



The Social Planning Council of Peel

**Portraits of Peel:  
Neighbourhood Environmental Scan  
1996 to 2001**

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## INTRODUCTION

### *What is **Portraits of Peel**?*

Portraits of Peel is a document that describes the socio-economic characteristics of different neighbourhoods in Peel Region, using data from the Census of Canada at the postal code level. This edition of Portraits of Peel uses data from the 1996 and 2001 Census of Canada.

### *What Kinds of Information Are Provided in **Portraits of Peel**?*

Two sets of information are provided for each of Peel, Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon and 15 selected neighbourhoods in Peel Region:

1. A summary statistical profile of the population
2. A detailed statistical profile of the population
  - Demographic and Cultural Characteristics
  - Household and Family Characteristics
  - Socio-economic Characteristics

### *Who is the Primary Audience for **Portraits of Peel**?*

Portraits of Peel has been written primarily for non-profit human service agencies in Peel Region. The majority of these agencies are direct service agencies with limited resources for population research. However, one of their major needs is for reliable information on the population of Peel and its municipalities, in order to plan, market and deliver services to different groups within that population. Portraits of Peel provides them with this information.

Although written primarily for human service agencies, Portraits of Peel can be of value for funders of human services, civil servants, elected politicians and businesses in Peel Region. The document provides these parties with a statistically reliable picture of the characteristics of the residents of Peel in different geographic areas of Peel.

### *What Are the Limitations of **Portraits of Peel**?*

Portraits of Peel does not provide data on health and crime. Furthermore, while Portraits of Peel describes the population of Peel and its municipalities, it does not describe the services available in these areas. Also not addressed are environmental issues, business issues, etc.

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Please see Appendices for more information about Portraits of Peel and a description of the technical aspects of Portraits of Peel.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Background**
- **Themes or Trends in *Portraits of Peel***
- **Peel Compared to Toronto, Ontario and Canada (2001)**
- **Summary Statistics**

### BACKGROUND

Demographic and socio-economic indicators are useful for understanding the quality of life of the population. They are also useful for understanding the needs of a population and how to allocate resources to address those needs (for education, childcare services, health care and many other social services).

*Portraits of Peel, 1996-2001* is a statistical report on basic social and economic characteristics of the Peel population. Information is provided at three geographic levels: regional, city, and neighbourhood. Also provided is a comparative perspective of Peel: in relation to its neighbour, Toronto, and to Ontario and Canada as a whole. The source of the data used is Statistic Canada's *Census of Canada*, 1996 and 2001. Hence, *Portraits of Peel* provides a statistically reliable picture of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the residents of Peel in different geographic areas of Peel.

The reader should note at least two points about *Portraits of Peel*:

- *Portraits of Peel* has been written primarily for non-profit social service agencies and community groups in Peel. (However, it can be valuable for other audiences.)
- *Portraits of Peel* does not provide information on services (business, health and social services, etc.). It focuses only on individuals and families in Peel.

**THEMES OR TRENDS IN PORTRAITS OF PEEL**

Four themes or trends, observed during the 1996 Census, continue to dominate the socio-economic profile of Peel's population.

**POPULATION TRENDS IN PEEL: 2001**

<b>Theme/Trend</b>	<b>Social Indicators</b>	<b>Implications for Human Services Sector</b>
<b>Growth</b>	<p><i>Peel is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada, with almost one million people.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 1996 and 2001, Peel's population grew by 16% compared to only 4% in Toronto, 6% in Ontario, and 4% in Canada.</li> </ul>	Increased demand for all services (especially for housing, transportation, schools, employment, health services, social services, etc.).
<b>Diversity</b>	<p><i>Peel has a very high level of ethnic diversity in its population.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immigrants from almost 100 different ethnic backgrounds make up 43% of Peel's population, close to Toronto's 49%. Respective figures for Ontario and Canada are: 27% and 18%.</li> </ul>	Increased demand for culturally appropriate services, equal opportunity, social justice, racial harmony, etc.
<b>Vulnerability</b>	<p><i>Peel has a large number of poor people: 114,510; isolated seniors: 12,610; and lone-parent families: 39,945.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This situation is similar to that found in Toronto, Ontario and Canada as a whole.</li> </ul>	Increased demand for income support, affordable housing, employment training, child care subsidies, support for the elderly, etc.
<b>Resilience and Civic Capital</b>	<p><i>Peel has a large and growing number of highly educated individuals, homeowners, and families with relatively high incomes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21% of the Peel population have a university degree compared to 27% in Toronto, 19% in Ontario, and 17% in Canada as a whole.</li> <li>74% of the homes in Peel are owned by the people living in them, compared to 51% in Toronto, 68% in Ontario, and 66% in Canada as a whole.</li> <li>68% of families in Peel have annual incomes of over \$50,000 compared to 54% in Toronto, 61% in Ontario, and 55% in Canada.</li> </ul>	<p>Increased demand for educational and recreational services and opportunities for participation at all levels of society, especially in the development of public policies and programs.</p> <p>Increased potential for community leadership, volunteerism, fundraising, charitable donations, etc.</p>

## PEEL COMPARED TO TORONTO, ONTARIO AND CANADA (2001)

A comparative perspective of Peel yields a picture which says that on average, the population of Peel, compared to the populations of Toronto, Ontario and Canada as a whole, is:

- younger
- more religious
- more family-oriented
- better-educated (but not as educated as Toronto's population)
- more involved in the labour market
- richer (economically-speaking)
- more property-conscious (likely to own their homes), and
- almost as racially and ethnically diverse as Toronto (which is the most racially and ethnically diverse city in Canada and the world).

### However,

in the shadow of the above rosy picture of Peel, there lurks a dark and sad reality which needs to be addressed immediately and with compassion. Alongside the thriving middle-class in Peel is a large group of vulnerable people who are struggling to make ends meet, to have equal access to opportunities in society, to live in safety, to live with dignity:

- people who live in poverty:	114,510
- people with limited education*:	53,165
- people who are new immigrants:	16,000 per year (approximately)
- people in marginalized visible minority groups:	379,110
- seniors living alone:	12,610

plus many others such as people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, people with mental illnesses, etc.

These people, these citizens, cannot be ignored and abandoned. They have the right and the responsibility to ask their government for social policies and social programs that would help them to minimize their vulnerability and build healthy and productive lives.

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\* Less than grade 9 education.

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**SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR PEEL REGION, 1996 - 2001****1. Growth (1996 to 2001)**

- Total Population
- Seniors
- Immigrants and Visible Minorities
- Families
- Home Ownership

Peel is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada with almost one million people. Between 1996 and 2001, the population of Peel grew by 16.0%.

- The fastest growing age group in Peel is the 65+ age group: 28.2% increase between 1996 and 2001.
- The immigrant population is growing at a faster rate than the Canadian-born (non-immigrant) population: 25.2% versus 9.8% between 1996 and 2001.
- The number of visible minorities in Peel increased by 42.2% between 1996 and 2001.
- The three fastest growing visible minority groups in Peel are the Koreans, South Asians, and Arab/West Asians.
- The number of people whose first language is not English or French increased by 33.2% compared to only a 7.9% increase among those with English or French as their first language.
- The greatest population increase occurred among Urdu-speakers (156.7%), Arabic-speakers (66.4%), and Punjabi-speakers (63.7%).
- The group of widowed and divorced/separated people in Peel is growing at a higher rate than the married group: 18.7%, 16.6% vs. 15.8%.
- In 2001, there were 276,090 families in Peel, compared to 233,020 in 1996 (an increase of 18.5%).
- In 2001, there were 236,140 couple families, an increase of 16.5% over the 1996 figure of 202,765.
- Male-led lone parent families are growing faster than female-led lone parent families: 41.4% vs. 30.2% respectively.
- In Peel, Caledon's lone parent families are growing faster than those in Mississauga and Brampton: 56.3% vs. 25.2%, and 43.8% respectively.
- The number of people living alone increased by 24.0% between 1996 and 2001, while the number of seniors living alone increased by 21.5% in the same period.
- Home ownership in Peel increased by 25.2% between 1996 and 2001.
- In 2001, the labour force in Peel consisted of 564,195 persons over age 15, an increase of 18.4% over the 476,445 persons in the labour force in 1996.
- In 2001, there were 535,330 people employed in Peel, an increase of 22.2% since 1996.
- In Peel, families with higher incomes are growing at a faster rate than families with lower incomes: +35.5% vs. -17.5%.

**Implications for Peel's Human Services Sector**

Increase in demand for social services, housing, transportation, schools, etc.

## **2. Diversity**

- Ethnic Groups
- Immigrants
- Visible Minorities
- Languages Spoken
- Religious Affiliation

Peel has a large immigrant and visible minority population that is growing rapidly.

- There are over 93 distinct ethnic groups in Peel and over 60 different languages spoken by Peel residents.
- In 2001, 424,820 or 43.1% of Peel's total population was comprised of immigrants, up from the 1996 figure of 40.0%.
- In 2001, the top five countries of origin for immigrants in Peel were India, the United Kingdom, Poland, the Philippines, and Jamaica.
- The three fastest growing immigrant groups in Peel are the Pakistani, Indian and Filipino groups.
- In 2001, there were 379,110 visible minority persons living in Peel (compared to 265,285 in 1996).
- In 2001, 38.5% of Peel's population was comprised of visible minorities (compared to 31.2% in 1996).
- In 2001, the three largest groups of visible minorities in Peel were South Asians (155,055), Blacks (70,695), and Chinese (41,605).
- The majority of Peel residents (59.1%) report English as their mother tongue (first language).
- In 2001, the top five mother tongue languages after English were Punjabi, Polish, Chinese, Italian and Portuguese.
- In 2001, the largest religious group in Peel was the Roman Catholic group (386,375 or 39.2% of the total population).
- 32% of the Peel population are affiliated with non-Christian religions.

### **Implications for Peel's Human Services Sector**

Increased demand for culturally appropriate services, language interpreters, equal opportunity, social justice, racial harmony, etc.

### 3. Vulnerability

- People with less than a high school education
- Lone-parent families
- Widowed people
- Seniors living alone
- People living on low incomes

Peel has a large and growing number of poor people, isolated seniors and lone-parent families. Furthermore, although the percentage of families and individuals with low-incomes is declining, the actual number of people with low incomes is quite large.

- In 2001, 22.5% of the Peel population had not achieved a high school education.
- 14.5% of families in Peel are lone-parent families. The majority of the lone-parent families in Peel live in Mississauga.
- In 2001, 4.5% of the total population in Peel lived alone, up from 4.2% in 1996.
- In 2001, 4.4% of the population was widowed, compared to 4.3% in 1996.
- In 2001, 16.6 % of the seniors population lived alone, compared to 17.7% in 1996.
- In 2000, there were 27,090 low-income families in Peel. These 27,090 families comprised approximately 10.4% of the total number of families in Peel, compared to 13.6% in 1995.
- In 2000, there were approximately 114,510 individuals living on “low incomes”. These 114,510 low-income persons represented approximately 11.6% of the total population in 2000, compared to 15.0% in 1995.
- In 2000, there were 18,615 *unattached\* individuals* living on “low incomes” in Peel compared to 18,205 in 1995. They represented 28.5% of all unattached individuals in Peel in 2000, compared to 31.2% in 1995.
- There was a higher incidence of low income among unattached individuals than among families in 2000, 28.5% versus 10.4%, respectively.
- Within Peel there are geographic areas where the percentage of low-income individuals is much higher than that of Peel as a whole: Cooksville/Dixie; Creditview; Hurontario; Malton; Port Credit; and Central Brampton.
- Cooksville/Dixie and Malton also have a much higher percentage of low-income individuals than Ontario.

#### Implications for Peel’s Human Services Sector

Increased demand for income support, affordable housing, employment, prenatal care, supports for elderly, drug rehab centres, etc.

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\* people living alone

#### **4. Resilience and Civic Capital**

- Home ownership
- Post-secondary education
- Average Income of families

Peel has a large number of educated people, homeowners, and families with relatively high income.

- In 2001, 74.4% of the 308,845 private occupied dwellings in Peel were owned, and 25.6% were rented (compared to 69.0% and 31.0%, respectively in 1996).
- Almost half of the 308,845 private occupied dwellings in Peel were single-detached houses.
- 29.0% of the population (over age 20) reported their highest level of education at the university level, with 21% reporting achievement of a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- In 2000, 67.7% of families in Peel earned more than \$50,000 per year, compared to 59.2% in 1995.
- The average family income in Peel was \$79,324 in 2000, an increase of 22.5% from the average family income of \$64,729 in 1995.
- The number of individuals in private households living on low income declined by 10% between 1995 and 2000.
- The number of families living on low incomes declined by 11.4% between 1995 and 2000.
- Families with higher incomes are increasing, while families with lower incomes are decreasing. (+35.5% vs. -17.5% between 1995 and 2000).
- The highest rate of growth occurred among families that earned \$50,000 and over. This group increased by 35.5% between 1995 and 2000, from 137,995 to 186,990.

#### **Implications for Human Services Sector**

Increased demand for:

- leadership opportunities
- participation in society
- participation in the policy-making process of government
- participation at the governance level of organizations

Increased opportunities for:

- fundraising for charities
- mentoring programs
- community champions
- volunteerism