

Social Implications

IMPLICATIONS FOR PEEL'S HUMAN SERVICES SECTOR

A. Dominant 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

Theme/Trend	Social Indicators	Implications for Human Services Sector
Growth	<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"> Between 1996 and 2001, Peel's population grew by 16% compared to only 4% in Toronto, 6% in Ontario, and 4% in Canada. 	Increased demand for all services (especially for housing, transportation, schools, employment, health services, social services, etc.).
Diversity	<p><i>Peel has a very high level of ethnic diversity in its population.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%. 	Increased demand for culturally appropriate services, equal opportunity, social justice, racial harmony, etc.
Vulnerability	<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"> This situation is similar to that found in Toronto, Ontario and Canada as a whole. 	Increased demand for income support, affordable housing, employment training, child care subsidies, support for the elderly, etc.
Resilience and Civic Capital	<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"> 21% of the Peel population have a university degree compared to 27% in Toronto, 19% in Ontario, and 17% in Canada as a whole... 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. 68% of families in Peel have annual incomes of over \$50,000 compared to 54% in Toronto, 61% in Ontario, and 55% in Canada. 	<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.).

Implications for Peel's Human Services Sector

The comparative perspective of Peel suggests that the people of Peel are in an excellent position to actively participate in community development programs and to make positive contributions for improving the quality of life in Peel. Peel's youthful, well-educated, culturally diverse, high-earning population should be encouraged to improve the quality of life in Peel. The following are some of the areas of development that should be emphasized:

- leadership (personal, civic, etc.)
- civic participation (participation in government, community organizations, etc.)
- volunteerism
- mentoring
- fundraising/charitable giving
- multiculturalism and positive race relations
- family-centered facilities and services
- business entrepreneurship.