



HUMAN SERVICES  
PLANNING COALITION | YORK REGION

## York Region Human Services Funding Gap continues to Grow

On October 24, 2006, The Strong Communities Coalition, led by United Ways of Peel, York, Durham and Halton and the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance released its report ***Growing Pains: an Urgent Message from the Strong Communities Coalition*** based on the findings of a recent audit by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) assessing the gap in health and social service funding between the GTA/905 and the rest of Ontario. According to PWC, the gap refers to the difference between the existing funding levels in the regions and the level of funding that would be provided to them if their services were funded at the level of the provincial average. The Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC) has been monitoring the gap in human services funding for York Region since 2001.

The Report, entitled ***Growing Pains: an Urgent Message from the Strong Communities Coalition***, found that the annual funding gap for provincially funded social services in the GTA/905 has already grown over the last several years to more than \$550 million, while the health care gap is over \$990 million. The Report states that the gap is exacerbated by the population “surge” over the GTA/905 regions, which is projected to continue for the next 20 years. The Report cites other factors responsible for putting enormous pressures on the regions including: that new immigrants have accounted for half of Ontario’s annual population growth over the past 10 years, with Peel and York having the second-highest volume of new immigrants in the country; that the GTA/905 is aging at twice the provincial rate and, is increasingly culturally and socio-economically diverse.

The PWC Audit assessed human services funding including Social Services in areas such as Adult Services, Developmental Services, Child Care, Children’s Services and Health Care Services including Hospital Services and services provided by Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), such as home care.

The ***Growing Pains*** Report assesses the growing funding gap for each of the service areas between 2001 and 2004. The Report reinforces that social and health services are severely underfunded across the GTA/905 regions as compared with the rest of the province.

### The Gap in Human Services funding in York Region

As part of its mandate, the HSPC, established in 2001, has been tracking the gap in human services funding in York Region. With the release of the ***Strong Communities Coalition Growing Pains Report***, the HSPC has updated its assessment of the size of the gap for Human Services funding in York Region.

## Social Services

In Adult Services for example, in 2003/2004, the annual per capita provincial funding, excluding the GTA/905 was \$30, compared to \$13 for York Region. York Region's allocation for Adult Services was approximately \$7.3 million leaving a **funding gap of approximately \$9.5 million.**

The gap is even larger in other social service areas. For Developmental Services, the funding gap for York Region was over **\$43 million.** For Child Care the average provincial per capita funding, excluding the GTA/905, was \$416, compared to \$204 for York Region. Based on that figure, York Region's funding gap for Child Care in 2003/2004 was approximately **\$23.9 million.** Perhaps the largest gap is in the area of Children's Services Including Welfare. In this area, the per capita provincial average, excluding the GTA/905 region, was \$594 compared to \$193 for York Region, making the per capita funding gap for York Region over **\$96 million.**

The total size of the funding gap for Social Services in York Region in 2003/2004 was about **\$173 million dollars.**

## Health Services

The funding gap for Health Services has continued to grow over the past several years. Health Services, includes all Hospital services as described in the PWC report but excludes CCACs. In 2002/2003, the annual per capita provincial funding, excluding the GTA/905 was \$827 compared to \$370 in York Region.

The following summarizes the York Region per capita hospital funding gap between 2002 and 2007:

York Region per Capita Hospital Funding Gap 2002 to 2007			
	Per Capita Ontario Excluding GTA/905	Per Capita York Region	Percentage of York Per Capita funding to Provincial Per Capita Funding
2002-03	\$827	\$370	45%
2003-04	\$902	\$410	45%
2004-05	\$903	\$439	49%
2005-06	\$937	\$446	48%
2006-07	\$946	\$444	47%

On an annualized basis, the hospital funding gap has continued to grow from **\$338 million in 2002/03** to almost **\$453 million in 2006/07** and to a projected gap of **\$480 million in 2007/08.** The total size of the funding gap for hospital services in York Region between **2002 and 2007** as compared to the rest of the province is estimated to be almost **\$2 billion.**

## Going Forward

York Region is at a critical juncture. 300,000 new residents moved into York Region in the last decade and 600,000 more will arrive in the next twenty-five years.

The Strong Communities Report makes the following three Recommendations to the Government of Ontario on how to reduce the funding gap:

1. Immediately provide **growth funding** for health and social services in the GTA/905 regions of Durham, Halton, Peel and York.
2. Revise the way the province allocates funding for health and social services across Ontario so that it is distributed on the basis of population size, growth and characteristics - that is, fundamentally *population-based*.
3. **Develop a health and social services strategy for Ontario's high-growth regions** to complement *Places to Grow*, and that this strategy be developed in consultation with the GTA/905 stakeholders, including members of the Strong Communities Coalition.

The HSPC supports the Strong Communities' Recommendations and looks forward to timely and productive discussions with the Provincial government to ensure that York Region gets its fair share of human services funding.

For more information about this report of HSPC,  
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or visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) → Departments → Planning and Development  
→ Human Services Planning Branch

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