Peel is one of the fastest growing immigrant recipient regions in Canada. As a result of this rapid growth, Peel is faced with unique and significant challenges. In response to this challenge, the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG) was formed to champion the successful integration of newcomers in the economy and community of Peel.

This report is intended to strengthen our understanding of the experience of newcomers in Peel. The data and charts in this report provide an overview of key indicators that are important in the lives of newcomers. The neighbourhood mapping identifies areas within Peel that are most affected by immigration trends and will help to focus community action where the need is greatest.

As we move forward in our work, it is important to monitor trends that reflect the well-being of Peel’s recent immigrants. The following are highlights from areas that have been identified as important to newcomer settlement and integration.

**Income:** Recent immigrants had a median income of $15,000 compared with the total population of $28,000.

**Diversity:** 90% of Peel’s recent immigrants belong to a visible minority group with South Asian, Filipino and Chinese being the top 3.

**Education:** 39% of recent immigrants aged 24 – 65 reported having a university certificate, diploma or degree compared with 23% of the total population.

**Employment:** The unemployment rate for recent immigrants aged 25-54 with university certificate, diploma or degree was 10% compared with 3% for the total population.

**Language:** 6.5% of recent immigrants reported using a language other than English at work.

**Poverty:** Recent immigrants had a poverty rate of 33%, almost 2 ½ times higher than the total population.
FOCUS ON NEIGHBOURHOODS

Recently there has been a renewed interest in a place-based approach to community development. The idea that place matters is a response to growing neighbourhood concentrations of poverty and disadvantage. This “place-based” approach is founded on evidence that neighbourhoods matter to both the well-being of individuals and to the prosperity of the broader community. Mapping social data presents a picture of the unique strengths and challenges of each neighbourhood. It also depicts the distribution of services and programs across neighbourhoods. Social data mapping is a tool that can be used to support the development of place-based strategies, policies and programming.

The map, Peel Selected Wards shows the wards most impacted by immigration patterns.

12 wards of interest have been identified through PNSG’s research based on the following criteria:

- Wards that have highest numbers of recent immigrants,
- Wards with the highest percentage of residents who are recent immigrants.

These 12 wards have a combined recent immigrant population of 89,000 and represent 75% of all recent immigrants.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
FOCUS ON NEIGHBOURHOODS

Recognizing the importance of neighbourhoods is not a new strategic approach. What is new are technologies such as community asset mapping and database tools that can be used to support a place-based approach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARD</th>
<th>TOTAL POPULATION</th>
<th>TOTAL RECENT IMMIGRANTS</th>
<th>RECENT IMMIGRANTS % BY WARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M07</td>
<td>71,880</td>
<td>11,535</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M05</td>
<td>75,415</td>
<td>11,400</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M06</td>
<td>75,970</td>
<td>9,065</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M04</td>
<td>60,175</td>
<td>8,925</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M03</td>
<td>59,490</td>
<td>7,960</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B04</td>
<td>48,940</td>
<td>7,330</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M09</td>
<td>58,895</td>
<td>6,105</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M08</td>
<td>68,295</td>
<td>5,975</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B09</td>
<td>42,530</td>
<td>5,260</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M10</td>
<td>52,915</td>
<td>5,220</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B08</td>
<td>40,345</td>
<td>5,185</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B03</td>
<td>38,790</td>
<td>4,920</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M11</td>
<td>53,490</td>
<td>4,620</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B06</td>
<td>50,825</td>
<td>4,375</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B10</td>
<td>48,350</td>
<td>4,360</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B01</td>
<td>40,385</td>
<td>3,695</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B07</td>
<td>40,290</td>
<td>2,830</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B05</td>
<td>37,135</td>
<td>2,565</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B02</td>
<td>43,985</td>
<td>2,370</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M02</td>
<td>47,360</td>
<td>2,270</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M01</td>
<td>41,765</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C05</td>
<td>22,585</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C04</td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C02</td>
<td>8,290</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C01</td>
<td>9,425</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C03</td>
<td>3,035</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>1,154,060</td>
<td>118,220</td>
<td>Average 8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigration continues to be the driving force in Peel’s population growth. From 2001-2006, immigration was responsible for 70% of Peel’s total net population growth. There are 118,220 recent immigrants living in Peel, an increase of 46% from the last census. On average, 2,000 Newcomers arrive every month in Peel.

The chart, Comparative Age Distribution, shows important distinctions in the age profile of recent immigrants. A full 60% or 70,355 recent immigrants are in the prime working age range of 25-64. This provides solid evidence of the need for continued investment in employment support services.

In addition, Peel’s recent immigrant families have a high proportion of young children aged 0-12, living at home. 62.5% of recent immigrant families have young children at home compared with 39% of the non-immigrant population. This fact is an important consideration for access to appropriate childcare services for the newcomer population.

The map, Recent Immigration 2001 – 2006, shows the distribution of recent immigrants across Peel. Mississauga Ward 7 had the highest number of total recent immigrants with 11,535 and the highest percentage of recent immigrants by ward at 16%.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
The Map Recent Immigration Percentage by Ward shows the percentage of ward residents who are recent immigrants. This map is different than total numbers. It shows the composition of recent immigrants as a total of the ward population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Percentage of Recent Immigrants - Top 3 by Ward</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga Ward 7 - 16% (N=11,535)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga Ward 5 – 15% (N=11,400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brampton Ward 4 – 15% (N=7,330)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average by Ward - 8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
In Peel, 9% of the recent immigrant population had no knowledge of either English or French, 80% spoke a mother tongue other than English and 62% spoke a language other than English at home. Language skills are often cited as a barrier to securing adequate employment and these figures have relevance for the ongoing need for appropriate language training.

**Mother Tongue Recent Immigrant – Top 5**

- Punjabi: 19,700
- Urdu: 14,690
- Filipino: 6,150
- Hindi: 5,700
- Arabic: 5,585

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

The top five Places of Birth for Peel’s recent immigrants are:

- India - 35%
- Pakistan - 13%
- Philippines - 7%
- China - 6%
- Sri Lanka - 2%

The map, Total Population Home Language shows the variation of the top 5 home languages by ward. Brampton Ward 9 had the highest percentage of residents who spoke Punjabi as their home language at 27%.
Country of Birth Recent Immigrants – Top 5

- India: 40,915
- Pakistan: 15,700
- Philippines: 8,530
- China: 6,525
- Sri Lanka: 2,610

Place of Birth Recent Immigrant – Top 5 by Ward (Mississauga)

- South Asia: 7,785 Ward 5
- South East Asia: 1,455 Ward 7
- Eastern Asia: 1,395 Ward 6
- West Central Asia and the Middle East: 1,650 Ward 7
- Eastern Europe: 1,195 Ward 3

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
This map shows the ethnic origin of all Peel residents and represents the cumulative results of immigration and settlement patterns.
A full 90% of Peel’s recent immigrants self-identified as belonging to a visible minority population. That is a total of approximately 106,000 people out of Peel’s total visible minority population of 576,665. Peel’s recent immigrants comprise 11% of the total population but represent 18% of all visible minority residents.

The Map Visible Minority Top 3 shows the distribution of Peel’s 576,665 visible minority residents. Mississauga Ward 5 has the highest number of visible minority residents (n = 54,325). Brampton Ward 9 has the highest percentage of visible minority at 78% (n = 33,500).

The chart Comparative Visible Minority shows the top 3 identified visible minority groups for both recent immigrants and the total population.
Recent immigrants to Peel had substantially lower incomes than average. This disparity is most pronounced for recent immigrant women who had incomes that were less than half of the total population. 15% of recent immigrants 15 years of age and older reported no income at all. This compares with 6% for the total population.

Income in 2005 of population 15 years and over

**LOW INCOME BY WARD**

**INCOME**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census
Low Income By Ward

Persons in Private Households Before Tax 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Rate (LICO)</th>
<th>4% - 5%</th>
<th>5.1% - 11%</th>
<th>11.1% - 14%</th>
<th>14.1% - 17%</th>
<th>17.1% - 23%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recent Immigrants</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Low Income

Poverty is a serious problem for recent immigrants in Peel. In 2006, 33% of Peel's newcomers were living below the low income cut-off, up from 31% in 2001. This represents almost 39,000 people and a 49% increase since 2001 in total numbers.

Especially alarming are the significantly higher rates for the very youngest of our newcomers:

- New immigrant children under the age of 6 have a poverty rate of 48%,
- They are almost 2 ½ times more likely to live in poverty that other young children,
- They make up 7% of the under 6 child population but represent 17% of those living in poverty.

These exceptionally high rates of poverty have significant implications for the future well-being of newcomer children.

The map, Low Income by Ward shows the distribution of all low income residents across Peel by ward. The Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) for Individuals in Peel is $21,000. Mississauga Ward 7 had the highest rate of poverty at 23%.
Recent immigrants are key participants in the labour force of Peel. They had a participation rate of 69% for adults 15 years of age and over which is comparable to the total population participation rate of 72%. While recent immigrants have similar participation rates as all Peel residents they do not have the same labour force experience. The following charts provide evidence of the poorer employment outcomes for recent immigrants.

Despite the relatively high level of educational attainment, newcomers continue to experience higher levels of unemployment. This fact is more pronounced for female newcomers who had an unemployment rate that was twice as high as all women.
With the rapid growth in immigration, it is increasingly important to develop a common understanding of elements that promote or risk successful settlement and integration. The PNSG Research Team is developing the Newcomers Index of Community Excellence (NICE). Using the NICE framework it is possible to identify and track variability across neighbourhoods.

A social risk index was created using components of the NICE categories. This index gives a general picture of how neighbourhoods are faring relative to each other. The five risk indicators selected are:

- % of low income individuals,
- % of residents identified as visible minority,
- % of residents identified as recent immigrants,
- % of residents with no knowledge of English or French,
- % of residents who are renters.

The map, Social Risk Indicators is a preliminary look at a NICE framework for Peel by ward. To determine the ward score, each indicator is compared to the average for Peel. For example the average low income rate for Peel is 14.5%. Wards would be assigned a score of 1 if the low income rate was higher than the average of 14.5% or 0 when the value was equal to or lower than the average. The risk index is a score out of 5. Five out of 26 Peel wards had all 5 risk indicators present.

With input from community stakeholders such as newcomers, and service providers, NICE will be refined to reflect a set of community indicators that influence successful integration and build a healthy community.
NICE - SOCIAL RISK INDICATORS

The NICE framework builds on indicator work from the disciplines of social development. This measurement tool can be used in a gap analysis to evaluate the current state of a community’s ability to settle newcomers, recognize successes in newcomer settlement and identify areas where improvement is needed. A number of indicator models have been developed and used by communities, social development agencies, governments and researchers. Examples of similar approaches would be the Human Development Index, (United Nations Development Program), the Social Determinants of Health (model as used by the Public Health Agency of Canada), Quality of Life Reporting System (Federation of Canadian Municipalities), Vital Signs (Community Foundations of Canada) and Sustainability Measures such as Vision 2020.

NICE will vary the scope and focus of these models by applying an immigrant settlement and adaptation lens to the data. NICE can help to build a report card of indicators that reflect the aspiration of Peel to be a centre of excellence for newcomer settlement.

As an organizational framework that provides tools for evaluation, co-ordination, strategizing, mobilizing and tracking community wide initiatives in settlement and integration NICE could:

• be used to evaluate the current state of a community's reception and ability to settle newcomers,
• help to co-ordinate, prioritize, strategize and thus mobilize collaborative community action in various areas of settlement,
• be used as a measurement tool to identify gaps and to track progress of interventions,
• be used as a social marketing tool to attract and retain newcomers, employers etc,
• be adaptable for different communities/cities/regions.

The proposed draft Newcomers Index of Community Excellence – NICE has identified key areas important to newcomer settlement and integration.

• Employment
• Housing
• Education
• Health and Safety
• Transportation
• Community Environment
• Civic Participation
• Culture, Religion, Family

For each of these areas indicators will be defined to assist in measuring the level of achievement.

It is our hope that this report will be used by the Peel community to develop strategies that improve the lives of our newcomers. The Peel Newcomer Strategy Group believes that together we can create a welcoming community.

For more information please contact:
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sandy.shaw@peelregion.ca

To see a full copy of this report please visit our website at:
www.peelnewcomer.org