

THE FAIR SHARE NEWSLETTER

The January 2006 Newsletter of The
Fair Share Task Force

TODAY ISSUE

1. 905 Plan Shortsighted
2. Peel Poverty Report
3. Collaborative Solutions
4. Funding Reform Needed

PROVIDE YOUR VIEWS

Pre-Budget Submissions

If you want to provide input to the Ontario budget, send your submission asap to

submissions@fin.gov.on.ca

Places to Grow

Email your comments on the Proposed Plan described on the right hand page to

placestogrow@pir.gov.on.ca

DEV SECTOR TARGETS

Targets Way Off Wait Lists

Funding targets provided by the Ministry of Community and Social Services are woefully inadequate to meet the growing needs. Peel wait lists are over 550 people - the government is proposing to fund 16 people in two categories of care - 40 times less than needed.

Service Providers Respond

The Boards of Community Living Mississauga and Brampton Caledon Community Living have written the Minister about this huge shortfall in funding the needs of the developmental sector in Peel. They have urged the government to reform funding based on population, need and social risks.

CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH

Response to New Framework

In its submission, the Fair Share Task Force called on the

905 GROWTH PLAN SHORT ON SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Human Services Neglected in Latest Proposal

The latest version of the Ontario Government's growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe fails to address the significant stresses that growth puts on social infrastructure. The proposed plan, issued in November, makes passing reference to Community Infrastructure but fails to mention social services except for affordable housing.

International literature including the City of Toronto's Strong Neighbourhoods Report have outlined the link between social well-being and economic prosperity. However, the Ontario Government's plan promotes intensification in the 905 without the social supports required, particularly as they apply to the growing immigrant populations, which the report below indicates are one of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

This plan will make the resource challenges in the high-growth areas even worse than they are now. The Region of Peel Planning Department, the Fair Share Task Force, the 905 Coalition and others will be submitting comments on the Proposed Plan before the deadline January 27 and you are encouraged to do the same. Submission details on the left. For more details on the plan, take this shortcut to it:

http://www.pir.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/cma_4_44013_1.html

PEEL POVERTY REPORT RELEASED

Most Vulnerable Groups in Peel Growing Fastest

Recent immigrants, visible minorities, single parents, young families with children and unattached seniors are most vulnerable to poverty in Peel and they are the fastest growing parts of the population.

That's one of the conclusions of the Strategic Review of Poverty in Peel, which also found poverty levels have risen from 1991 pre-recession levels contrary to national trends. Concentrations of poverty were also found to be widely distributed throughout the region, often out of sight of public attention.

government to ensure that the principle of equitable access to mental health services without regard to where children live in Ontario be entrenched in the new policy framework.

Transparency Needed Too

The Task Force also called for more transparency in the allocation of funds, particularly transparency around a formula that promotes equitable access such as the child care funding model using population, need and social risks.

CONTACT

Incom Strategic Inc.
2810 Matheson Blvd E
Toronto ON M4R 1N2
Phone: 905-629-9044

Email: jgrass@incomstrategic.com

URL:

<http://www.fairsharetaskforce.ca>

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS

SPC and School Board Get Council Support

At the presentation of the Poverty Report to Regional Council, representatives from the Social Planning Council of Peel and the Peel District School Board called for establishment of a strategic collaboration of agency, government and community leaders to develop a community action plan to reduce the incidence of poverty where possible and to mitigate its effects. This call to arms was approved by Regional Council.

REPORT SHOWS PROVINCIAL FUNDING MODELS BROKEN

New Approach Needed for High-Growth Areas

The region's Poverty Report provides further evidence of the need for provincial reform of social services funding so that high-growth areas can address the rapidly escalating needs of residents like before they spiral into crisis, said Bonnie Yagar, Chair of the Fair Share Task Force.

"Our ability to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens is compromised by decades of provincial neglect and outmoded funding approaches that fail to address the needs of high-growth areas like ours," said Yagar.

Residents of Peel and other high-growth areas like York, Durham and Halton receive less than half of the provincial per capita averages in funding of social services despite the rapidly escalating needs resulting from the population explosions in these areas.