

# Peel's Child Care Service Plan 2010-2011

## Part One: Planning for Local Early Learning Program (ELP) Impacts

### Section One: The Region of Peel

#### Purpose

The Child Care Service Plan was prepared in collaboration with the community in response to the May 2010 provincial direction. In developing this plan, the Region of Peel embarked on a community engagement process with stakeholders, including the Best Start Network (Appendix A), service providers and parents.

This report will inform the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Education, Regional Council, early learning and child care service providers and community partners about Peel's unique features and challenges. The service plan includes a snapshot of Peel's early learning and child care system, its distinct qualities, partnerships, needs and future directions. While there have been a number of significant achievements, there continues to be a number of pressures facing Peel's early learning and child care service system.

The direction in the 2010–2011 Child Care Service Plan is to articulate an agenda for continuous improvement in program delivery and management. The collaborative work will progress over the 2010-2011 period with a focus on:

- Advocacy for improved access and equity to services for children
- Development of an integrated system of services for children and families
- Development of a system throughout the transition to full-day kindergarten
- Creation of a multi-year Child Care Service Plan
- Demonstration of strategic leadership

The Child Care Service Plan 2010-2011 will be used to guide the funding and management of Peel's early learning and child care system, allowing planning and delivery of services in an accountable and equitable manner that maximizes the use of the resources available to the system. This plan will act as the foundation for the future development of a multi-year plan.

The plan was developed by the Region of Peel's Human Services Department which is responsible for leading, planning, managing and co-ordinating a region-wide early learning and child care system. Providing children and families with access to a range of family-centered services, programs are offered in partnership with community agencies and organizations to meet the needs of children and families, and build on community strengths.

### **Consolidated Municipal Service Manager's (CMSM) Role**

As a CMSM, the Region of Peel is responsible for local service planning for an early learning and care system for children from birth to 12 years. Within this role, staff have demonstrated success in engaging the community through planning, implementing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating programs within budget. Key responsibilities include: system planning, system management, quality assurance and direct delivery (Appendix B).

Peel's early learning and child care services are delivered within the scope of the Human Services Department's mandate:

- To plan, manage and deliver quality integrated human services and resources that invest in people to enable participation in the changing community and the economy.

The long-term focus of the Department is to:

- Strengthen individual, family, neighbourhood and community resilience.

The Department manages the child care service system – co-ordinating service planning throughout the Region, and administering Ministry of Children and Youth Services provincial programs. These programs include child care fee subsidy, wage subsidy, health and safety funding, special needs resourcing and early years integration through Best Start funding and a community network table.

### **The Vision for Peel's Children**

The Success By 6 vision for early learning and child care is: "In Peel, all children will thrive supported by a comprehensive system of culturally sensitive services in a community that meets basic needs: income, housing, nutrition, education and healthy parent/child relationships."

This vision was furthered by the development of the Peel Children's Charter of Rights which was endorsed by Regional Council in May 2007. The 12 Peel Children's Charter of Rights has given Peel a deeper understanding of the individual, familial, and community factors deemed important to children. As a community, Peel is committed to upholding children's rights and ensuring that the best interests of the child are of primary consideration.

#### ***Peel Children's Charter of Rights***

1. The Right to Basic Needs
2. The Right to Make Friends and Freely Meet in Groups
3. The Right to Religion, Culture and Beliefs
4. The Right to Privacy
5. The Right to Justice, Protection and Treatment
6. The Right to Education
7. The Right to a Caring Home Environment
8. The Right to be Heard
9. The Right to an Identity
10. The Right to Peace
11. The Right to Equal Access
12. The Right to Play

The Success By 6 vision was supported by the October 2009 *Early Learning in Peel – Visioning Session*, attended by key leadership and staff of Success By 6, the Peel Best Start Network and community partners. This session was an opportunity to begin joint planning and “dreaming” in preparation for the implementation of the recommendations within Dr. Charles Pascal’s report, *With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario*. This session allowed participants to reflect upon Peel Region’s distinctive features and imagine full implementation for key stakeholder groups.

This visioning day highlighted three purposeful outcomes:

- A sense of hope, excitement and possibility for children.
- A better understanding of the early learning initiative.
- A united commitment toward the collaboration and successful implementation of early learning work.

To support the continued planning for implementation in Peel, participants felt that sustained collaboration with one another was imperative for remaining informed and involved, so that a cohesive system focused upon family-centered services is built.

### **Family-Centered Services**

Following a holistic perspective, family-centered services aim to support and strengthen the parent’s abilities to nurture and enhance the child’s well-being and development by acknowledging emotional, social and developmental domains as integral components of care.\* To that end, family-centered services should be considered a best practice approach for the future of child care and early learning supports because of the positive outcomes for families. Benefits for children and families include better psychological adjustment for parents and children as well as greater satisfaction and use of services.\*

Research clearly demonstrates that family-centered care is the best approach for children and families as it shapes policies, programs, facility design and the day-to-day interactions between children, families and professionals. This philosophy recognizes the vital role of the family in meeting healthy outcomes for the child. It acknowledges the uniqueness of the family, the family as the core constant in the child’s life, and the family members as the experts on the child’s abilities and needs.\* Furthermore, it promotes healthy partnerships between parents and service providers and it supports the family’s role in making decisions for the child.

The key to successful early intervention programs is the actual delivery or *how* help is provided as well as the *type* of service that is provided. Therefore, the intervention must look beyond the needs of the child and consider the family as a whole for responsive service delivery.

The Region of Peel is focusing its service delivery efforts upon the best needs of the child and family for a higher quality of life. Following a holistic continuum, successful early learning and intervention programs are working collaboratively to strengthen equitable access to family-centered supports inclusive of all children and families.

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\* CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, 2006 <http://www.canchild.ca/en/>

## **Environmental Scan**

### Peel's Diverse Populations

Peel's Human Services is committed to the design and implementation of innovative services which meet the needs of residents from diverse backgrounds; to advocate for clients; and to actively involve members of community groups in planning the services that affect them. The Region of Peel has a corporate diversity strategy that aims to respect diversity and remove barriers for all clients and employees.

For this report, the focus is upon children and their unique individual needs which vary along the developmental continuum. In addition, the family's environment, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds contribute to the various ways in which children develop. Therefore, children require various learning experiences reflective of their age and developmental milestones.

### Fast facts on Peel's newcomer population

- Canada is a nation of immigrants. Residents of Peel take pride in their long history of immigration. Immigrants are very much part of the fabric of life in Peel today, and add economic, social and cultural wealth to our community.
- According to the 2006 census, recent immigrants make up over 49% of Peel's population. Peel is home to more than 93 distinct ethnic groups and 60 different languages.
- Immigration is a major driving force behind the growth of Peel's community. Immigrants accounted for approximately 80% of the growth in Peel's population between 2001 and 2006. From 2001 to 2006, Peel's immigrant population increased by 45%.
- By 2011, immigrants will account for 100% of net labour force growth in Canada.
- Peel's Human Services Department is engaged in collaborative efforts with other levels of government and jurisdictions, business and non-profit groups striving for increased levels of inclusion for newcomers in the Peel community and the labour market (Appendix C). This includes the Peel Immigration Project, a cross-sectoral community collaboration aimed at better coordination of services for newcomers; the Peel Immigration Web Portal, a website that provides newcomers with valuable information about services, the labour market, and employment opportunities in Peel; and Liveable Peel, a Region of Peel research initiative aimed at ensuring future generations are welcomed into our community.

### Supporting Aboriginal and Francophone Communities

Two distinct groups in Peel which have been recognized as requiring increased service provisions are the Aboriginal and Francophone communities. Human Services supports the early learning and child care needs of Aboriginal and Francophone families in Peel by raising awareness of the diverse needs in these communities. In addition, a Community Engagement Specialist for the Aboriginal and Francophone communities; Early Childhood Outreach Worker for the Aboriginal community; the creation of the Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee (PASC); and the Peel Francophone Steering Committee

(PFSC) have helped to ensure that the needs of the Aboriginal and Francophone communities are taken into account when planning services and programs for children and their families (Appendix D).

**Peel's Children – Demographics**

The 2006 census reported that Peel Region is home to 107,320 children aged 0 to 6 years and 102,395 children aged 7-12 years. There are 324,115 census families living in Peel, of which 78,550 families have at least one child, specifically between the ages of 0 to 6 years. Eighty-five percent of these children live in two-parent families, while 15% live in single parent families. Peel's families require a range of tailored services to meet their early learning and care needs.

**Total population of children 0-12 years old in Peel (2006 census)**

	<b>0-6 years old</b>	<b>7-12 years old</b>
Peel	107,320	102,395
Brampton	45,385	40,650
Caledon	5,350	5,280
Mississauga	56,590	56,470

It is evident from the above statistics that the proportion of children under the age of 6 years is increasing with an estimated 44 live births per day. By full implementation of the early learning program in 2015-2016, 116,632 children aged 0-6 years old are projected to be living in Peel which represents an increase of 7.9% within 5 years or 1.6% per year. By 2015-2016, it is projected that there will be an increase of 7.8% of 7-12 year olds or 1.6% per year. Therefore, the number of children requiring licensed child care will remain consistent over the next 5 years. The charts below outline the projected number of children aged 0-6 years and 7-12 years living within Peel.

**Projected population by full implementation 2015-2016**

<b>Population Forecast for Children Aged 0-6</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>
Peel	109,708	116,632
Brampton	50,520	56,712
Caledon	6,391	6,903
Mississauga	52,465	53,532
<b>Population Forecast for Children Aged 7-12</b>		
Peel	104,564	111,163
Brampton	46,097	51,746
Caledon	8,458	9,134
Mississauga	54,036	55,134
Forecasts use single year age proportions of total population (using 2001 as the base year) and ROPA 24 2011 and 2016 municipal population totals (using 2006 as the base year). Includes 2001 Census Undercount of 4.2%.		

Service System Age Inequities

In review of the number of licensed child care spaces versus the number of children living in Peel, it is evident that there is an unequal distribution of spaces for families requiring child care, specifically for the infant and toddler age group. The number of infant child care spaces remains low at only 3.3% because of its high fees and related staffing costs. Meanwhile, the toddler age group does not fare well, with only 6.3% licensed child care spaces allocated for the 30,000 toddlers living in Peel. It is important that families requiring licensed child care have equitable access.

Geographic Inequities

Similar to the service system age inequities, the geographic distribution of early learning and child care centres in Peel does not represent the actual number of children requiring enriched learning environments for early intervention and school readiness.

Map 1 (Appendix F) depicts the proportion of children aged 0-6 years living in Peel and the geographic location of early years support sites and child care centres. In Brampton, Wards 6 and 10 have the highest proportion of children aged 0-6 years yet both wards lack an equitable distribution of early years and child care centre sites. In Caledon, the majority of children aged 0-6 years reside in Ward 5, yet it only houses one early years support site. In Mississauga, Wards 5, 9, 10 and 11 have a large proportion of children. Subsequently, geographic pockets within these wards lack adequate programs and services to serve the growing number of children and families.

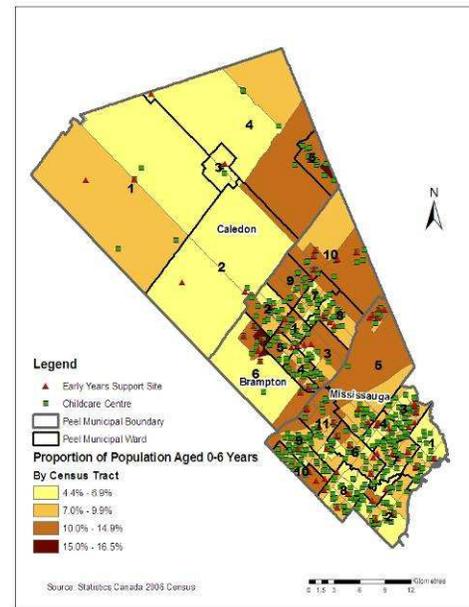
Map 2 (Appendix F) illustrates the population growth from 2001 to 2006, which shows the rate at which people settle in Peel is faster than the delivery of programs and services, specifically for children aged 0-6 years and their families (as displayed in Map 1).

The following wards demonstrate the highest population growth from 2001 to 2006:

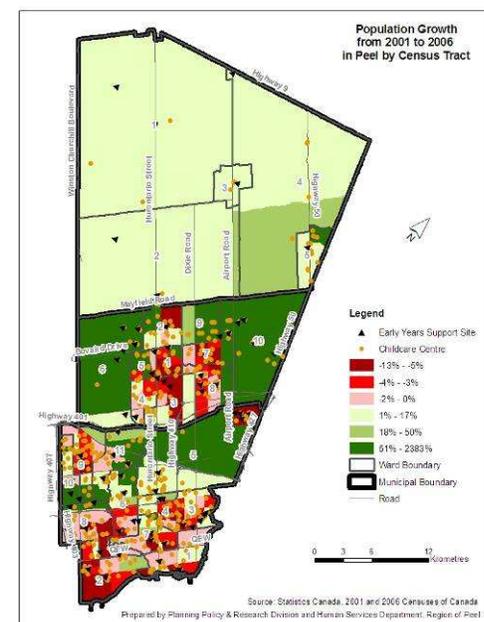
- Brampton - Wards 6 and 10
- Caledon - Ward 5
- Mississauga - Wards 5, 9, 10, 11

Therefore, this data supports the need for an increased investment in early learning and child care programs for children and families in these areas.

Proportion of Population Aged 0-6 Years in Peel Region (2006)



Map 1



Map 2