverse</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Canadians who report that their workplace or school is ethnically homogeneous are almost three times more likely to believe that cultural uniformity is good for the country as those in more diverse workplaces/schools.
- The study also finds that Canadians are slightly more likely than Americans to strongly prefer living in diverse neighbourhoods (15.0% vs. 14.1%). And those who state a preference for diverse communities are twice as likely to believe that the presence of many cultural and religious groups strengthens society.

**‘Playing for Keeps’ is encouraging Torontonians to get to know their neighbours and strengthen their communities by coming out to play:**

- The hosting of the 2012 Ontario Summer Games and the 2015 Para/Pan American Games in the Ajax/Toronto/Hamilton region has inspired more than 25 community organizations and corporations to join together to create a social legacy to match the physical legacy created by the sites and facilities of the games.
  - Playing for Keeps is leveraging the opportunity of the games to strengthen the region’s social capital by building healthier, more active neighbourhoods and encouraging a stronger sense of community belonging through the power of play.
  - The first round of play is the Playing for Keeps Neighbourhood Games, to begin in the fall of 2012. Playing for Keeps ambassadors, including long-time Toronto residents and newcomers, are going back to their communities across Toronto, after participating in training, to organize local activities that draw people of all ages together, and reflect the unique sense of playfulness in each
neighbourhood – everything from Frisbee tournaments and freeze tag, to fiddle contests and face-painting.

The following groups are addressing the issues relating to Leadership, Civic Engagement and Belonging through their innovative community-based programs. Click on the name of the group to be directed to their profile on the Community Knowledge Centre to learn more about how.

- Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
- Agincourt Community Services Association
- Applegrove Community Complex
- Art Starts
- ArtReach Toronto
- Arts for Children and Youth
- Ashoka Canada
- Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto
- Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention
- Boundless Adventures Association
- Broad Reach Foundation for Youth Leaders
- Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
- Camp Oochigeas
- Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
- Canadian Stage
- Casey House
- Central Toronto Youth Services
- Centre for City Ecology
- Centre for Spanish Speaking People
- Children’s Peace Theatre
- Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre
- Clay & Paper Theatre
- Common Ground Co-operative
- Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD)
- Community Matters Toronto
- Community MicroSkills Development Centre
- Creative Trust
- CTI Canadian Training Institute
- CUE
• CultureLink Settlement Services
• Cycle Toronto
• Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre
• David Suzuki Foundation
• Delta Family Resource Centre
• Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society
• Distress Centres
• Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club
• Drum Artz Canada
• Earthroots Fund
• East Scarborough Storefront
• Education Through Media
• Family Service Toronto
• FIT Community Services – Friends In Trouble
• For Youth Initiative (FYI)
• Framework
• Future Possibilities for Kids
• FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners
• Geneva Centre for Autism
• Greenest City
• Habitat For Humanity Toronto
• Harmony Movement / Harmony Education Foundation
• Hospice Toronto
• Hot Docs
• imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
• Inner City Angels
• Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre
• Jane’s Walk
• Jumblies Theatre
• Lake Ontario Waterkeeper
• Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP)
• Learning Enrichment Foundation
• Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF)
• Leave Out Violence (LOVE)
• Licensed to Learn Inc.
• Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)
• Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity
• Macaulay Child Development Centre
• Mammalian Diving Reflex
• Manifesto Community Projects
• March of Dimes Canada
• METRAC
• Moorelands Community Services
• Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP)
• Nellie’s Women’s Shelter
• New Circles Community Services
• New Visions Toronto
• No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment
• North York Community House
• North York Harvest Food Bank
• North York Women’s Centre
• Not Far From The Tree
• OCASI – Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
• Ontario Justice Education Network / Reseau Ontarien D’Education Juridique
• ParaSport Ontario
• Peacebuilders
• PEACH – Promoting Education and Community Health
• People for Education
• POGO (Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario)
• Project Canoe
• Ralph Thornton Centre
• Recipe for Community
• Roots of Empathy / Racines de l’empathie
• San Romanoway Revitalization Association
• Scadding Court Community Center
• Second Harvest
• Seeds of Hope Foundation
• Serve
• Sheena’s Place
• Sherbourne Health Centre
• SKETCH Working Arts
• Skills for Change of Metro Toronto
• SkyWorks Charitable Foundation
• Small Change Fund
- Social Planning Toronto
- Soulpepper Theatre Company
- St. Paul’s L’Amoreaux Centre
- St. Stephen’s Community House
- The 519
- The Amadeus Choir
- The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation & Support Site
- The Massey Centre for Women
- The PACT Urban Peace Program
- The Redwood
- The Stop Community Food Centre
- The WoodGreen Foundation
- Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development
- Toronto City Mission
- Toronto Environmental Alliance
- Toronto Foundation for Student Success
- Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club
- Toronto Park People
- Toronto Public Library Foundation
- Toronto SwiftWatch
- Toronto Wildlife Centre
- Toronto Youth Development
- Tropicana Community Services
- Ufor Change
- Unison Health and Community Services
- UNITY Charity
- UrbanArts
- Workman Arts Project of Ontario
- YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Youth Assisting Youth
- YWCA Toronto
Affordable Housing - Affordable housing is defined as housing costs that do not exceed 30% of household income, in contrast to other definitions based on the housing market – for example: affordable housing defined as rental housing that is 80% or less than gross market rents.

Child Poverty - Children are defined as living in poverty when they are a part of low-income families (see the definition of low income families included in the Low Income Measure below).

Core Housing Need - Households are said to be in core housing need if they are occupying housing that falls below any of three dwelling standards: adequacy – not requiring major repairs, suitability – enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident household, or affordability – not requiring the household to spend 30% or more of their before-tax income to pay for the median rent of alternative local market housing (from the CMHC Canada Housing Observer 2008).

Creative Class - (see also Occupational Classes) Defined by the UK Department of Culture Media and Sport as “those industries which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have the potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property.”

Cultural Industries - There is no standard definition of this cluster of occupations in Canada. For the purposes of this Report, Cultural Industries refers to the following sub-industries from the Labour Force Survey: Information and Cultural Industries (NIACS code 51) and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (NIACS code 71): 511- 512, 515 (except Internet), 516, 711, 712. Sub-industries that are excluded include 511 (Publishing Industries), 517 (Telecommunications), 518 (Internet Providers), 519 (Other Information) and 713 (Amusement, Gambling and Recreation Industries) as well as those industries with less than 1,500 workers in Ontario. Note that this is not the same as the definition of the Cultural Labour Force used in From the Ground Up: Growing Toronto’s Cultural Sector. That document uses the 48 National Occupational Codes (NOC) defined by Statistics Canada in the Canadian Framework for Culture Statistics (2004), including 21 Cultural Occupations and 27 Cultural Support Occupations. (For a listing refer to Appendix 1: Culture Sector Terms).

City-funded Arts and Culture Organization - A City-funded organization is one that receives an annual municipal operating grant.

Crime Severity Index - The police-reported Crime Severity Index (CSI) was introduced in the spring of 2009 to enable Canadians to track changes in the severity of police-reported crime from year to year. The Police Reported Crime Rate (PRCR), which measures changes in the volume of crime, counts each criminal incident equally. As a result, the rate is dominated by high volume, less-serious offenses.

The police-reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI) measures changes in the severity of crime from year to year. Each type of offence is assigned a weight derived from actual sentences handed down by courts in all provinces and territories. Weights are calculated using the five
most recent years of available sentencing data. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights; less serious offenses lower weights. As a result, when all crimes are included, more serious offenses have a greater impact on changes in the Index.

In contrast to the Police Reported Crime Rate (PRCR), which is a rate per 100,000 population, the PRCSI is an index where the base year in 2006 is equal to 100. Data for the Index are available back to 1998 only.

**Diversity** – For the purposes of this Report, diversity within a group is measured in terms of racial-ethnic mix, rather than a broader range of diverse characteristics.

**Downtown Core** - For the purposes of this Report, Toronto’s downtown core refers to the area bounded on the north by Bloor St., on the west by Spadina Ave., on the east by Jarvis St., and on the south by Queen’s Quay.

**Economic Family** - (Statistics Canada Definition) An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Foster children are included. By definition, all persons who are members of a *Census Family* are also members of an economic family. Examples of the broader concept of economic family include the following: two co-resident census families who are related to one another are considered one economic family; co-resident siblings who are not members of a census family are considered as one economic family; and, nieces or nephews living with aunts or uncles are considered one economic family.

**Establishment** - An establishment refers to any business, firm, institution, organization or agency location. Some businesses, such as a restaurant chain, may have a number of establishments at different locations.

**Food and farming cluster** – A cluster is defined, for the purposes of this Report, as a geographic region with enough activities with similar or related needs and interests to generate external economies of scale and stimulate innovation. The *food and farming* cluster comprises the activities of growing, harvesting, processing and distributing agricultural produce and the beverages and bioproducts derived from it. In this Report, the cluster includes the primary producers (the farmers), processors, food service providers (including hotels and restaurants), wholesale and retail distributors and the goods and service providers to the cluster (including the facilities of training and research and development). *Food and farming* in the context of this Report, includes ornamental products, equestrian activities and bioproducts (such as biofuels, starch- and cellulose-based ethanol, bio-based adhesives, biochemicals and bioplastics).

**Gini Coefficient** - Named after the Italian statistician Corrado Gini, the Gini coefficient is the most commonly used measure of income inequality. It calculates the extent to which income distribution varies from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini coefficient of 0 represents perfect equality, and a coefficient of 100, represents perfect inequality – that is one person has all the income, and the rest of the population has nothing.

**Green Infrastructure** - Green Infrastructure is defined, for the purposes of this Report, as natural vegetation, soil in volumes sufficient to sustain vegetation and absorb water, and green
technologies that replicate ecosystem functions, such as porous sidewalks, cisterns and bioswales (landscape elements that trap contaminants from surface water runoff).

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** - GDP is a measure of a jurisdiction’s annual official economic output. The most direct way of determining GDP is to add up the value of production in all categories of economic enterprise. To bring the Canadian System of National Economic Accounts into line with international standards, the valuation of production is now calculated according to basic prices. GDP at basic prices (as opposed to GDP at factor costs or at market prices) includes indirect taxes (for example property taxes, capital taxes and payroll taxes) but excludes taxes and subsidies attached to the factors of production (for example sales taxes, fuel taxes, duties and taxes on imports, excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products and subsidies paid on agricultural commodities, transportation services and energy).

**Low Income Cut Off (LICO)** - The LICO is defined as the income levels at which 70% or more of a family’s before tax income is spent on food, shelter and clothing. It takes into account the total family income, the number of people supported by that income and the population size of the municipality where they live.

**Low Income Measure (LIM)** - In contrast to the LICO, The LIM is a relative measure of low income. LIMs are a fixed percentage (50%) of adjusted median family income where *adjusted* indicates a consideration of family needs. The family size adjustment used in calculating the Low Income Measures reflects the precept that family needs increase with family size. For the LIM, each additional adult, first child (regardless of age) in a lone-parent family, or child over 15 years of age, is assumed to increase the family’s needs by 40% of the needs of the first adult. Each child less than 16 years of age (other than the first child in a lone-parent family), is assumed to increase the family’s needs by 30% of the first adult. A family is considered to be low income when their income is below the Low Income Measure (LIM) for their family type and size.

**Median** - The median equals the mid-point in distribution of a number of values being studied where one half is above and the other half below. The *Average*, equals the sum of all the values, divided by the number of values being studied. Average values can be misleading. For example, in a population of ten people, if one person earns $1 million and 9 earn $30,000, the average income would be $127,000. However, the median income in the sample would be $30,000.

**Natural Capital** – Natural capital is a term used to describe the value of the natural world – both those resources that have economic value in the marketplace, such as timber, and those that are harder to quantify, like the value of natural habitats to protect species at risk, or the value of water sheds to collect, store and filter water. Economists have developed measures to evaluate natural capital, including specific benefits to human populations and translate it into dollars.
**Occupational Classes** - The Martin Prosperity Institute breaks down the Canadian Labour Force into four occupational groups (following Richard Florida’s 2002 occupational typology). These categories are based on the type of work that workers are employed to do, rather than simply their educational credentials:

- **The Creative Class** – knowledge-based workers, such as those working in healthcare, business and finance, the legal sector, and education, whose work involves a high degree of problem-solving; including a core of professionals involved in the creative process of knowledge generation and innovation.
- **The Service Class** – workers in the service sector, such as food service workers, secretaries, groundskeepers and clerks who perform routine tasks on behalf of clients (about 46% of the Canadian labour force).
- **The Working Class** – workers involved in the skilled trades.
- **The Fishing, Farming and Forestry Class** – Farmers, fishers, and workers involved in the extraction of natural resources from the ground and seas.

**Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** – ODSP is a provincial program of income and employment support to those in Ontario with a physical or mental disability of long duration (more than one year). Income support is available to those in financial need who also face substantial restrictions that prevent them from working, taking care of themselves, or participating in community life.

**Office Sector** - Employment activity in the city of Toronto is categorized by sector. The broadest breakdown is into six sectors: Manufacturing, Retail, Office, Service, Institutions (Education, Health, Religious and other institutions) and Other. The Office sector includes:

- Mining, Manufacturing, Transportation, Utilities, Construction and Resource Production (office workers)
- Finance, Insurance and Real Estate
- Business and Technical Services
- Communications and Media
- Trade and Personal Services
- Health Service Offices
- Government
- Associations

**Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI)** - The Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative is a partnership project to push for service excellence in municipal government. The 15 participating municipalities (providing regional services to more than 9.3 million residents or 73% of Ontario’s population) work together to identify and share performance statistics and operational best practices.

**Ontario Works** - Ontario Works is the name of the Provincial social assistance program that provides eligible Ontario residents with financial assistance to help cover the costs of basic needs (e.g. food and housing costs), and employment assistance to assist in preparing for and finding employment.
**Pay-As-You-Drive-Insurance (PAYD)** PAYD insurance charges drivers by the actual distance they drive, (measured by technology in the car). Currently not available in Canada, the program rewards low-kilometre drivers with lower insurance rates. In the United States and Europe, PAYD is used widely and has been found to be one of the best incentives to encourage drivers to change travel modes and reduce road congestion.

**Priority Neighbourhoods** - In 2005, the City’s Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force recommended the designation of 13 areas of the city that faced particular economic and social challenges (low income, high levels of unemployment, high numbers of recent immigrants, etc.) for particular attention and investment. These 13 Priority Neighbourhoods (sometimes referred to as Priority Areas) are:

- **#1 Jamestown**
- **#2 Jane-Finch**
- **#3 Malvern**
- **#4 Kingston-Galloway**
- **#5 Lawrence Heights**
- **#6 Steeles-L'Amoreaux**
- **#7 Eglinton East-Kennedy Park**
- **#8 Crescent Town**
- **#9 Weston-Mt. Dennis**
- **#10 Dorset Park**
- **#11 Scarborough Village**
- **#12 Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village**
- **#13 Westminster-Branson**

**Racialized** - The term is increasingly used in place of ‘visible minority’ or ‘racial minority’. It affirms that ‘race’ is a social and cultural, rather than biological, construct often imposed upon certain groups on the basis of perceived physical characteristics. Racialization often leads to discrimination on the basis of those physical traits.

**Recent Immigrant** – Recent immigrants refer to those who arrived in Canada in the five years prior to a particular census. The most recent immigrants are those who arrived in Canada between January 1, 2006 and Census Day, May 16, 2011. Established immigrants are those who have resided in Canada 10 years or more.

**Retrofit** – For the purposes of this Report, a retrofit entails making improvements to the fabric and systems of an existing building (rather than starting over from scratch), in order to increase efficiency and liveability.

**Sedentary Behaviour** - Sedentary behaviour is behaviour marked by little physical movement and low energy expenditure. Such behaviours include using a computer, watching TV or playing passive video games, prolonged sitting and motorized transportation.

**Social Enterprise** - A social enterprise is an organization or business that uses market-oriented production and sale of goods and/or services to pursue a public benefit mission. This can take many organizational forms, such as a charity, a not-for-profit business, a cooperative, a social purpose business, or a for-profit business with a social mission.
(from the Canadian Task Force on Social Finance, December 2010).

**Social Capital** - Social capital is an imprecise concept but generally refers to networks of social relationships between individuals and groups with shared values and assets, that benefit those individuals, groups and communities, and the larger society. Examples of social capital include networks of social support, membership in voluntary organizations and associations, civic participation and levels of trust and sense of belonging to the community. By investing in and leveraging social networks, social capital can be developed to help communities build and create together.

**Subsidized Housing** - Sometimes called Social Housing, subsidized housing is housing that receives some form of government or not-for-profit subsidy. Forms of subsidized housing include some housing co-ops (with rent geared to income for low income residents, or housing geared to specific low income groups such as seniors or artists), public housing (where the government directly manages the property) and rent supplements (paid to landlords). Tenants must generally meet eligibility requirements for subsidized housing.

**Structural Deficit** - A government budget deficit occurs when a government spends more than it receives in taxation and other revenues. A structural deficit is the persistence of a budget deficit over a long period of time. A structural deficit poses a problem for any government, as deficits are typically financed by borrowing, and continued borrowing leads to an accumulation of debt. However, a municipal government is allowed to borrow only for capital purposes, and the City of Toronto is required to balance its operating budget without going into debt. Therefore, a structural deficit (which may be dealt with in the short term through the infusion of one-time revenues), must ultimately be solved either by raising revenues (taxes, user fees, etc.) or by reducing expenses.

**Urban Heat Island** - In the context of this Report, an urban heat island is defined as an area within a metropolitan centre, where surface temperatures are at least 5°C above the average for the whole of the metropolis. Heat islands are caused by the combined effects of heat-generating and heat-trapping construction materials; lack of vegetation; tall buildings that block wind; air pollution; and waste heat from energy generation, industrial processes, air conditioning and automobiles.

**Visible Minority** - Visible minority refers to whether or not a person, under criteria established by the Employment Equity Act, is non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. Under the Act, an Aboriginal person is not considered to be a Visible Minority. The term is highly problematic for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that in some GTA communities ‘visible minorities’ are a majority of the population (Markham is 64% and Brampton 57% visible minority). The term is also vague and subject to confusion. In some instances it is used to refer to ethnicity or nationality – which may include both whites and non-whites; in others to a sub-region of a continent (East Asia, for example). However, it is the official term used for data collection and at present, is the only statistically valid basis for analysis.403

**Walkability Index** - The Walkability Index is a rigorous tool that has been developed to measure and evaluate neighbourhood design features that have been clearly associated with utilitarian walking such as residential density, retail ratio, land use mix, and intersection density (Frank et
al., 2009). The tool was used by Toronto Public Health to measure ‘walkability’ in Toronto
neighbourhoods.

**Woonerf** - A woonerf is a street in the Netherlands where pedestrians and cyclists have legal
priority over motorists. By 1999 the Netherlands had over 6,000 woonerfs. The Dutch traffic
code stipulates that motorized traffic in a woonerf is restricted to walking pace.

**Working Poor** - For the purposes of this Report, the Metcalf Foundation definition of the
working poor is used. A member of the working poor is an independent adult between the ages
of 18 and 64, and not a student, with earnings of at least $3,000 per year, but an income below
the median Low Income Measure (LIM).
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Endnotes


38 City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division. Vital Signs 2012 Data Submission. Special Request.


43 (On average, 48,100 refugees arrived in the city of Toronto between 2000 and 2009. Of these, 63% were economic immigrants and their dependents, 22% were family class immigrants, and 12% were refugees and their dependents.) Taken from: Access Alliance and Toronto Public Health. (2011). *The Global City: Newcomer Health in Toronto.* Pg. 19-20. Last accessed on August 20, 2012 from http://www.toronto.ca/health/map/newcomer.htm.


67 The Christian Science Monitor. (July 18, 2012). In Chicago, heat and homicide stoke fear and frustration. Last accessed on August 17, 2012 from
Chicago heat and homicide stoke fear and frustration.


114 NVS Table XIII-1: GDP in Millions of Constant Dollars for Vital Signs Communities, 1997 -2011. CMA and CA data estimated by the Centre for Spatial Economics (C4SE). The geography for a given CMA or CA is estimated by the aggregation of census divisions. National and provincial data from Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 384-0002 based on Provincial Economic Accounts. Shares calculated by CSLS; NVS. Table XIII-1-d: Share of Provincial GDP for Vital Signs Communities, 1997 - 2011.

NVS. Table XIII-1-b: Annual GDP Growth for Vital Signs Communities, 1998 - 2011;


120 NVS. Table IX-1-a-ii: Employment Rate (15+) in Vital Signs Communities by CMAs and Economic Regions, Seasonally Unadjusted and Adjusted, monthly, based on a 3-month moving average, 2011-2012. Provincial and CMA data available in CANSIM Table 282-0116: Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by census metropolitan area, sex and age group, 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (Persons).


123 NVS. Table IX-3-a-i: Employment Levels and Growth in Vital Signs Communities, 1988, 2000-2011. CMA data available in CANSIM Table 2820116:
Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by census metropolitan area, sex and age group, 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (Persons)

Provincial data available in CANSIM Table 2820054: Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by provinces and economic regions, 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (Persons).


130 NVS. Table VI-4-b-ii: Unemployment Rates for Youth (15 to 24 years) for Vital Signs Communities, 2011-2012, monthly, 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.


139 NVS. Table IX-4-b-ii: Average and Median Real Hourly Earnings (in 2002 dollars) for Vital Signs Communities by CMAs and Economic Regions 2000 and 2008-2011.


152 NVS. Table XIII-10-v: *Regular Employment Insurance Beneficiaries in Vital Signs Communities, Average Beneficiaries Per Month, 1997-2011*. Source for Canada, Provinces, CMAs, and CAs: Calculated from Employment Insurance Statistics Survey [EIS], CANSIM Table 276-0009; monthly data are averaged to form annual data. Source for CDs: Calculated from EIS, CANSIM Table 276-0006; monthly data are averaged to form annual data.


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NVS. Table V-2-a: Ratio of MLS Average Residential Prices and Median Census Family Pre-tax Income for Vital Signs Communities by Provinces and CMAs, 2000-2010.

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