
DATE: August 20, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **FCM QUALITY OF LIFE REPORTING SYSTEM IMMIGRATION THEME REPORT SUMMARY**

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OBJECTIVE

This report highlights the main findings and implications for Peel Region from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS) report on Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Peel Region continues to attract a larger number of immigrants, with immigrants growing at a rate almost six times faster than non-immigrants.
- Peel comes in third nationally in the number of total immigrant landings after Toronto and Metropolitan Montreal.
- Immigration is an integral part of the solution for addressing local labour force shortages.
- The bulk of immigrant growth is occurring in suburban areas and smaller communities, with Peel continuing to experience a positive secondary migration rate.
- Peel is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Canada (behind Vancouver and Toronto).
- Close to 50 per cent of Peel's population are visible minorities (34.5 per cent of which are immigrants).
- Peel's labour replacement ratio declined in 2006 compared to 2001, yet the unemployment rate for recent immigrants was considerably higher than those of established and non-immigrants.
- Over one in three recent immigrants are low-income. Over half of recent immigrants are renters, and half of these are facing affordability problems.
- Along with Vancouver, Peel had the smallest proportion of recent immigrants receiving social assistance in 2005.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

This publication is the fifth theme report published by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) as part of the Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS). It focuses on trends and issues related to immigration and diversity in 24 of Canada's largest

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municipalities, regional municipalities and metropolitan communities, accounting for 54 per cent of Canada's population.

The report relies on data covering the 2001 to 2006 period and compares and contrasts three distinct groups: non-immigrants, Canadian citizens born in Canada; established immigrants, foreign-born residents who have lived in Canada for more than 10 years; and, recent immigrants, foreign-born residents who have lived in Canada for 10 years or less. This report summary compares Peel to the rest of the QOLRS communities and the rest of Canada.

2. Findings**a) General Findings**

- QOLRS communities had over 85 per cent of all refugees and over 90 per cent of all immigrants arriving in Canada.
- QOLRS communities are losing their share of well-educated and highly skilled immigrants.
- QOLRS communities are experiencing a loss in their share of immigrants to the rest of Canada.
- Toronto, the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM, for its French acronym) and Vancouver have the largest share of immigrants in absolute numbers.
- Recent and established immigrants are shifting to suburban areas and smaller communities.
- Recent immigrants are twice as likely to rely on social assistance in QOLRS communities than in the rest of Canada.
- The unemployment gap between recent immigrants and non-immigrants was almost twice as high as the rest of Canada (2.4 times in QOLRS versus 1.3 for the rest of Canada).
- 43 per cent of recent immigrants live in low-income households in QOLRS communities, three times higher than the rest of Canada.
- Homeownership among recent immigrants was lower in QOLRS communities.
- Housing affordability improved in the rest of Canada for recent immigrants, this was not the case for those in QOLRS communities.

b) Peel Findings**i) Immigration and Settlement Patterns**

- Peel comes in third in the number of total immigrant landings among QOLRS communities (26,000) after Toronto (58,000) and the CMM (38,000).
- Without immigration, Peel's 2001-2006 population growth rate would have been 5.3 per cent (as opposed to 17.2 per cent).
- Immigrants in Peel are growing at a rate almost six times faster than non-immigrants (32 per cent versus 6.1 per cent, respectively).
- Peel's share of provincial landings increased by 76.1 per cent between 2002 (11.8 per cent) and 2006 (20.9 per cent). In contrast, Toronto experienced a 29.1 per cent decline between 2002 (65.4 per cent) and 2006 (46.4 per cent).
- Secondary migration is still positive for Peel (close to 0.9 per cent). This contrasts with the net immigrant losses experienced by:
 - QOLRS communities: -10.4 per cent
 - Canada: -8.0 per cent
 - Toronto: -21.5 per cent

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- Peel is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Canada (behind Vancouver and Toronto).
- Close to 50 per cent of Peel's population are visible minorities (34.5 per cent of which are immigrants).
- Peel – along with Toronto, Vancouver and York – are the only communities in Canada with 40 per cent or more of their populations being foreign-born. This contrasts with the QOLRS' average of 28 per cent and the rest of Canada's average of 10 per cent.
- Over a quarter (26.5 per cent) of Peel's population speaks none of the official languages at home. This must not be interpreted as "no-knowledge" of any of the official languages as this indicator relates to the language most often spoken at home.

iii) Employment and Labour Force Integration

- Peel's labour force replacement ratio has declined from 1.45 in 2001 to 1.27 in 2006. Though better positioned than the majority of QOLRS communities (1.19 and 0.99 averages), this might bring considerable impacts over the next 15 years.
- Recent immigrants (under ten years) have more children than established immigrants (10 years or more), and non-immigrants.
 - 62.5 per cent of recent immigrants in Peel had children 0-12 years of age in 2006.
 - 40.7 per cent of established immigrants and 39 per cent of non-immigrants in Peel had children 0-12 years of age in 2006.
- About 8.8 per cent of Peel's recent immigrants spoke none of the official languages, and 5.3 per cent of established immigrants spoke neither.
- Recent immigrants in Peel are more than twice as likely to have a university certificate, degree or diploma as their established immigrant and non-immigrant counterparts (58.3 per cent versus 25.2 per cent).
- Recent immigrants' unemployment rates in Peel (10.1 per cent) are over three times as high as non-immigrants (2.9 per cent) and twice that of established immigrants (4.6 per cent).
- Recent immigrants are typically concentrated in lower-earning occupations and under represented in higher-earning occupations (sub-employment).
 - Labour force participation in sales and services occupations represented in Peel hovered at around one in five. The distribution was relatively consistent among non-immigrants (23.5 per cent), foreign-born (18.9 per cent) and recent immigrants (24.8 per cent). These rates are all lower than the Canadian and QOLRS averages.
 - Representation among management occupations was lower for recent immigrants (6 per cent) versus established immigrants (11.4 per cent) and non-immigrants (9.4 per cent). This trend compares with 11.6 per cent of established immigrants and 9 per cent of recent immigrants in the rest of Canada holding these types of occupations.

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- Recent immigrants are characterised by relatively low incomes, reliance on scarce rental housing, facing housing affordability challenges and having a higher risk of homelessness.
 - Along with Vancouver, Peel had the smallest proportion of recent immigrants receiving social assistance in 2005 (both at 1.8 per cent) among the QOLRS communities (6.8 per cent). Peel's figures were also lower than the 2.9 per cent average for the rest of Canada.
 - Rental housing is essential to recent immigrants. A larger share of this group (54.4 per cent) lives in rental housing compared to 20.7 per cent of established immigrants and 26.2 per cent of non-immigrants.
 - More recent immigrants are facing problems with rental affordability in Peel (48 per cent) than established immigrants (44 per cent) and non-immigrants (39 per cent).
 - Peel is one of the six QOLRS communities where recent immigrants have a higher risk of homelessness (23.1 per cent) as defined by those spending 50 per cent or more of their income on shelter.
- Recent immigrants appear to not be accessing services to the same degree as non-immigrants.
- Reliance on social assistance is very low and their health status suggests that they use the health care system much less than non-immigrants.
 - Established immigrants are more likely to be obese (45.7 per cent) than non-immigrants (39.9 per cent) and recent immigrants (35 per cent), which is consistent with findings that immigrants are healthier upon their arrival in Canada.
 - Obesity indicators are also consistent with self-reported physical activity, with recent immigrants (52.8 per cent) being less physically active than their Canadian-born counterparts (40.4 per cent), but more so than established immigrants (58.3 per cent).
 - Recent immigrants (83.3 per cent) trail behind established immigrants (96.5 per cent) and non-immigrants (91.7 per cent) in having access to a regular doctor.

v) Catching Up and Closing the Gap

- Overall, unemployment rates generally fell between 2001 and 2006, with recent immigrants showing the best improvement, but still having the highest unemployment rates. Established immigrants, however, faced an increase in their rate of unemployment.
 - In Peel, all but recent immigrants experienced a growth in unemployment:
 - -0.3 per cent for recent immigrants (11.6 per cent to 11.3 per cent)
 - 1.2 per cent for established immigrants (4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent)
 - 1.4 per cent for non-immigrants (4.6 per cent to 6.1 per cent).
- Recent immigrant average incomes were 51 per cent below that of non-immigrant average incomes in 2006, a small improvement from 60 per cent below compared to 2001.

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- Low-income (LICO) households represented 43 per cent of recent immigrant households in the QOLRS. While LICO varied significantly across QOLRS communities, in Peel, it rose for all groups:
 - 33.1 per cent LICO for recent immigrants (a 1.4 per cent increase from 2001)
 - 13.2 per cent LICO for established immigrants (a 2.0 per cent increase from 2001)
 - 11.3 per cent LICO for non-immigrants (a 2.5 per cent increase from 2001).
- Homeownership among recent immigrants was significantly lower in QOLRS communities (32.3 per cent) than in the rest of Canada (50.8 per cent).
 - Peel had a higher than average housing ownership among recent immigrants (53.3 per cent). However, this figure is in stark contrast to homeownership rates for established immigrants (83.3 per cent) and non-immigrants (76.7 per cent).

CONCLUSION

- Peel stands out for the rapid rate of growth in its immigrant population, and the high level of diversity, compared with most other major urban centres and the rest of Canada. Peel's coordinated community response to this trend, through the work of the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group and Region of Peel immigration projects, is clearly warranted and is receiving attention across the country.
- In general, more immigrants are settling outside the major urban centres into suburban areas and smaller cities. Toronto, Ottawa and the CMM are still home to the largest numbers of immigrants, but they are beginning to lose their share of the highly educated new immigrants coming to Canada.
- Peel appears to be one of the few major urban centres that are still drawing immigrants who originally landed in other parts of the country: most are losing "secondary migrants". Smaller communities appear to be gaining in their share of immigrants.
- There appears to be evidence in the FCM immigration report that those immigrants who settle outside the urban centres (rest of Canada) are better integrating into the labour market. Research would be needed to verify the reasons for this, which could include:
 - a) less labour market competition;
 - b) more venturesome immigrants who are attracted to less familiar communities by the job opportunities;
 - c) impact of provincial nominee programs-- especially in the Prairies, where some rural communities are ensuring a cultural match by drawing new immigrants from the same countries of origin as their established residents.
- Peel's low rate of recent immigrants on social assistance compared to QOLRS communities and the rest of Canada is worth noting. This is more relevant considering the rapid rise in low income and high levels of unemployment of Peel's recent

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immigrants. Staff will continue to monitor the impact of the current recession on Peel's caseload, and report any change in the proportion of immigrants on the caseload.

- Two labour market trends in Peel are noted that warrant attention over the coming years. They are:
 1. Dwindling labour force replacement ratio which is likely to result in labour shortages in the future.
 2. Increasing unemployment rates among established immigrants, suggesting that immigrants here for 10 years or more, who should have a foothold in the job market, may still be at high risk of unemployment and poverty.
- In spite of the high rates of low income and the high cost of housing, Peel recent immigrants appear to be more successful than those in many other urban centres at achieving home ownership. The high levels of "persons per unit" in many Peel neighbourhoods suggest a strategy of shared extended family assets, possibly a survival strategy in the face of high rents. Peel is one of six QOLRS communities where immigrants have a higher risk of homelessness than elsewhere; and reliance on scarce rental housing is much higher than among established immigrants and non-immigrants.
- The FCM study otherwise validates the findings of high and growing income and employment pressures on the highly educated and skilled newest cohort of immigrants, and that includes those in Peel.

The FCM Quality of Life report on Immigration highlights the growing disparities between recent immigrants, established immigrants and non-immigrants. Overall, new immigrants are not faring well in Canada and in fact are losing ground in most cases.

Despite the fact that immigrants in Peel are doing somewhat better than those in the rest of Canada, the situation for them is not positive.

The report confirms that Peel's attention to the well being of immigrants through leadership in the Peel New Comer Strategy Group, Region of Peel initiatives (immigration web portal and labour and family research) and the development of a corporate approach to diversity are well founded.

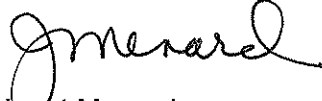
As the immigrant population continues to grow in Peel, the community remains at risk if newcomers are unable to fully contribute to their potential. Staff will be reporting to Council on the status of this work in the near future.

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