

TORONTO'S

**VitalSigns**<sup>®</sup>

# Expanded Report 2008

## Toronto: 10 Years since Amalgamation

A Message from the President and Chair

Ten years ago the boundaries of the old city of Toronto were expanded and what was then six separate municipalities within a region became the new city of Toronto through a process that came to be known as “Amalgamation”.

Since that important event the Toronto Community Foundation has been monitoring the health of the new city of Toronto through its annual Toronto’s Vital Signs® report. As its name implies, our report looks at important indicators of Toronto’s quality of life and the overall health of our city based on current statistics and special studies. It is a snapshot of Toronto that tracks emerging trends and highlights some of the new realities of how we live, work and play. This year provides a unique opportunity to look back over the past decade and see how the new Toronto has fared since coming together.

Amalgamation held the promise of creating one city; a unified, efficient and prosperous Toronto. Some aspects of this goal have been realized. In 2008, *Forbes Magazine* rated Toronto as one of the world’s most economically powerful cities and the *Mercer Quality of Living Survey* ranked Toronto 15<sup>th</sup> in the world for quality of life for the third year in a row.

In many ways, Toronto is a wonderfully vibrant city for its residents and this year’s Toronto’s Vital Signs® report reminds us of the continued progress being made by Torontonians in important areas. We have benefited from greater use of public transit, fewer crimes and cleaner beaches. We are producing less waste and using less water. These are all important areas of progress for Toronto and should be a great source of pride for all of us.

We should also be concerned that in some very important respects Toronto is still struggling mightily.

In 2008, the City approved a balanced budget, but the City’s spending over the last five years has increased at a rate that continues to exceed its revenue growth. To strain matters further, Toronto remains restricted in its ability to raise much needed revenue, caught between the uncertainty of transfer payments from federal and provincial governments, unpopular property tax increases and a reluctance to take on new funding relationships with the private sector. As a result Toronto’s debt continues to grow and has doubled since Amalgamation.

Half of the City’s property tax revenue is used to fund standard emergency services and debt repayment, leaving precious little to fill the multi-billion dollar gap required to replace aging infrastructure and support new city building initiatives. As Toronto grows and the needs of Torontonians grow along with it, it remains entirely unclear whether the Toronto of tomorrow will be in a position to meet the needs of its residents and businesses, much less attract new ones.

As we look back at Toronto through the ten-year lens, we can see that our city has experienced a seismic demographic shift. We are a city of recent immigrants, with 1 in 4

Torontonians having immigrated here after 1990. Unlike any other city in Canada almost 1 in 4 visible minorities in the country now lives in Toronto and nearly fifty percent of the city's population identifies itself as a member of a visible minority group. Toronto has become a "majority" of "minorities".

These numbers would seem to suggest Toronto is a great place for immigrants but on closer examination it becomes clear that for this group the last ten years were in too many ways a "lost decade" and a lost opportunity for the rest of Toronto.

In the ten years since the new Toronto emerged we have experienced unprecedented economic growth and yet the number of families living in poverty in our city has increased while the poverty rate in both the Province and Canada has declined.

During the same period, Toronto was 1 of only 2 major Canadian cities to experience a decline in median family income. To compound matters for newcomers to Toronto, average rents in the city more than doubled and average house prices increased by more than forty percent over this period. The Conference Board of Canada ranked Toronto 26<sup>th</sup> out of 27 Canadian cities on income disparity between immigrant and non-immigrant residents.

Not surprisingly, Torontonians have the weakest sense of belonging of any city in Canada, outside of Quebec.

A decade ago Amalgamation promised one Toronto. What seems clear today is that we have two Toronto's: one for non-immigrants and one for immigrants, or, in other words, what are quickly becoming the "haves" and the "have – nots".

It is now commonly understood by government and business that the economic future of Toronto largely rests on attracting and retaining immigrants and youth. Yet even in times of great prosperity we are simply failing to invest in the physical and social infrastructure needed to ensure that Toronto remains a viable choice in an increasingly challenging competition for talent in the global village. We would all be well advised to remember that our prosperity, and that of our children and future generations, also rests on creating opportunities for others to succeed.

Toronto's future requires its residents to guide the change that is inevitable, and encourage positive action from our leaders. If what we have seen over the past ten years has told us anything it is that "change is the only constant". Now it is up to Torontonians to decide what that change will look like in the next ten years, before a "lost decade" becomes a "lost generation".

*The Toronto Community Foundation works with its many partners to create "City Building" initiatives that contribute to the long-term health of Toronto. We subscribe to an old Greek proverb: a society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. In Toronto, we have been cutting our trees for more than a decade; we urgently need to start replanting.*

## Toronto's Vital Signs® 2008

### Notes:

1. The "City of Toronto," "Toronto" or "City" refers to the former Regional Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, which consisted of the former cities of Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the Borough of East York.
2. The "Toronto Region" or "Region" refers to the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), a group of municipalities considered by Statistics Canada "to have a high degree of integration with the City of Toronto." 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 regions of Halton, Peel, York, Toronto and Durham. The area is slightly larger than the CMA.
4. Trends have been illustrated by the use of arrows. The timeframe can be inferred from the text of the particular indicator. There is no symbol attached to indicators that do not include comparisons over time, or where a trend could be interpreted both positively and negatively.

Trend	Symbol
No significant change	
Upward positive	
Upward negative	
Downward positive	
Downward negative	

5. See Glossary at the back of this document for expanded definitions

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## Toronto's Vital Signs® 2008

### Context

**Canada's largest city – the fifth largest municipality in North America, and part of one of the 50 largest metropolitan regions in the world – continues to offer its highly diverse population an enviable quality of life despite the economic and social challenges it faces**

- For the third year in a row, Toronto ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the world (the second city in Canada after 4<sup>th</sup> placed Vancouver) for best quality of life in the 2008 Mercer Quality of Living Survey.<sup>1</sup> ⇔
- Standard and Poor's 2007 Industry Report Card rated Toronto as one of the top 10 global economic centres. Toronto also made the 2008 Forbes list of the world's most economically powerful cities, in company with London, Tokyo, New York, Seoul, Hong Kong, Chicago, Paris, Shanghai and Los Angeles. Along with London, Toronto is ranked as the fastest growing G7 financial centre.<sup>2</sup>
- The City generates 50% of the Toronto Region's employment on 10% of the land area (630 sq. km). Its density has enabled Toronto to develop one of the most heavily used public transportation systems in North America and to increase its energy efficiency. The Suzuki Foundation has named Toronto as the North American leader in combating climate change, and the Carbon Group has identified Toronto as a carbon leader, among the top 5 world cities in reducing carbon emissions.<sup>3</sup>
- The Toronto Region was a destination for 10.64 million overnight visitors in 2007 (a 1% increase over 2006), and host to some of the largest public festivals in North America (events such as the Toronto International Film Festival, Pride Toronto and Caribana). A 6.5% decline in US visitors over 5 years was more than offset by a 20% increase in overseas visitors and an 8% increase in Canadians visiting the Region. Overnight visitors contributed \$4.12 billion to the city economy in 2007 (a 3% increase over the previous year). Almost half the spending (46%) came from domestic visitors and 27% each from the US and overseas market.<sup>4</sup> ↑

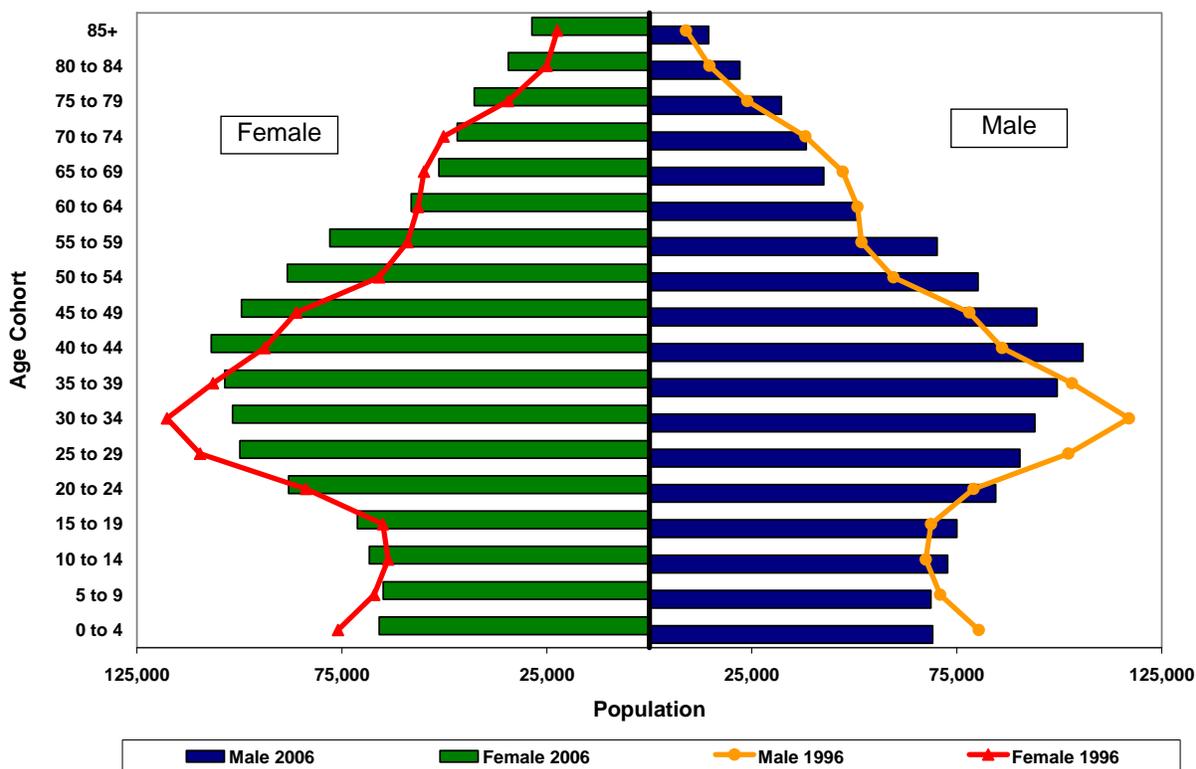
### A seismic demographic shift

#### Toronto's population pyramid is aging:

- Toronto is city of just over 2.6 million people – about 45% of the Toronto Region's population (a decrease from 49% in 2001). ↓ (as a percentage of the Region)
- Initial estimates of population growth of slightly less than 1% in the City between 2001 and 2006 may be the result of an unusually large number of residents failing to respond to the 2006 census. When the undercount is factored in, population growth was likely closer to 6.64%, exceeding the City's 4% growth from 1996-2001 and the projected population increase for the period 2001-2006.<sup>5</sup>
- Seniors made up 14.1% of the City population in 2006 (up from 13.6% in 2001), and comprise 10% of the population in the rest of the Toronto Region. The fastest growing 5-year age group is the 80-84 year olds, which increased 30% between 2001 and 2006. ↑

Preschoolers made up only 5.4% of the city population in 2006 (down from 5.8% in 2001). ↓ 16% of the population was children under 15, compared to 21% in rest of the Toronto Region. The segment of young working-age people (25-44 year-olds) declined from 33.9% in 2001 to 32%.<sup>6</sup> ↓

Population Pyramids, City of Toronto 1996-2006



**Toronto is a city of recent immigrants:**

- In 2006, the City was home to 8% of Canada’s population, but 30% of all recent immigrants (people coming to Canada within the previous 5 years), and 20% of all immigrants in the country. 10.8% of the City population immigrated between 2001 and 2006 and more than one in four Toronto residents (26%) immigrated after 1990.<sup>7</sup>
- Half of all Torontonians were born outside the country; 47% has a mother tongue other than English and French (an 8% increase since 2001).<sup>8</sup>

**Toronto’s visible minority is about to become a majority:**

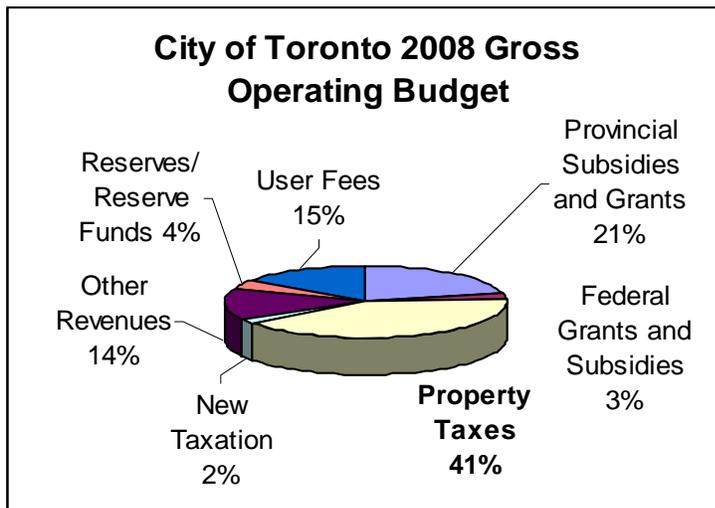
- In 2006, at 47% of the City population (42% of all the visible minority residents of Ontario and 23% of all visible minority persons in Canada), Toronto now has the highest concentration of visible minorities in any metropolitan area in the country. ↑ Although immigrants to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) continue to settle in greater numbers in areas outside the City of Toronto, slightly more than half live in the City, which has welcomed an average of 55,000 new immigrants each year between 2001 and 2006.<sup>9</sup>
- Toronto residents identified more than 200 distinct ethnic origins in their response to the 2006 census; 31% speaks a language other than English and French most often at home, and 5% has no knowledge of either official language (down from 6% in 1996).<sup>10</sup>

- Although the 2006 census reported the Region's Aboriginal population as 31,910 (a 33% increase from 5 years earlier), the City's Aboriginal population is estimated to be between 60,000 and 70,000. With a median age of 31.7, Aboriginal residents of the Region are younger than their non-Aboriginal neighbours. Children and youth make up 38% of the Aboriginal population (compared to 31.5% in the non-Aboriginal population), and only 4.6% are seniors (compared to 11.4% of the non-Aboriginal population).<sup>11</sup>

## A City's uncertain financial health

**Toronto approved a balanced budget in 2008, but over the last 5 years its spending has increased by 6.7% per year on average, while revenues have grown by only 5.6%:**

- The City's 2008 budget of \$8.2 billion is balanced in part by a net 2007 operating surplus of close to \$95 million (almost \$17 million more than anticipated), due to new property taxes (representing 2.1% of the budget), and the uploading of \$188 million in social services and transit to the province.<sup>12</sup>
- Property taxes fund 41% of the City's 2008 budget. In contrast, US cities generate 18% of their funding from property taxes and 25% from sales and income taxes, which, unlike property taxes, grow with the economy. Another 15% of Toronto's 2008 operating budget comes from user fees and 3% from federal grants. 4% will be funded through discretionary reserve funds (a reduction of \$200 million or 6% from 2007).<sup>13</sup>



**The City is targeting priority investments, but 50% of property taxes fund police, fire, emergency medical services, and debt repayment:**

- In 2008, half of all property taxes (\$1.65 billion) will be spent on police, fire and ambulance services and on servicing the debt. The City is able to commit just \$53 million in 2008 (including 0.375% of property tax revenues) to new strategic investment in priority neighbourhoods, transit, waste diversion, and the beautification of public spaces.<sup>14</sup>
- Debt is one of the key measures of a city's economic health. Net liabilities had grown to \$2.29 billion by the end of 2006, (an average 14.3% in each of the previous 5 years), driven largely by the need to finance transit capital expenditures (69% of new debt is

allocated to the TTC). In 2007, the tax-supported debt load rose to approximately \$2.6 billion.<sup>15</sup> ↑

- The City's debt now significantly exceeds all of its reserves. Toronto will make an additional \$12 million in repayments in 2008. As a result Standard and Poor's has upgraded Toronto's AA credit rating from stable to positive.<sup>16</sup> ↑
- Toronto's per capita debt is still low however, compared to the cities of Calgary (60% higher), Vancouver (over 80% higher) and Montreal (300% higher).<sup>17</sup>

**Toronto is saddled with an aging and deteriorating infrastructure:**

- A 2005 review of the reserve and reserve funds estimated that since amalgamation, the total reserve inadequacy (to fund major capital projects such as the replacement of equipment and facilities) had grown to \$4.4 billion.<sup>18</sup> With much older infrastructure than the surrounding Region, Toronto is particularly vulnerable because it lacks new revenue sources, such as growth in property tax assessments, to pay for the City's renewal. ↑

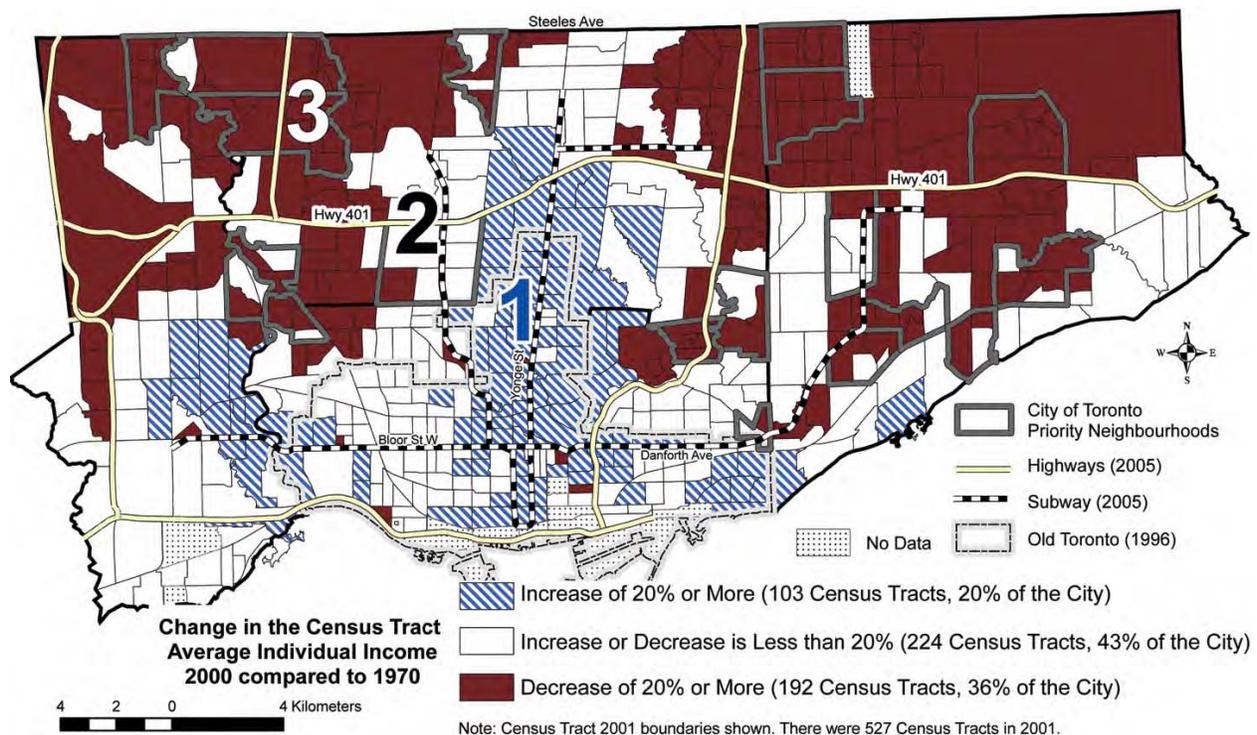
## Gap Between Rich and Poor:

Neighbourhood income clusters create disparate “cities” within Toronto

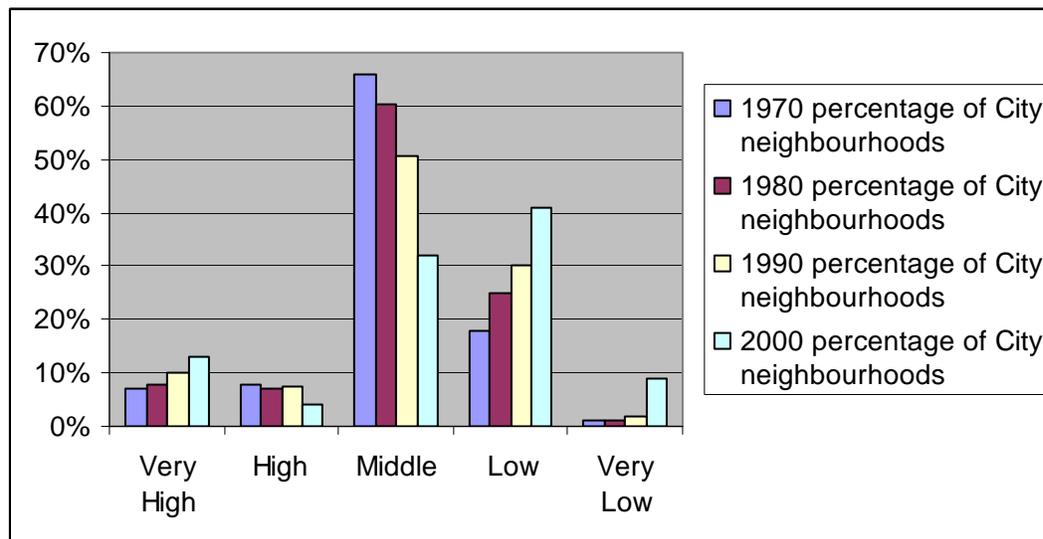
### Over 30 years (1970-2000) income distribution has shifted within the City:

- The Toronto of 1970, with a large majority (66%) of middle income neighbourhoods and only 1% of very poor neighbourhoods, has given way to a City in which high income neighbourhoods (where average personal incomes have increased 71% since 1970 and 32% between 1996 and 2001) are now concentrated in the central core. Middle income neighbourhoods are clustered adjacent to them. Low income neighbourhoods, where average incomes have consistently declined (34% in 30 years) also form a distinct cluster in the northeast and west. Whereas 84% of the population of the high income cluster is white, 62% of the residents of the low income neighbourhoods are immigrants, and represent a disproportionate number of Toronto’s Black, Chinese and South Asian population.<sup>19</sup>

**Map 1 - Change in Average Individual Income, City of Toronto, 1970 to 2000**  
Average individual income from all sources, 15 years and over, census tracts<sup>20</sup>



## Change in Toronto Neighbourhood Average Income Distribution 1970 - 2000



### Low income rates remained stable in Canada and Ontario in 2006, but continued to grow in Toronto, reflecting the high number of new immigrants who continue to settle in the City:<sup>21</sup>

- The number of families living in poverty in Toronto grew 10% in the first 5 years of the decade (outpacing the 3.3% growth in the number of families). This compared with a provincial increase of 3.2% and a decline of 5.1% in the poverty rate across the country. 60.5% of all low income families in the GTA live in Toronto.<sup>22</sup> ↑
- The number of families in the City living in deep poverty (75% or more below the Low Income Measure (LIM)) decreased by 21.2% between 2000 and 2005 to 20,100 families, due in part, to initiatives such as a new federal Child Benefit Supplement and small increases in social assistance.<sup>23</sup> ↓
- In 2005, 30.4% of all families with children under 17 in Toronto were headed by a lone parent (compared to 20% in the rest of the Region). Over 50% of lone-parent families in the City were low income (the rate in 1990 was 33%).<sup>24</sup> ↑

### Toronto is home to some of the richest, and poorest, households in the country:

- The percentage of Toronto households with annual incomes over \$100,000 rose from 18% in 2000 to 21.4% in 2005. ↑ Regionally, just over one third (34%) of households earned over \$100,000 in 2005. In 2004, almost one third (30.6%) of all families in Canada with incomes of over \$250,000 lived in the Toronto Region (1.3% of the Region's families).<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, 20.6% of households in Toronto were living below the poverty line (Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut Off) of \$38,610 for a family of four. More than 165,000 people in Toronto (41% of single person households) were living on incomes of less than \$20,800, a 16.8% increase from 2000, and a disproportionate 73% of all low-income individuals in the GTA.<sup>26</sup> ↑

**Between 2000 and 2005 Toronto experienced the steepest decline in median family income among major Canadian cities:**

- Toronto and Windsor were the only major Canadian cities to experience a decline in median family income (adjusted for inflation) between 2000 and 2005. Toronto's median family income dropped 4.7% to \$41,500 (\$6,100 less than in 1990, in 2005 dollars). ↓ Family median incomes rose by 5.4% provincially and almost 10% nationally between 2000 and 2005. The cities of Ottawa and Calgary had the highest median household incomes (\$69,743 and \$67,238 respectively). Toronto ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of 15 major Canadian cities.<sup>27</sup>

**The child poverty rate in the Toronto Region fell to within 0.5% of the 2000 level in 2006, but children in lone-parent families are faring poorly in the City:**

- More than 313,000 children were living in poverty in the Toronto Region in 2006 (according to the Low Income Measure), despite a decrease from 2005 of 3.5% in the child poverty rate. ↓ The rate has remained fairly stable at about one quarter of all families in the Region, but the increase in population means that there were 28,900 more children in low income families in 2006 than there were in 2000.<sup>28</sup> ↑

Low-Income Families with Children 0-17 (as a percentage of the total family population with children 0-17) 1990 - 2005<sup>29</sup> ↑

	1990	2000	2005
<b>City of Toronto</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>
Rest of Toronto Region	7.8%	16.4%	16.3%
Ontario	12.0%	20.1%	19.7%
Canada	16.2%	20.8%	19.5%

- The Regional rate of poverty among the elderly was very close to the national average in 2006, declining from 15.9% in 2005 to 12.6%. This represented a 39.7% drop since 2001 and a 62.2% decline since 1980. ↓ However, in 2005, 68% of the Greater Toronto Area's low income seniors (71,400 people) were living in the City of Toronto.<sup>30</sup>

**Food Banks reported an eighth straight year of increased use in 2008:**

- Food banks in the City of Toronto served 799,315 vulnerable residents between April 2007 and March 2008 (a 7% increase over the previous year). The increase likely reflects an increased capacity to meet existing needs rather than an increase in need. Among those who use food banks:
  - 29% have used the food bank for more than two years
  - 59% plan to use a food bank as regular part of monthly budgeting (down from 64% in 2006) ↓
  - 34% are children under 18 (down from 37% in 2003 but still overrepresented in terms of percentage of the total population) ↓
  - 3% are seniors (the low percentage is due to adequate income support for seniors but may also reflect health and mobility status)
  - 8% are Aboriginal
  - 47% report having a disability or serious illness (up from 40% in 2003) ↑

- There has been a marked increase of 90% in use of food banks in the GTA as a whole since 1995. (1995 is used as the benchmark because that year welfare rates were reduced by 21.6 % and have not increased significantly since.) Food banks opened their doors to 952,883 people in the Region from April 2007-March 2008, a 5% increase from the year before.<sup>31</sup> ↑

**The rate of insolvencies is rising disproportionately in the City and the Toronto Region:**

- After a decade of growth rates below national and provincial levels, consumer insolvencies increased 52.3% in the City between 2000 and 2005, and 57% in the wider Toronto Region. ↑ Two-parent families were the majority of those affected. During the same period the rate was 39.5% in Ontario and 16.8% in the country.<sup>32</sup>

## Safety:

Despite another spike in homicides Toronto safer than at any time in the last decade

### Most crime statistics show a steady decline in offences:

- Toronto police reported a crime rate of 7,277 criminal code offences per 100,000 people in the City in 2007. ↓ Toronto has experienced a continuous drop in the crime rate over 10 years; the rate in 2007 was 20.7% lower than a decade earlier.<sup>33</sup> ↓

City of Toronto Crime Rate: Total criminal code offences per 100,000 people (including traffic crime) 1998 - 2007 ↓

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
8,787	7,888	7,771	7,928	7,807	7,670	7,471	7,490	7,572	7,277

- The 84 homicides in Toronto in 2007 reversed a 12% decline in 2006. The 2007 figure is considerably above the average 62.6 murders reported over the past 14 years. The murder rate climbed from 2.5 (per 100,000 people) in 2006 to 3.4 in 2007.<sup>34</sup> ↑
- Despite the increase in homicides, there were 5% fewer crimes reported in the City in 2007 and 2.5% fewer violent crimes. The rate of violent crime (offenses that involve the application or threat of force to a person) has been steadily decreasing. Between 1998 and 2006, the rate fell by 10.8%.<sup>35</sup> ↓
- There were 113,754 property crimes reported in Toronto in 2007. Break and enter offenses dropped by 3.6%. 16% fewer business and 11% fewer apartments were targeted, although house break and enter offenses rose by 4.8% (still an improvement over the 34.5 % increase reported in 2005).<sup>36</sup> ↓
- The number of hate/bias crimes reported in 2007 decreased to 130 – the lowest number of incidents since the police began collecting statistics, and well below the 15-year average of 206. ↓ There are many reasons why hate/bias crimes might go unreported and the low numbers may reflect in part, victims' sense of shame, fear of retaliation or lack of confidence in the justice system.<sup>37</sup>
- The traffic crime rate (152 per 100,000 people in 2007) continues to fall well below national and Regional rates (39% below the Toronto Regional rate and 2.4 times lower than the national rate in 2006).<sup>38</sup> ↓
- Collisions between cars and bicycles claimed 3 lives in 2007, the same number as in 2006. The five-year average is 2.4. The reported cyclist collision rate of 45 is higher than that of Vancouver (40), Winnipeg (35) and Ottawa (33).<sup>39</sup>

### The youth crime rate remains stable but more young offenders are being charged with murder:

- The rate of violent youth crime has not changed in a decade in Toronto, despite a reported rise of 30% in youth violence across the country. ↔ But assaults may be proving more lethal. Fifteen young offenders (aged 12-17) were charged with murder in 2007, up from the 11 charged in 2006 and well above the 10-year average of 6.<sup>40</sup> ↑

12-17 year-olds as percentage of the total charged with violent crime in Toronto 1998 - 2007 ⇔

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
16.3%	16.8	15.6	15.0	14.2	15.8	14.9	15.3	14.6	15.9

- The overall incidence of violence in Ontario schools did not change in 2007, and declined significantly in a number of areas over the past decade. ↓ The latest results of a long-term Ontario study of students in Grades 7 to 12 indicated that for students in the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board:
  - 9% reported having been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property at least once in the previous 12 months, the same percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon at least once during the year.
  - Males were significantly more likely to report carrying a weapon (13%) than females (4%). About 1.5% students in Grades 7-12 reported carrying a handgun at least once in the year prior to being surveyed.
  - 4% of students in Grades 7-12 reported belonging to gangs. Gang activity is more prevalent among 9<sup>th</sup> graders (7%) than among 12<sup>th</sup> graders (1%). The 5% of students who reported participating in gang fighting is significantly lower in 2007 than in 1999, when 8% of students reported gang fighting.<sup>41</sup> ↓

**The safety of those living on Toronto’s streets is far from assured:**

- The 2007 Street Health Report indicates that of the 1 in 3 homeless people who were assaulted in 2005, 68% were repeatedly assaulted, on average 6 times. In the general population, less than 1% reported a physical assault to the police. For women, the situation is worse. 20% of homeless women had been sexually assaulted, although the figure is likely under-reported.<sup>42</sup>

**For the first time, the Toronto Region is ranked the safest large metropolitan area in Canada:**

- Toronto was served by 5,557 police officers in 2007 (202 officers per 100,000 people, down from 206 in 2006). ⇔ This compares well with the Toronto Regional rate of 175 and is slightly higher than the national rate of 195 officers per 100,000 people. The per capita cost of policing increased from \$254.6 in 2003 to \$301.4 in 2007.<sup>43</sup> ↑
- Overall crime rates dropped between 2006 and 2007 in every large Canadian metropolitan area (population 500,000 and over), but the 11% decline in the Toronto Region’s rate ranked it safest on the list in 2007 (4,461 criminal offences – excluding traffic crime – per 100,000 population). ↓ The Region compares particularly favourably with Montreal (5,958), Vancouver (9,136) and Edmonton (9,572). The Canadian crime rate is 6,984 (a 7.4% drop from 2006).<sup>44</sup>
- There were a total of 709 violent crimes per 100,000 people in the Region in 2007, down from 738 in 2006 (31% below the national rate of 930). ↓ The 2007 Regional homicide rate of 2.0 was slightly better than that of Vancouver (2.4), Calgary (3.1) and Edmonton (3.3), but higher than the rates for Montreal, Hamilton and Ottawa (1.6) and the national rate of 1.8.<sup>45</sup>

## Health and Wellness:

Adequate income, shelter and access to services key determinants of health

- 61% of Toronto residents (ages 12+) report their own health status as excellent or very good.<sup>46</sup>

### The impact of lifestyle on health: progress in some areas and disturbing trends in others:

- Public Health initiatives to discourage smoking are having the desired effect. Adult smokers (18 + years) numbered just 13.5% of the City population in 2007, down from 14.9% in 2006 and 20.5% in 2002. ↓ But the reported smoking rate of 18.1% in the Toronto Region population ages 12 and over, suggests a still high number of younger smokers. The smoking rate for Ontario is 20.6% (ages 12 and over) and for Canada is 21.9%.<sup>47</sup>

Smoking rate for Toronto adults (18 years and older) 2002 - 2007<sup>48</sup> ↓

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
20.5%	19.9%	19.1%	17.0%	14.9%	13.5%

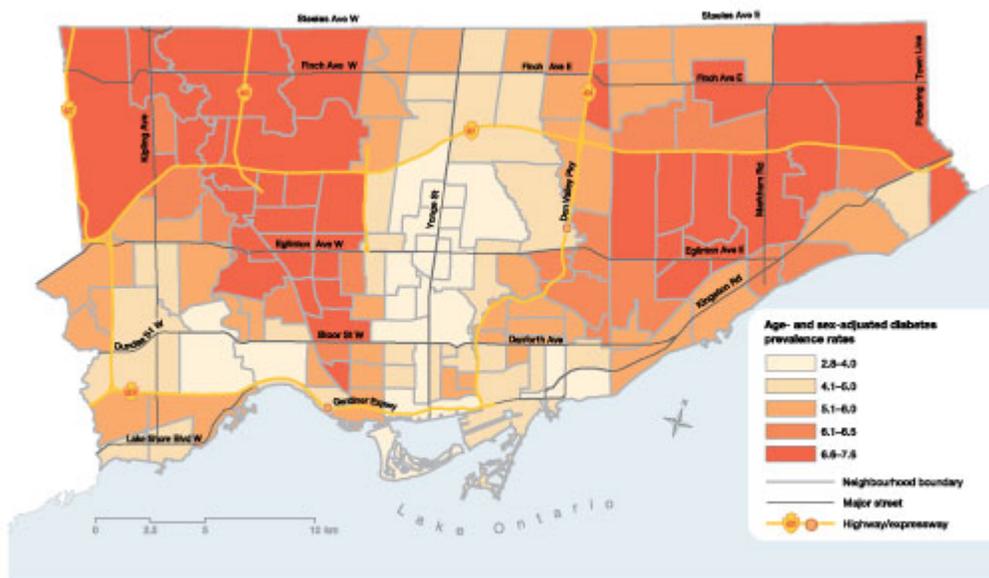
- In 2007, 42% of Torontonians (ages 12 and over) reported being moderately physically active or active. The City scores lowest in the Toronto Region, poorly against cities like Vancouver (53%), Calgary (56%) and Ottawa (57%), and below the provincial and Canadian average of 49%.<sup>49</sup>
- Poor diet and increasingly sedentary lifestyles have contributed to unprecedented levels of obesity in Canada (defined by a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more and posing a high health risk). By 2007, 43.8% of adults (18 and over) in Toronto reported being overweight or obese (body mass index of 25 or more). The 11.5% who reported being obese, represented a 35% increase in 5 years. ↑ The obesity rate for the Toronto Region was only slightly higher in 2007 than in 2005 (at 11.8%, still below the national average of 16%).<sup>50</sup>
- Among Canadian adults, the likelihood of being obese increases with weekly television viewing hours, rising from 12.5% of those who watch 5 or fewer hours per week to 24.5% among those watching 21 or more hours per week. 24% of Toronto households (20 years or older) watch 15 or more hours of television each week (the national level is 29%).<sup>51</sup>

### Poverty and environmental stresses take their toll on health:

- Canadian children living in families with incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-off (LICO) are more likely to be obese than those living in families with incomes above the LICO (25% compared with 16%).<sup>52</sup>
- Toronto has the highest urban rate of type 2 diabetes in Ontario (about 225,000 people, including 50,000 new cases in the 4 years between 2004 and 2007 alone). Genetic factors play a role in the likelihood of developing the disease, but so do poverty and poor urban design. The highest rates of diabetes are concentrated in the City's low income, high-percentage visible minority neighbourhoods (in the northwest and east), where residents are forced to travel the furthest to buy groceries and access services. The lowest rates are found in high income, well-serviced neighbourhoods in the City's core.<sup>53</sup>

Exhibit 2.3

Age- and sex-adjusted diabetes prevalence rates per 100 persons of all ages, by neighbourhood, in Toronto, 2001/02



Findings

In 2001/02, the overall age- and sex-adjusted diabetes prevalence rate (per 100 persons of all ages) was 5.5; rates were highest in the northwest and east of the city. In contrast, rates were lowest in neighbourhoods in central and southwestern parts of the city.

54

Traffic pollution is responsible for about 440 premature deaths and 1,700 hospitalizations per year in Toronto, primarily affecting the elderly and also children, who suffer more than 1,200 acute bronchitis episodes annually. The mortality-related costs associated with traffic pollution are about \$2.2 billion a year. A 30% reduction in vehicle emissions would save a projected 189 lives and \$900 million in health costs every year.<sup>55</sup>

- In 2007 there were 15 days when the likelihood of weather related deaths in the City exceeded 65% (down from 17 in 2006). The average number of Heat Alerts (13.1 days) since 2001, when the measurement program was launched has far exceeded the anticipated 4.5-day average, and stretched the ability of Toronto Public Health to respond.<sup>56</sup>

**City residents' use of recreation programs is not increasing significantly:**

- 455,145 Toronto residents registered for the City's recreation programs in 2007, about the same number as the previous year. ⇄ Infants and children made up slightly over 75% of all registrants, followed by adults (10%), youth (8%) and seniors (6%). Youth registrations increased almost 2% from 2006. ↑ The City has developed the world's largest online registration tool for its 60,288 recreation programs (60 more than were available in 2006).<sup>57</sup>

**Access to medical care in Toronto is easier than elsewhere in the country, unless you are on the street:**

- There were 109 General/Family Physicians per 100,000 people in Toronto in 2006 (down from 112 in 2005 and 114 in 1998). ↓ 11.8% of the City population (12 and over) has no regular medical doctor (a 20% increase in 5 years but still below the provincial proportion (13.4%) and the national figure (15.2%)).<sup>58</sup> ↑

- Among those without adequate shelter in Toronto, only 29% report being in excellent or very good health and 40% rate their health as fair or poor. 75% has at least one chronic or ongoing physical health condition. The percentage of those without a doctor rises to 59% for those who are homeless.<sup>59</sup>

## Learning:

Schools struggle to keep pace with demographic change

### Schools reflect the realities of their communities:

- According to the 2006 Toronto District School Board (TDSB) student census:
  - 70% of students had both parents born outside Canada.
  - 31% of high school students worked part-time after school for an average of 13 hours per week.
  - About one quarter did not feel safe 'often', or 'all the time' on school property, or in their neighbourhood, or when communicating on the Internet.
  - The main reason reported for bullying was body image (38% in elementary schools and 27% in high schools).<sup>60</sup>
  
- In 2007, 8.4% of elementary students and 10.5% of secondary students had arrived in Canada in the previous 3 years. A total of 38,620 students were arrivals within the previous 4-5 years, making up a student body representing 175 nationalities and 75 languages. 52% of elementary students first learned a language other than English. Chinese and Tamil were the languages most commonly spoken other than English. 13.8% of secondary students had Chinese in their language background.<sup>61</sup>

### More City residents are attaining post-secondary credentials, but access remains unequal:

- Just over 19% of the population of the Toronto Region (15 years and up) had yet to complete high school in 2007 (down from 32.3% in 1990 and lower than the provincial and national percentages (20.6% and 22.2% respectively).  The number drops considerably in the population group aged 25-64. In Toronto, the figure was 12.4% in 2006 compared to the provincial percentage of 13.5%.<sup>62</sup>
  
- The high school completion rate for the Aboriginal population aged 15 and over in the Toronto Region was reported to be 70.4% in 2006. The rate was 25% higher than the national average (56.3%) for the Aboriginal population and 13% higher than the Ontario rate of 62.4%. This still means that almost 49% fewer Aboriginal persons had finished high school than those in the non-Aboriginal population of the Region in 2006.<sup>63</sup>
  
- The proportion of the Toronto Region population (15 years and over) with a post-secondary education increased in 2007 by 3.3%, to 53.7%.  This is higher than the 49.9 of Canadians with post-secondary attainment, but below the figures for cities such as Ottawa (60.3%) and Calgary (54.3%).<sup>64</sup>
  
- In 2006, 37.4% of Toronto residents 25 to 64 had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 28.8% in the Toronto Region, 26% in Ontario and 22.9% across the country.<sup>65</sup>

Percentage of the labour force with a post-secondary education 1998 - 2007<sup>66</sup> 

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>City of Toronto</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>54.7%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>58.0%</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>62.6%</b>	<b>63.5%</b>
Ontario	50.0%	50.6%	51.0%	52.8%	53.2%	54.0%	54.4%	56.5%	57.6%	59.0%

- In 2006 and 2007, for the first time in TDSB history, the number of 17 year olds applying to post secondary institutions outnumbered those who did not apply (47% did not apply).  
 ↑ The number of 18-21 year olds applying (41%) has been stable since 2003. There is a clear relationship between neighbourhood income and application to university. 66% of students from the highest income neighbourhoods did apply in 2006/7; 62% from the lowest income neighbourhoods did not apply. The difference is much less pronounced among college applicants.<sup>67</sup>

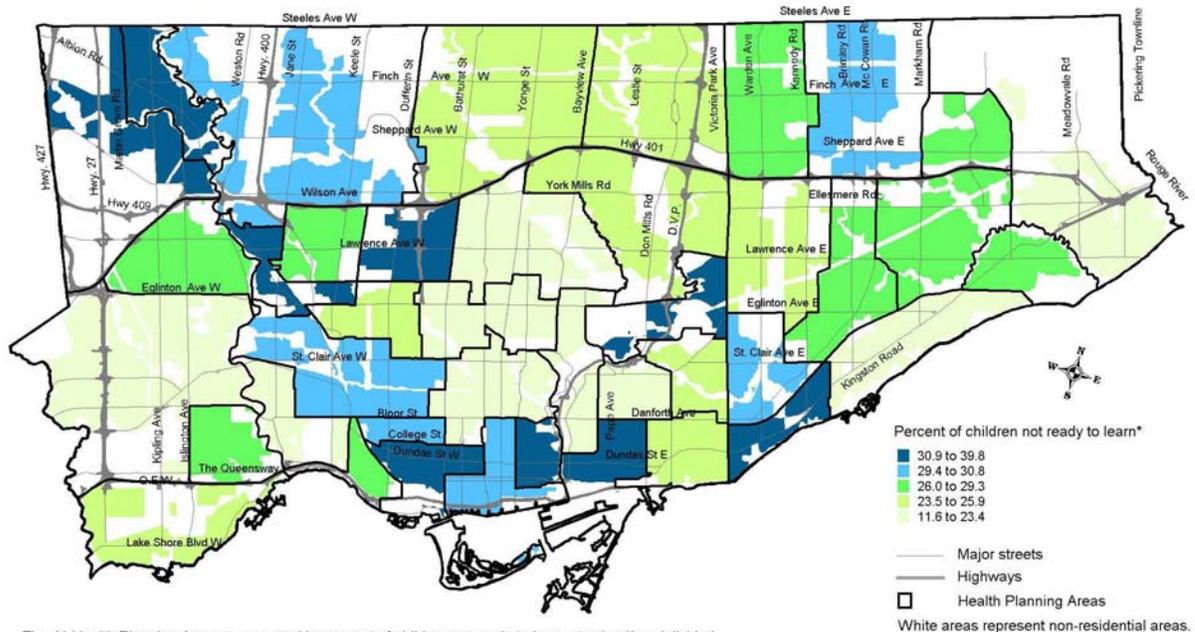
**Post-secondary enrolment grows as elementary and secondary enrolments continue to shrink in the City:**

- More than 200,000 students enrolled at Toronto's colleges and universities in 2006/7. Total enrolment at the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, the Ontario College of Art and Design and York University was up 5.3% to 147,676. ↑ Enrolment at Centennial, Humber, George Brown and Seneca Colleges climbed 6% to 62,113 full time students. ↑ 156,640 continuing education students registered for college programs.<sup>68</sup>
- In 1998, 297,000 students were enrolled in the Toronto District School Board. By 2006 enrolment had dropped to 265,000. Secondary enrolment has declined 24% in the last 10 years. ↓ Across Canada the number of students in elementary and secondary schools will decline by as much as half a million in the next 10 years.<sup>69</sup>
- In the last 5 years (2002-2007) enrolment in the Toronto Catholic District School Board has decreased by 7%. ↓ One new school opened in 2007, but another 18 elementary schools are under review in 2008, potentially affecting 4,500 students. In the Toronto District School Board, which saw a decline in enrolment of 11% in the same period, 4 schools are under review. ↓ Meanwhile, Halton District School Board has grown 12% and Peel District School Board has grown 14% in the last 5 years.<sup>70</sup>
- At the end of 2007, 215 TDSB elementary schools posted an enrolment of 300 or less, and 72 secondary schools were down to 1,000 students or less. ↓ Small schools are less likely to have librarians, special education support staff, music and physical education teachers. The current funding formula requires 769 elementary students to generate funding for 1 full-time teacher librarian and 714 students to hire 1 full-time social worker, psychologist or youth worker.<sup>71</sup>

**Economic disadvantage is putting Toronto's young learners at risk:**

- Readiness to learn is a critical indicator of life-long well-being, including mental and physical health. Children who begin school with age-appropriate cognitive development and adequate social, emotional and communication skills are far less likely to experience problems later on. Almost 28% of Toronto's senior kindergarten students were considered not ready to learn at school in 2004/5 and 2005/6. The figure is comparable to provincial and national results using the Early Development Instrument (EDI). But the percentage of children who were not ready to learn ranged from 11.6% to 39.8% across the City's 41 Health Planning areas (more than a three-fold difference). The highest rates are concentrated in the northwest and south central areas of the City. The quintile of health areas with the highest rates of children not ready to learn also has the highest rates of children in low income families (41.4%).<sup>72</sup>

### Map 3 - Senior Kindergarten Children Not Ready to Learn at School\* (By Health Planning Area), Toronto, 2004/05\*\*



The 41 Health Planning Areas were sorted by percent of children not ready to learn at school\* and divided into 5 groups (quintiles). Each quintile includes approximately 20% of the children in the Toronto Early Development Instrument (EDI) sample.

\*Scoring low (in the bottom 10% of all scores in the Toronto EDI sample) in one or more of the five EDI domains.

\*\*EDI administered in 2004/05 in three Toronto school boards and 2005/06 in one board.

Source: Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, 2007.

Prepared by: Toronto Public Health.

- By the end of Grade 9, 23% of students from Toronto’s lowest income neighbourhoods were at-risk of dropping out of school, with fewer than 7 completed credits in 2005/6. (Failure to acquire 16 credits by Grade 10 increases the likelihood of dropping out.) In contrast, 7% of students in the highest income neighbourhoods were at risk. More than 50% of students in the TDSB from the English-speaking Caribbean had completed 14 or fewer credits, compared to 24% of Canadian-born students.<sup>73</sup>

#### Access to specialist teachers is improving in the City’s elementary schools, and fundraising activity is down:

- 65% of Toronto elementary schools had full- or part-time music teachers in 2007/8, up from 62% in the prior year, but below the 1997/98 level of 71%. The City ranks well above the provincial 46% of schools with music teachers.<sup>74</sup>
- Toronto has the highest percentage of elementary schools with physical education teachers of any region in Ontario. 78% of schools in 2007/8 had physical education staff (49% were employed full-time and 29% part-time). This represented an increase of 42% from 10 years earlier. However, the average number of minutes of in-class physical education per week in the City’s elementary schools is not increasing significantly (99 minutes in 2005/6 and 101 in 2007/8).<sup>75</sup>

- The percentage of elementary schools raising funds for classroom supplies dropped to 19% in 2007/8, from 24% the year before and 33% in 1999/0.  Toronto's elementary schools exhibit a great disparity in community capacity to raise funds, a factor that may lead to widening inequities among schools. Of those schools that raised funds, amounts ranged from a minimum of \$0 to a maximum of \$200,000, with 75% of schools raising less than \$10,000 and 14% raising \$20,000 or more.<sup>76</sup>
- There were 15,500 children on the waiting list for child care subsidy by mid-2008 (an increase of 50.5% in one year and 88.8% in only two years).  Currently, subsidy funding is available for 24,000, which leaves a large proportion of the City's low-income children without access. To meet the needs of low income families who are working or going to school, an additional 60,000 child care subsidies would be required.<sup>77</sup>

## Housing:

More householders own homes, but one in three in Toronto is in unaffordable housing

### Affordable housing still represents only a small fraction of new homes built:

- In Toronto, 46% of residents rented and 54% were home owners in 2006. In the rest of the GTA, 83% of households were owners and only 17% rented. The number of renters in the City declined by 17,700 between 2001 and 2006, continuing a decline of the previous 5 years. The 54,000 increase in owner households in the same period was the biggest absolute increase since 1951.<sup>78</sup> ↑
- The vacancy rate in the Toronto Region (for 2-bedroom apartment) was relatively unchanged at 3.2% in 2007. ↔ The rates in some other cities are much lower (1% in Vancouver, 1.5% in Calgary and 2.3% in Montreal), but the vacancy rate in the Toronto condominium market (a significant part of the secondary rental market) was only 0.7%.<sup>79</sup>
- Slightly more than 2,000 affordable, supportive, transitional or alternative housing units were constructed in the City between 2001 and 2006 – about one in every 100 new homes built. Toronto is developing an Affordable Housing Framework for 2008-2018, and is projecting the completion of 1,121 new affordable rental housing units in 2008.<sup>80</sup>

### Median incomes decline as housing costs continue to climb:

- The median household income for renters is less than half the median income for owners (\$32,700 compared with \$68,300 in 2005). Median incomes in Toronto decreased over a 15-year period by 11.7% ↓ while average rents more than doubled. ↑ Average house prices also rose by 42.5% making it increasingly difficult for renters to become home owners.<sup>81</sup> ↑
- According to the latest census, 208,300 renter households (46.6% of all renter households in Toronto and 21.3% of all households in the City) were paying more than 30% of their income on rent in 2005 (the generally agreed threshold beyond which housing is not affordable). The number was 15% higher than the national average and an increase of 5% from 2000. ↑ Almost 75% of the renters living in unaffordable housing in the GTA lived in Toronto.<sup>82</sup>
- In 2006, households at the 60<sup>th</sup> income percentile (representing almost two thirds of Torontonians) could only afford a house costing \$231,000 – 50.6% below the average price of a home that year. In 2007, in the Toronto Region, housing prices rose 7% over the year, to an average \$376,200. By 2007, the average price for single-family residential housing in the City had climbed to \$415,000 (up 10% from 2006).<sup>83</sup> ↑

Percentage of Toronto households spending more than 30% of income on shelter 1981 - 2006 ↑

	1981	1991	1996	2001	2006
Owners	16%	21%	24%	22.5%	28%
Renters	28%	33%	45%	43%	47%

- In 2006, the average price of a home in the Toronto Region was 5.5 times the median income for census families. In other words, the average house cost 5.5 years of the median family's income. This ratio was 27% higher than the national ratio of 4.4 and

32% higher than the provincial ratio (4.2). In the City of Toronto, the ratio between the average house price and the average household income had risen to 7.2 by 2007. <sup>84</sup> ↑

**The average wait time for a social housing unit has lengthened to more than 15 years:**

- Household applications to Toronto's subsidized housing waiting list increased by 2% in 2007 to 22,767. ↑ The number of households who were housed decreased 16% from 2006 to 4,336. The active waiting list (those eligible to be offered housing immediately) also increased by 2% from 2006, to 49,478 households. The active waiting list included 4,395 homeless households, 924 with disabilities, 1,085 consumers/survivors of mental health services, and 916 requiring supportive housing. The total waiting list for social housing at the end of 2007 included 16,594 seniors (a 20% increase from 2002). <sup>85</sup> ↑
- The number of tenant households facing eviction reached an all-time high of 30,768 in 2006. ↑ About one third of those evicted turned to shelters; another third stayed temporarily with family or friends and one third was able to find other housing. One third of homeless people in Toronto report that they became homeless because they couldn't afford the rent. <sup>86</sup>
- 27,081 people sought temporary accommodation in the City's shelters in 2007. The number represents a decline of 20.9% since 2003. ↓ However, 3,814 of those were children, 8.4% more than the number of children in emergency shelters in 2005 (the last year children were counted). <sup>87</sup> ↑

## Getting Started:

### Toronto Region failing recent immigrants and losing out on skills and experience

- 40% of Canada's recent immigrants (those arriving between 2001 and 2006) settled in the Toronto Region, making up 9% of the population. In comparison, 14% chose to settle in Vancouver and 15% in Montreal. The high concentration of immigrants in just three metropolitan centres creates intense pressure on those cities. It is also a major public policy issue, as wider dispersion of immigrants would likely allow a faster economic integration of newcomers.<sup>88</sup>
- 87,136 new immigrants arrived in the Toronto Region in 2007, 14% fewer than the year before and the lowest level since 1999. ↓ Canadian immigration decreased 6.3% in 2007, and more immigrants are choosing to settle in the Maritimes, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Number of Immigrants arriving in the Toronto Region 1998 - 2007<sup>89</sup> ↓

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Toronto Region</b> (percentage of national figure)	<b>76,410</b> <b>(43.9)</b>	<b>84,477</b> <b>(44.5)</b>	<b>110,069</b> <b>(48.4)</b>	<b>125,178</b> <b>(49.9)</b>	<b>111,693</b> <b>(48.8)</b>	<b>97,558</b> <b>(44.1)</b>	<b>99,918</b> <b>(42.4)</b>	<b>112,840</b> <b>(43.0)</b>	<b>99,293</b> <b>(39.5)</b>	<b>87,136</b> <b>(36.8)</b>
Ontario	92,398	104,164	133,508	148,636	133,588	119,721	125,090	140,524	125,910	111,312
Canada	174,197	189,955	227,458	250,638	229,049	221,439	235,823	262,240	251,643	236,758

- Two groups of recent immigrants, distinguished by socio-economic status, live primarily in suburban Toronto neighbourhoods: low-income immigrants predominantly from Asia, Africa and South America in the City's northwest and east; and other well-educated and higher-income immigrants, able to afford better housing, in the northeast as well as in surrounding regional municipalities.<sup>90</sup>

### Earnings for recent immigrants are still less than half those of Canadian-born, even for those with post-secondary credentials:

- The Conference Board of Canada noted in its 2007 benchmarking study the troubling income disparity between immigrant and non-immigrant residents. Toronto ranked 26<sup>th</sup> of 27 Canadian cities on this indicator.<sup>91</sup>

A comparison of the median earnings of recent immigrants and Canadian-born earners (2005)<sup>92</sup>

		University educated	Non-university educated
<b>Toronto Region</b>	Recent Immigrant	\$26,301	\$19,280
	Immigrant	\$37,647	\$29,301
	Canadian-born	\$57,695	\$39,586
Canada	Recent Immigrant	\$24,636	\$18,572
	Immigrant	\$36,451	\$27,698
	Canadian-born	\$57,656	\$32,499

- The median total family income of the Toronto Region's recent immigrants (those arriving between 2001 and 2004) was \$46,203 in 2005, half of the median non-

immigrant family income in the Region. Recent immigrants are faring worse than 5 years previously when the median family income was 7.3% higher (in 2005 dollars) and 54.7% of non-immigrant median family income. ↓ The 2005 Regional proportion is significantly below the provincial and national rates, where recent immigrant families earn almost two thirds the incomes of non-immigrant families (60% and 65% respectively).<sup>93</sup>

**The unemployment rate for recent immigrants is almost double the rate for non-immigrants:**

- The Regional unemployment rate for recent immigrants (those entering the country in the last 5 years) was relatively unchanged at 11.8% in 2006 (up 4.4% from 2001). ↔ The rate was still over 90% higher than the rate for the non-immigrant population. Those immigrants who had been in the country longer (entering in the previous 6 -10 years), experienced an unemployment rate 37% higher than that of their non-immigrant neighbours.

Unemployment Rate for Recent Immigrants and Non-Immigrants 1996 - 2006<sup>94</sup> ↓

	1996		2001		2006	
	Non-immigrant population	Recent immigrant	Non-immigrant population	Recent immigrant	Non-immigrant population	Recent immigrant
<b>Toronto Region</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Ontario	8.6	17.9	5.9	11.8	6.2	11.9
Canada	9.9	18.0	7.4	12.7	6.4	12.3

- The overall unemployment rate in Ontario was 6.8% for immigrants in 2007 (an 8% increase from 2006) and 4.4% for Canadian-born residents (unchanged over the year). Job growth for immigrants occurred mostly in the service sector (in the low-paying transportation and hospitality industries), compared with non-immigrant job growth in public administration, professional, scientific and technical services, finance, insurance real estate and leasing.<sup>95</sup>
- The job outlook for very recent immigrants (those entering the country in the previous 5 years) remained bleak in 2007, when immigrant unemployment in the core labour market (aged 25-54) rose in Ontario to 11.9%, from 11% in 2006. In Toronto Region, the rate was 12.7% in 2007.<sup>96</sup>

**Immigrant youth find it hard to enter the job market:**

- The youth unemployment rate in the Toronto Region was 14.1% in 2007 (up from 13.6% in 2006; ↔ 8.5% higher than Ontario rate of 13% and 25.9% higher than the Canadian rate of 11.2%).<sup>97</sup>
- In 2007, total growth in the numbers of jobs in Canada was similar for immigrants and Canadian-born youth, but the employment rate for immigrant youth was only 48.7% (up 0.4% from 2006, ↔ but down from 55% in 2001 ↓), whereas the increase of 0.8% in employment for Canadian-born youth well exceeded their increase in numbers.<sup>98</sup>

**Immigrants take advantage of City services, but critical language support is sometimes missing:**

- Public libraries are an important community hub for immigrants. In 2006, 87% of newcomers visited the Toronto Public Library to access resources on settlement and

integration, language training, job search and information on accreditation for foreign-trained professionals.<sup>99</sup> Toronto's library system has capacity to serve the public in over 100 languages, through its branch interpreter system.

- In Toronto, 91% of elementary schools have students for whom English is a second language (9% of the total elementary population in the City). But of those schools, 34% had no English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher in 2007/8, (compared with 44% of schools with ESL students the previous year).<sup>100</sup> ↓ In some schools, the proportion of ESL students is as high as 92%.

## Getting Around:

Toronto has a green transportation plan – but still too many cars on the road

**The morning rush hour brings an estimated 314,000 vehicles into the City, and the traffic has increased by about 75% over two decades:**<sup>101</sup> ↑

- Dependence on personal vehicles for transportation is one measure of the effectiveness of urban design, including the design of a city’s public transportation system. City of Toronto residents relied less on private motorized vehicles in 2006 than some other regions, such as Greater Vancouver, Montreal urban region and Chicago urban region, but far more than densely populated New York City. The number of workers living in the City who used public transportation to get to work grew 2% between 2001 and 2006 and remains more than three times the national figure.<sup>102</sup> ↑
- The suburbanization of workplaces means that many Toronto residents are likely to travel out of the City to work, and therefore more likely to drive. Almost 200,000 Toronto residents commuted out of the City to their places of work in 2006, but more than twice as many (429,400) still flowed in each day. Toronto’s core business district (a tiny census tract that measures less than .5 km<sup>2</sup>) has the highest density of workers (103,900) per square km in Canada.<sup>103</sup>
- Workers in the Toronto Region under the age of 25 used public transit 31% of the time, and walked or biked to work 11% of the time in 2006. (13% of Canadians under 25 walked or biked to work). Older workers in the Region appear to use a private vehicle to get to work more often than those under 25, who drove (or were a passenger) 57% of the time. Among those 35 and over, 76% drove or were driven to work.<sup>104</sup>

Mode of Transportation to Work 2006<sup>105</sup>

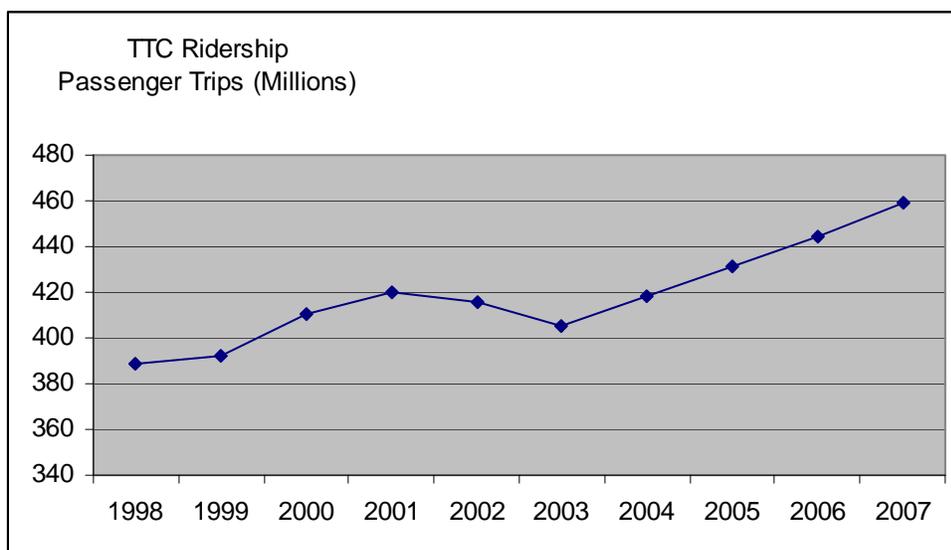
Mode of Transport	City of Toronto %	City of Montreal %	City of Vancouver %
Drive	<b>49.4</b>	48.9	51.5
Passenger in a car	<b>6.4</b>	4.4	6.1
Transit	<b>34.4</b>	34.8	25.1
Walk/Bike	<b>8.8</b>	11	15.9
Other	<b>1</b>	.9	1.3

- The Toronto Region has the highest public transit use of any metropolitan area in the country (22.2% in 2006), just slightly ahead of Montreal (21.4%) and Ottawa-Gatineau (19.4%). Public transit is used more frequently by Canadians living in large metropolitan areas than in U.S. metropolitan areas such as Boston (11.7% usage), San Francisco (14.5%) or Chicago (11.4%). Only in the New York area is the use of public transport higher than the Toronto Region’s (31% in 2006).<sup>106</sup>
- GO Transit reached an important milestone in 2007, surpassing the 50 million trip mark. 96% of GO train riders travel to and from Union Station. Total ridership for the year was 50,986,200. ↑ Average weekly ridership in March 2008 was 204,600, up 7.4% from the year before. ↑ The system carried about 195,000 passengers daily in 2007 (165,000 of those on trains and the remainder on buses).<sup>107</sup>
- TTC ridership increased from 444.5 million trips in 2006 to 459.5 million in 2007 (a 3.4% increase over one year and a 9.4% increase since 2001). ↑ With an average 1,472,000

daily fares (a 5.4% increase since 2005), the TTC has one of the highest per capita ridership rates in North America.<sup>108</sup>

- A bus replaces 50 cars and a 6-car subway train replaces 910 cars in the morning rush hour (provided they are full).<sup>109</sup>
- The City increased its fleet of accessible buses by 141 to a total of 1,122 in 2007 (up from 981 in 2006). ↑ In 2007 there were 103 accessible bus routes (a 13% increase over 2006 and a 123% increase since 2004) and 28 accessible Subway/RT stations (an increase from 26 in 2006 and 41% of the total 69 stations in the system).<sup>110</sup> ↑
- Wheel-trans, the City’s door-to-door accessible transit service provided 2,017,839 passenger trips in 2007, an increase of 6.4% over 2006 (1,896,752 trips). ↑ This represents an average increase of 331 trips daily in 2007.<sup>111</sup>

TTC Ridership 1998 - 2007<sup>112</sup> ↑



**Rising fuel costs, congestion and poor air quality encourage green transportation options:**

- In 2007 the City approved a bike plan with the goal of doubling the number of bike trips, as a percentage of total trips, by 2011. The plan calls for the construction of an additional 432 kms of bikes lanes and 280 kms of shared roadways between 2007 and 2012. However, by 2007, only 34 km of new bike lanes had been added to the bike network (bringing the total to 69 km or just over 1% of total kilometers of roadway).<sup>113</sup> In order to meet the target, 79 km of new bike lanes would be required over each of the next 4 years. The City has targeted the construction of 50 km of bike lanes for 2008. ↑
- 350 City buses are now equipped with bike racks, and the TTC plans to equip all City buses to carry bicycles by 2010. The City has installed 82 bike lockers at 9 subway stations and other strategic locations.<sup>114</sup> ↑

- Eliminating gridlock and clearing the air will require innovative partnerships between municipalities, businesses and individuals. The City funds Smart Commute which partners with local workplaces and sponsors to explore alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting. Launched in 2004, Smart Commute is a collaborative initiative between the Region and the cities of Hamilton and Mississauga. By promoting alternatives such as cycling, transit, carpooling, walking, and telecommuting, Smart Commute succeeded in eliminating more than 75 million vehicle kilometers traveled in the Region between 2004 and 2007.<sup>115</sup>

## Arts and Culture:

Funding lag threatens strategy to put culture at the centre of city-building

### Funding for arts and culture increased by \$10 million between 2003 and 2007, but the gap between Toronto and other major cities persists:

- By 2007, the City's per capita arts and culture spending stood at \$18. Per capita spending increased 23% between 2003 and 2005 (to \$16.00), but Vancouver increased its spending in the same period by 37% to \$26, and Montreal, with only a 3% spending increase, still allocated almost 50% more, per capita, than Toronto to the arts.<sup>116</sup> ↑

### Toronto audiences support a vibrant and growing arts and culture industry:

- 11.5 million people attended over 24,500 City-funded cultural events in 2006 – a 20% increase in attendance and a 35% increase in numbers of events since 2003. ↑ Almost 600,000 16-24-year-olds participated in City-funded and operated programs for youth in 2006, up 72% from the year before.<sup>117</sup> ↑
- Toronto audiences purchased 2.5 million tickets for theatre, dance and opera performances in the 2005/6 season. They were able to choose among an average 168 performances per week.<sup>118</sup>
- 45% of households in the Toronto Region reported attending a live performing arts event at least once in 2005. Ottawa and Montreal households were more likely to attend such events (49.5% and 46% respectively), but only 38.5 of Vancouver's households attended a concert or performance. The national average was just 41.2%.<sup>119</sup>
- The 83,700 people working in cultural industries in the Toronto Region represented close to 3% of the Region's total labour force in 2007. The annual compound growth rate in the sector over the decade 1990-2000 was faster than that of Montreal (2.4%), Chicago (0.5%) and New York (0.4%). The Toronto Region's growth rate in creative employment kept up with growth in the business and information and communications technology sectors.

### Employment in Cultural Industries as a Percentage of Total Industries 1987 - 2007<sup>120</sup> ↑

	1987	2000	2006	2007
<b>Toronto Region</b>	<b>66,200 (3.2%)</b>	<b>74,100 (3.0%)</b>	<b>82,700 (3.0%)</b>	<b>83,700 (2.9%)</b>
Ontario	110,500 (2.3%)	124,100 (2.1%)	142,800 (2.2%)	145,900 2.2%
Canada	244,900 (2.0%)	295,600 (2.0%)	321,600 (1.95%)	338,600 2.1%

### Torontonians are making fewer visits to the library:

- In-person visits to the Toronto Public Library dropped for the first time in 5 years back to a pre-2001 level of 16,391,516 visits. There were also a million fewer virtual visitors (a 4.96% decrease over 2006), although visitors examined more items and made information requests in larger numbers.<sup>121</sup> ↓
- Library circulation continued to drop (down 5% from 2006 to 28,925,965 items), although that's still the equivalent of one book borrowed per month by every Toronto resident. ↓

Program attendance totaled 515,463 in 2007, down 2.6% from 2006, and due entirely to a 12.4% decrease in the number of children attending library programs. ↓ Other age groups increased attendance, with the largest growth (13.8%) in the older adult age group.<sup>122</sup> ↑

**Participation in cultural activities increases the likelihood of social engagement and sense of belonging:**

- Toronto has more to gain from supporting arts and culture than economic benefits. Art gallery visitors and book readers have been shown to have a stronger sense of social engagement for many social indicators, than those who don't participate in those activities. They are much more likely to volunteer, donate, do favours for neighbours, and feel a sense of belonging to Canada.<sup>123</sup>

## Environment:

Growing commitment and investment are greening Toronto

### Investment in green technologies in buildings, energy production and transportation is reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions:

- Meeting Ontario's target of a 6% reduction on 1990 levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2014 will require an immediate and continuing reduction of 21% from 2007 levels of 59.8 million tonnes. Per capita emissions would have to be at 8 tonnes per year or less, to achieve that target. The City's current annual per capita emission rate is 10 tonnes. Meeting the target of 8 tonnes per year would require the equivalent of 217,500 fewer cars on Toronto's roads. The Toronto Region emits 11 tonnes per person per year (compared to San Francisco (13 tonnes), New York (7 tonnes) and London (6 tonnes)).<sup>124</sup>
- More than one third of Torontonians live in buildings more than 5 stories high. Retrofitting these buildings, which account for 40% of the city's GHG emissions, can dramatically reduce emissions, often at no net cost. The City's Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) has established a loan fund to finance energy-efficiency investments in residential buildings, which are being used to increase energy efficiency by up to 35%. This innovative model is being replicated across North America.<sup>125</sup>
- The 2000 high-rise buildings (12 stories and higher) in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) comprise North America's second highest concentration of high-rises. Over half are apartment towers, many built in the 1960s and 70s. Most lack insulation and are ideally suited for environmental upgrades that could reduce their carbon footprint by over 50%. Typically, they are surrounded by large underutilized open spaces (up to 90% of the total space occupied). The City of Toronto, in collaboration with a growing list of partners, including the Clinton Foundation, the University of Toronto, The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, E.R.A. Architects, and Toronto Hydro, has implemented an innovative Tower Renewal Project. Environmental upgrades such as over-cladding, district geothermal installation and solar water heating will dramatically reduce energy consumption; re-vitalizing the surrounding space to include gardens, markets and other needed services will create more sustainable local neighbourhoods and reduce the need for transportation.<sup>126</sup>
- In 2008, the City of Toronto received two Sustainable Community Awards from the Association of Canadian Municipalities, one for retrofitting close to 90 arenas. Improvements in lighting, ventilation and heating and cooling systems now save the City \$1.225 million per year in energy costs and reduce annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4,660 tonnes.<sup>127</sup> ↓
- Toronto's deep-lake district cooling system, which draws cool water from pipes in Lake Ontario to cool 51 downtown office towers, was operating at almost 75% capacity by the beginning of 2007. When operating at full capacity, the system will reduce the carbon dioxide load by close to 40,000 tonnes per year.<sup>128</sup> ↓
- The TTC is making the shift to hybrid vehicles and alternative fuels. In 2007, the City operated 150 diesel/electric buses and plans to add 410 more in 2008, making one third of its fleet hybrids. By 2010, 45% of the bus fleet will be hybrids.<sup>129</sup> ↑

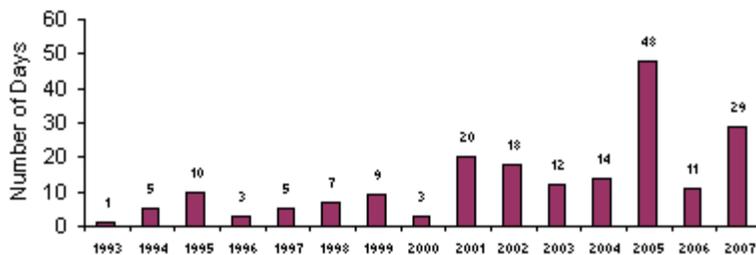
## Key contributors to the Toronto Region's GHG emissions<sup>130</sup>

Non-residential buildings 31% (the largest share at 23 million tonnes, annually)
Home energy use 23%
Personal Vehicles 21%
Commercial and public vehicles 15%

### Torontonians have access to a health protection tool that measures air quality:

- The City is part of a federal pilot project, the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), begun in 2007, that assesses air quality and provides its residents with daily measures of:
  - Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
  - Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)<sup>131</sup>
  - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)
- The number of smog advisory days in Toronto varies from year to year based partly on summer temperatures. There were 29 smog alerts in the City in 2007, an increase of 18 from 2006, but short of the record 48 alerts in 2005. ↑ In that year, there were 18 days in the Toronto Region where the air quality rose above acceptable levels, but only 6 days in 2006. (The Region averaged 12 days above threshold levels each year between 2001 and 2005).<sup>132</sup>

### Smog alerts in the City of Toronto 1993 - 2007



- Smog contributed to more than 2,600 premature deaths in the Region in 2007 and over 7,600 hospital admissions.<sup>133</sup>

### Water use drops as long as the temperature doesn't go up:

- Estimated residential consumption dropped by 1.8% in 2007 from 2006 (and 6.2% from 2005 – a particularly hot, dry summer). ↓ This is primarily due to the impacts of increased water rates and residential metering, and slightly cooler summers compared with 2005. Toronto's Water Efficiency Program is targeting a 12% reduction in average day water demand over projected, by the year 2011.<sup>134</sup>

### The City makes slow progress towards meeting provincial policy that all beaches should be open at least 95% of the season:

- Beaches were open, on average, 82% of the time in 2007, up from 72% in 2006 and 71% five years ago. ↑ However, only two of Toronto's 6 Blue Flag beaches (an international designation of well-managed and clean beaches), Hanlan's Point and Gibraltar, actually met the provincial standard and were closed fewer than 5% of swimming days in 2007. Toronto's 4 most polluted beaches (Bluffer's, Rouge, Sunnyside and Marie Curtis) were closed 34% of the swimming days in 2007 (down from 55% in 2006 and 75% in 2005).<sup>135</sup> ↓

**Toronto still has a long way to go to reach its target of 70% residential waste diversion by 2010:**

- Torontonians are producing less garbage. In 2007, the per capita rate was 188.5 kg. That's 8% less than last year and 28% less than the 2003 rate.<sup>136</sup> ↓
- Toronto's residential waste diversion rate remained unchanged at 42% in 2007. ↔ 59% of single family waste and 13% of multi-family residential waste was diverted from landfills, still a long way from the City's 2010 target of 70% – a rate already achieved by the Town of Markham. The rate for the Toronto Region was 39%. The cities of Vancouver and Edmonton have reached levels of 50% and 60% respectively, whereas Calgary at 20% and Montreal at 18% lag far behind.<sup>137</sup>
- Non-residential waste, which accounts for an estimated 64% of the Toronto Region's total waste, is still largely un-recycled. 80% of the waste generated by private businesses and public institutions, of which 31% is paper, ends up in a landfill.<sup>138</sup>

**Work:**

City still struggles to create environment for job growth

**Overall Toronto employment numbers grow in 2007 for the fourth consecutive year:**

- From a 20-year low in 2003, the number of jobs in the City has climbed over the past 4 years by 47,400 to 1,298,700 in 2007 (up 1.7% from 2006 but still well below the City's historic high of 1,335,220 jobs in 1989). Of these jobs, just over 1 million are full-time and 279,000 are part-time.<sup>139</sup>
- Employment levels in the Toronto Region grew by 2.25% in 2007, to 2,865,500 workers. The compound annual growth rate in the Region was 2.2% between 2000 and 2007, surpassing the provincial annual growth rate of 1.8%, but comparing unfavourably with growth rates in Calgary (3.3%) and Vancouver (2.4%). Canadian employment levels grew by 1.9% each year in the period.<sup>140</sup>
- Employment among older Canadians (aged 55+) grew by 7.1% in 2007 (to 31.7%). Growth among older immigrants jumped 9.3% compared with a 6.5% rise among older Canadian-born workers.<sup>141</sup>
- The 2007 Toronto employment rate (the percentage of people over the age of 15 with jobs) was relatively unchanged over 2006 at 60.8%, ↔ but below the rate for the Toronto Region (also unchanged in a year at 64.4%), the Province, (63.6%) and the national rate of 63.5%. The City's 10-year average employment rate (1998-2007) is 60.5%.<sup>142</sup>
- Toronto's unemployment rate increased to 7.87% from 7.51% in 2006 (above the 10-year average rate of 7.78%). ↑ The City's unemployment rate is higher than the Regional rate (6.8%), the provincial rate (6.4%) and the national rate (6.0%). A provincial increase in the unemployment rate in 2006 was entirely due to the increase in unemployment in the GTA.<sup>143</sup>

**The proportion of full-time/part-time work is stable but Toronto workers are increasingly accepting temporary employment and multiple jobs:**

- As a percentage of total employment, full-time jobs have declined only slightly from 78.9% in 1997 to 78.5% in 2007; part-time jobs have increased from 21.1% to 21.5% in that time. ↔ But temporary work, which on average pays wages 16% lower than permanent work wages, is on the rise in Toronto, and 22.7% of temporary workers also held multiple jobs in 2005 (an 86% rise since 2000).<sup>144</sup> ↑

Percentage of City of Toronto Workers in Temporary Employment 1998 - 2007

1998	2006
10.4% (of which about 53% are full-time)	13.4% (of which about 63% are full-time) <sup>145</sup> ↑

- The median hourly wage in the City rose to \$18.91 in July 2008, a 3.1% increase over the year before, and still just below the rate for the Toronto Region (which grew 3.3% to \$19.44).<sup>146</sup> ↑
- Median earnings in Toronto (for full-time, full-year work) were \$43,291 in 2005 (3.36% under the provincial median). Women are still earning less than their male colleagues

(median earnings for women in Toronto were 14.9% lower than for men, but provincially women earned a median 28.6% less than men).<sup>147</sup>

- Toronto received 40.5% of the province's temporary foreign workers in 2007. These 33,604 workers represented an increase of almost 75% over 5 years.<sup>148</sup>

**Much of the growth in businesses and jobs is occurring in the lower-paying service sector:**

- Toronto's service sector grew by 2.3% in 2007 (most of the new jobs were in the hospitality industry). ↑ That sector accounts for 11.5% of the total labour force (equivalent to the retail sector but only one quarter of the size of the office sector).<sup>149</sup>

**City employment growth is concentrated in the downtown core and North York:**

- In the last 5 years, employment in downtown Toronto has grown by 9.2% (35,000 jobs) and 17.6% (5,100 jobs) in North York.<sup>150</sup> ↑
- Toronto supports 75,500 business establishments, up 2,600 in 2007 over 2006 (and a 14-year high). ↑ Enterprises newly locating in Toronto included a high proportion of computer services, law firms, restaurants and fast food outlets – few providing high paying jobs. In 2007, 38% of all establishments had been operating at their present location for 5 years or less. About 41% of businesses had been in the same location for 11 years or more.<sup>151</sup>

**Toronto remains a global leader in financial services, biotechnology and information and communication technology:**

- The head offices of 5 of Canada's 6 national banks, 90% of foreign banks operating in Canada, and 80% of Canada's largest research and development, law, advertising and high-tech firms are located in Toronto.<sup>152</sup>
- The City comprises the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Information and Communications Technology cluster in North America (after San Francisco and New York) and the 4<sup>th</sup> highest concentration of commercial software companies in the world.<sup>153</sup>

## Belonging and Leadership:

Torontonians give generously, but not all feel they belong

### A sense of belonging to one's local community is strongly connected to perceived physical and mental health:

- In the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey, 58.2% of Toronto residents reported a strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community. A sense of belonging tends to decline as the community becomes more urban. In 2005, Torontonians had the weakest sense of belonging of any city in Canada, outside Quebec; it was also lower than for other parts of the Region – Peel (67.8%), York (60.9%) and Halton (69.5%) – and 10.6% lower than the national rate.<sup>154</sup>
- Among Canadians as a whole, 64.4% reported a strong sense of belonging to a local community in 2005. That sense is highest among the young (77.45% of the 12-17-year age group) and seniors (71.6%) and weakest among younger adults (54.5% of the 18-29- year age group). It also varies significantly among cultural and racial groups, being particularly high among those of South Asian and Filipino origin (74.2% and 68.9% respectively).<sup>155</sup>
- 65% of those who reported a very strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging also reported excellent or very good general health, and 81% reported good mental health. Conversely, only 51% of those who reported a very weak sense of belonging also reported good physical health.<sup>156</sup>

### Charitable donations are rising in the Toronto Region, but fewer are giving:

- One quarter of those filing taxes in the Toronto Region in 2006 reported charitable donations, down from 25.7% in 2005, and 5.8% below the provincial level. The number was 2.6% higher a decade ago. ↓ The median charitable donation (in current dollars) was \$360, up from \$350 in 2005 and a 38.5% increase in the last 5 years. ↑ (The median donation for Vancouver was \$340 and for Montreal was \$150).<sup>157</sup>

### Diverse participation in public life: Toronto isn't yet where it should be

- The visible minority representation on Toronto City Council is only 9% in 2008 (4 of 44 Councillors). 11 of 107 Members of the Legislative Assembly at Queen's Park are members of visible minorities. Women are also poorly represented on City Council (22.7%, down from 31.1% five years ago).<sup>158</sup> ↓

### City of Toronto Public Appointments: 2007 Diversity Analysis<sup>159</sup>

Diversity Group	Appointed 2004	Appointed 2007	Acceptable Appointment Range
Men	67%	53%	43-53%
Women	33%	47%	47-57%
Ages 18-30	4%	7%	19-29%
Aboriginal Origin	0%	0%	up to 5.5%
Visible Minorities	22%	30%	38-48%

White	78%	70%	52-62%
Disabilities	9%	3%	8.5-18.5%

- The voter turnout for the 2006 Federal Election in the Toronto Region was 64.5%, 9% higher than in 2004.  The 2006 turnout was about the same as the national rate of 64.7%, but 2.1 percentage points below the provincial average of 66.6%.<sup>160</sup>

## Glossary

**Attendance at cultural events** is derived from calculating the number of people present.

**Body Mass Index (BMI)** is a method of determining health risk by body weight. It is calculated by dividing body weight (in kilograms) by height (in metres) squared. According to the World Health Organization and Health Canada guidelines, the index is as follows: less than 18.5 (underweight); 18.50 – 24.99 (normal weight); 25.00 – 29.99 (overweight = increased health risk); 30.00-39.99 (obese class I = high health risk); 35.0-39.99 (obese class II = very high health risk); 40.0 or greater (obese class III = extremely high health risk).

**Business establishment** refers to any business or firm location. Some businesses may have multiple establishments at different locations.

**City-funded arts and culture organizations** are organizations receiving annual municipal operating grants.

The **Early Development Instrument: A Population-based Measure for Communities (EDI)** was developed in the late 1990s by the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University as a research and population-measuring tool. It measures children's readiness to learn in school in five domains: physical health and well-being; social knowledge and competence; emotional health and maturity; language and cognitive development; and general knowledge and communication skills. The EDI is administered in the second half of the kindergarten year. By 2004, the EDI database at McMaster University contained information on 293,000 Canadian children.

A **Family** (for census purposes) is a married couple (with or without children), a couple living common-law (with or without children), a lone-parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling (a couple may be of opposite or same sex).

A **Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** is any gas that absorbs infra-red radiation, contributing to warming in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include water vapor; carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) - a heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances; methane (CH<sub>4</sub>); nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O); halogenated fluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), perfluorinated carbons (PFCs) - a powerful greenhouse gas emitted during the production of aluminium; sulphur hexafluoride - a greenhouse gas widely used in the electrical utility industry; and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) emitted as a by-product of industrial manufacturing.

The **Low Income Cut Off (LICO)** is a methodology that has been used by Statistics Canada for many years, to measure those groups within the population who are significantly worse-off than others. The LICO does not represent a definition of poverty (which is a subjective measure determined by political and social consensus), but can be used to illustrate important trends in Canadian society.

The **Low Income Measure (LIM)** is a relative measure of low income, used by Statistics Canada, equaling 50% of median family income, adjusted to account for family needs. The family size adjustment used in calculating the Low Income Measure reflects the principle that family needs increase with family size. A census family is considered to be low income (or "below the poverty line") when their income is below the LIM for their family size and type.

The **Median** is the mid-point in distribution where exactly one half is above and the other half below.

**Visible Minorities** are defined by the *Employment Equity Act* defines as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

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 Toronto Police Service  
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 Toronto Real Estate Board  
 The Toronto Star  
 Toronto Transit Commission

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<sup>4</sup> Tourism Toronto (Jul 2008). 2007 in Review: Tourism in the Toronto Region. 21 July 2008

<<http://www.torontotourism.com/Media/TourismResearch>>.

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<sup>8</sup> See 2006 Language, Immigration, Citizenship, Mobility/Migration Backgrounder.

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<sup>10</sup> City of Toronto: Social Policy Analysis and Research Section: Social Development Finance and Administration Division, Diversity Management and Community Engagement Section: Strategic and Corporate Policy Division and Policy and Research Section: City Planning Division (2 Apr 2008). 2006 Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities Backgrounder. 8 May 2008

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