

OTTAWA'S

VitalSigns®

2006



The City's Annual Checkup



For Good. Forever. Le bien... toujours.

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OTTAWA'S VITAL SIGNS® 2006

This report, as well as an expanded version with additional indicators and full source information and links, is available on our website at www.cfo-fco.ca.



For Good. Forever. Le bien... toujours.

Vision, Mission and Values

The Community Foundation of Ottawa is a trusted centre for community philanthropy.

We accomplish this by:

- being known and respected as an independent resource for addressing issues, and by connecting donors with granting opportunities;
- playing a major role in enhancing the nature and scope of philanthropy, primarily in the local community, but also nationally and internationally;
- expanding both the assets and the number of expected gifts, including endowments, for future generations to support changing issues.

We earn the community's respect and support by being innovative and flexible, and by maintaining the highest standards of excellence, efficiency and accountability in all of our endeavours.

Ottawa's centre for community philanthropy

Created by and for the people of Ottawa, the Community Foundation of Ottawa is a public, non-profit organization that has been serving the community since 1987. Our role is to connect people who care with causes that matter, enabling generous citizens to enhance the quality of life for all in our community. As a respected community convenor, we provide local leadership by bringing people together from all sectors to identify and address issues in our community in a proactive manner.



Taking the Pulse of a Capital City

Ottawa's Vital Signs® is an annual report card on the health of our city to be published each fall by the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

The report assigns grades to 11 key areas that affect the quality of life of Ottawa citizens on a daily basis. Indicators for these areas were selected with the help of a wide variety of community stakeholders and leaders through extensive consultation and involvement. Areas examined include the income gap between Ottawa's rich and poor; safety and security levels in the city; health, education and employment situations among our population; how newcomers make their start in the community, as well as people's general sense of belonging; and an assessment of how Ottawa ranks for housing, the environment, transportation, and arts and culture.






In 2006, the Ottawa's Vital Signs report indicates a number of significant strengths we can all take pride in, including a vibrant, competitive economy, safer streets and generally happy, active, well-educated citizens. However, the report also uncovers key areas of weakness in our community that demand attention and action. Along with Ottawa's prosperity has come an increasing gap between rich and poor in the city, which has surpassed the national average and is steadily widening. Also disturbing are the significant challenges faced by new immigrants to the city – a situation which has contributed to higher unemployment levels among visible minorities and an increasing number of individuals and families classified as the working poor. Some aspects of our physical environment, including air quality, are coming under increased stress, while getting to and from work is taking longer as the city grows.

By broadly measuring the health of our city each year, we expect to be in a stronger position to respond to key areas of importance in our community in future. Putting Ottawa through an annual physical will help us to identify significant trends and

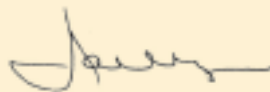
provide insights that will help us all make our city the best place to live, learn, work and grow. Because we are a community foundation, we will also use this report to help connect philanthropic interests with community issues and opportunities.

To create this report, we have drawn on data and statistics from numerous sources with the assistance and expertise of research professionals. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to our many partners and sources recognized at the end of this report. You can access all the research sources and links to original data on our website at www.cfo-fco.ca.

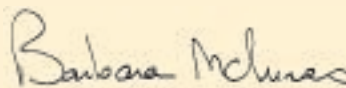
With the help of community graders, we have assigned each indicator one of the following grades:

-  In dire need of corrective action
-  Of concern, needs attention
-  Progress is being made
-  We're doing well and headed in the right direction
-  Awesome! Ottawa's the tops!

We hope this report will help focus attention on key areas of importance to our shared quality of life in Ottawa. More than that, we hope it will encourage community involvement and help us track our collective progress and results.



James R. Nininger
Chair, Board of Governors



Barbara McInnes
President and CEO

The Context

The city of Ottawa is home to over 860,000 residents within its 2,800 square kilometres, and stretches from the border with Arnprior in the west to Cumberland in the east, and from the Ottawa River to Burritt's Rapids on the Rideau River. Forming the major portion of the larger region of Ottawa-Gatineau, and spanning the Ontario-Quebec border, the Ottawa area is Canada's fourth-largest Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), after Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, with an estimated combined population of over 1.1 million in 2005.

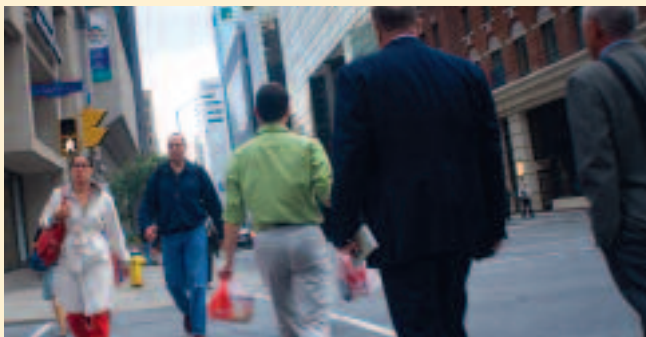
Ottawa is the quintessential Canadian bilingual community, with roughly two-thirds of its workforce speaking English at work in 2001, and 31% speaking French. More than a dozen other languages are also in use in the nation's capital by the remaining 3% of the population. Like other major Canadian urban regions, the proportion of Ottawans born outside of Canada has risen dramatically in recent years due to higher levels of immigration, standing at approximately 21% at the time of the 2001 census, about half that of Toronto or Vancouver, but higher than the Canadian average.

Collectively, Ottawans are slightly younger and a good deal wealthier than the average Canadian. They include urban professionals living and working within sight of Parliament Hill, a vast army of over 113,000 federal public servants practising

on both sides of the Ontario-Quebec border, as well as the healthy high-tech community known as "Silicon Valley North". But Ottawa also has some 4,000 people living on farms. With 26 villages inside the boundaries of the municipality, Ottawa's agricultural revenue exceeds the combined total of Canada's five other major city regions.

The 1990s were tough on Ottawa with government cutbacks and a high-tech meltdown. Still, in 2005, Ottawa-Gatineau's economy totaled a hefty \$40.5 billion in 1997 dollars, with personal income standing at \$42.3 billion (in current dollars). In recent years, the Ottawa economy has underperformed, with real growth averaging 2.4% annually between 2003 and 2005. But, with a stronger overall national economy, a steady recovery of the high-tech sector, and increased government spending, the Conference Board of Canada has forecast that the Ottawa-Gatineau economy will grow by 2.8% in 2006, and by an average of over 3.2% from 2007 to 2010.

Note: The focus of Ottawa's Vital Signs (OVS) is the city of Ottawa; however, where appropriate, and when only regional data is available, OVS reports on indicators in the larger Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.



GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

OTTAWA IS A PROSPEROUS CITY, WITH MANY OF ITS CITIZENS EARNING HIGH LEVELS OF INCOME AND ALMOST NINE IN 10 RATING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AS "GOOD". HOWEVER, NOT ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS ARE FARING SO WELL, AND THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IS GROWING.

In 2004, close to nine in 10 (86%) of Ottawa's residents indicated their overall quality of life was good. Residents in the city centre were most positive, and rural residents least so, about their quality of life. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

According to the 2001 census, the average household income in Ottawa is relatively high at \$75,351. However, we are a city of two realities, with an increasing number of high-income earners and a large number of low-income residents. 🌳🌳

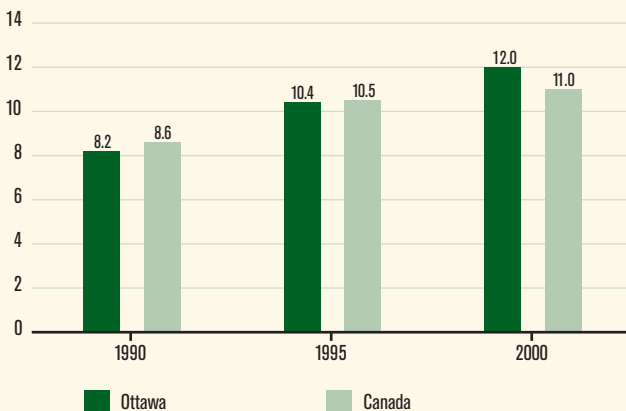
Trends show that the gap between rich and poor is widening in Ottawa, and is greater in our city than the national average. In 2000, the highest income earners in Ottawa (those in the 90th percentile) earned 12 times more in after-tax income than the lowest income earners (10th percentile). 🌳🌳

Having a job is not necessarily a ticket out of poverty. In 2001, 13% of Ottawa's unattached individuals and 11% of families were among the working poor. 🌳🌳

38,691 people used Ottawa's food banks in 2005, continuing the steady increase seen in recent years. 39% of those using food banks are children. 🌳

Income gap (individuals)

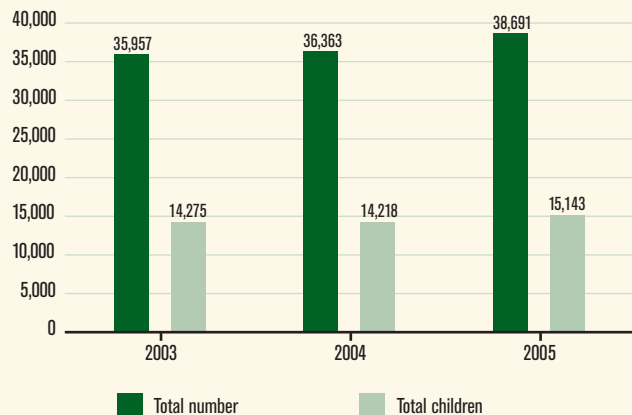
Ratio of 90th percentile individual income to 10th percentile individual income, after tax
Ottawa (City) and Canada 1990, 1995, 2000



Source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Food Bank users in Ottawa

March 2003, 2004 and 2005



Source: The Ottawa Food Bank

SAFETY

SAFETY AND SECURITY ARE KEY MEASURES OF OTTAWA'S WELL-BEING, AND THE CITY IS DOING RELATIVELY WELL IN MANY AREAS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT IN EXPEDITING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS AND REDUCING MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES.

In 2005, Ottawa had 6% fewer crimes of violence than it did in 2004 (5,379 occurrences, compared to 5,745). Incidences of assault (including sexual assaults and other sexual offences) have decreased dramatically. However, the incidence rate of homicide and attempted murder is on the rise. In 2005, there were 1.3 homicides and 1.6 attempted murders per 100,000 residents, compared to 1.2 and 1.5, respectively, in 2004. 🌳🌳🌳

Ottawa courts are backlogged. In 2004-05, the number of criminal charges pending was almost half of those received in the Ottawa Region at the Superior Court of Justice (18,229 to 37,301). This number has grown by

almost 50% in the case of criminal charges received since 2000-01, and by more than 50% in the case of criminal charges pending. 🌳🌳

Police are responding faster to calls, with the response time for Priority One calls averaging 8.9 minutes in 2005, down from 9.6 minutes in 2003. 🌳🌳🌳

However, in 2004, medical emergency response time averaged 12:04 minutes in the downtown area and 18:37 minutes in the low-density areas of Ottawa. This is still off the targets which were established at 8:59 and 15:59, respectively. 🌳🌳





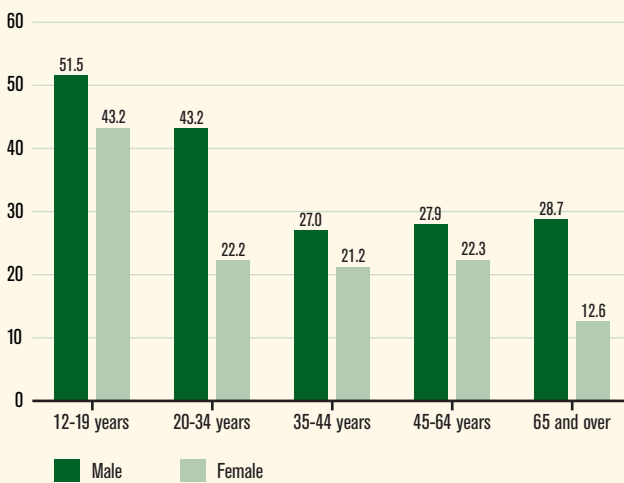
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

OTTAWA RESIDENTS ARE WELL SERVED BY HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL SERVICES AND HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS. THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS IS GENERALLY VERY GOOD, RELATIVE TO THE REST OF ONTARIO AND CANADA. HOWEVER, LOW LEVELS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, ESPECIALLY AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS, ARE A CONCERN.

In 2004, the city of Ottawa had substantially more physicians per capita than either the national or Ontario average. It had almost double the national average of specialists (169 per 100,000 population), and approximately 50% more general practitioners (121 per 100,000 population). These numbers have not changed significantly since 1998. Note, however, that some physicians covered in this survey may not be in active practice. 🌳🌳🌳

Low birth weight is a good predictor of overall health as these babies tend to experience more health problems and require more health care than those of average birth weight. In 2001, 5.5% of the babies born in Ottawa had a low birth weight. This is slightly lower than the Canadian average and is in line with the rest of Ontario. It shows an improvement from 1997, when 6% of newborns weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

Physical Activity Levels in Ottawa in 2003



Source: Statistics Canada

74.5% of Ottawa residents rated their mental health as good or excellent in 2005. This is higher than the national average (72.9%) or Ontario average (72.8%). 3.8% of residents rated their mental health as fair or poor. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

29% of Ottawa residents (12 years and older) were physically active in 2003. This represents an increase of 7% from 2000, and is higher than both the Ontario and national average (each is at 26%). 🌳🌳🌳

Of the youngest age group surveyed (12-19 years old), 43.2% of females were active (up from 34.5% in 2000) and 51.5% of young males were active (up from 45.4% in 2000). Of concern, however, is that females continue to be less physically active than males. 🌳🌳

LEARNING

CONTINUOUS LEARNING IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF A HEALTHY CITY. OTTAWA IS WELL SERVED BY ITS SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OTHER KEY INSTITUTIONS. COMPARED TO OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE PROVINCE, OUR CITIZENS HAVE HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SCORING WELL ON STANDARDIZED TESTS. AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO OUR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS, AND MAINTAINING A "CONTINUOUS LEARNING MINDSET," ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINED SUCCESS.

In 2001, 36.7% of Ottawa residents aged 20-64 held a post-secondary school certificate, diploma or degree, compared to slightly less than one-quarter (23.7%) of Ontario's population of the same age group. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

Ottawa students score highly on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (86% in 2006), and have done so consistently over the years. However, the rest of the province is catching up, and is improving at a faster rate. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

Ottawa residents made good use of the Ottawa Public Library in 2005. The number of items borrowed increased over 2004. The library was visited either physically or online over 6.6 million times in 2005 (down slightly from more than 6.8 million visits in 2004), and almost 192,000 people made use of its programs. Over the last year, the library has seen a 22% increase in the number of virtual visits to its online information services. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

OSSLT Results:

Ottawa-Based Boards' Results Versus Provincial Results (Cumulative Results)

	Ottawa-Based Boards (English and French Systems)	Provincial Results (English and French Systems)
October 2002	80%	72%
October 2003	84%	77%
October 2004	86%	82%
March 2006	86%	84%

Source: Education Quality and Accountability Office

Ottawa Public Library Usage Statistics

Indicator	2004	2005	Percent Change
Number of items loaned	9,019,513	9,210,315	2.1%
Number of physical visits	5,045,820	4,390,150	-13.0%
Number of virtual visits	1,839,206	2,250,266	22.3%
Programs offered including children, teen, adult and training	8,304	8,317	0.2%
Number of people attending OPL programs	201,878	191,828	-5.0%

Source: The Ottawa Public Library

HOUSING

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE HOUSING IS A BASIC REQUIREMENT OF A HEALTHY CITY. IN THIS AREA, OTTAWA IS FARING RELATIVELY WELL, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF THOSE ACCESSING SHELTERS IS ON THE RISE. THE COST OF RENTING OR PURCHASING HOUSING IS LOWER THAN IN TORONTO. HOWEVER, MANY OF OTTAWA'S CITIZENS ARE SPENDING HIGH PROPORTIONS OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING, A TREND THAT IS A CONCERN.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for subsidized housing fell 3% in 2005 from 2004, while the rental vacancy rate decreased slightly to 3.3% (.6% less than in 2004). 🌳🌳🌳

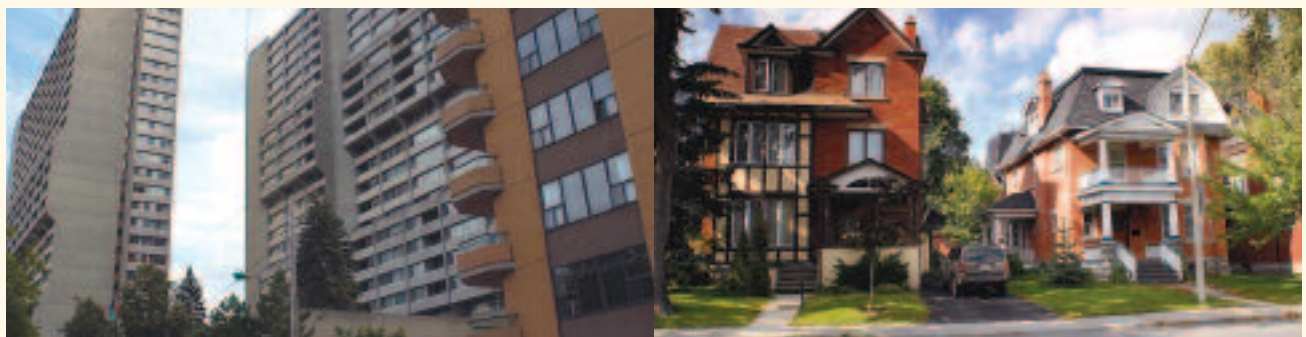
More people accessed shelters in Ottawa in 2005 than in 2004 – 8,853, compared to 8,664. More men (4,905) than women (1,267) or youth (543) used a shelter, and 668 families with 1,035 children were accommodated at local shelters. 🌳🌳

In 2001, 14.5% of all households in Ottawa (approximately 35,000 in total) spent more than 30% of their income on shelter (rent or mortgage payments and taxes). In fact,

such payments absorbed 46% of their income. Renters made up the majority of these households. 🌳🌳

In 2005, the average price for a single-family home in Ottawa was \$248,358, compared to \$336,176 in Toronto. Over a 10-year period (1995-2005), this represents an increase of 52% in Ottawa housing prices. This compares to an overall increase in consumer prices of 22% for the same period. 🌳🌳

The average rent of a two-bedroom apartment in Ottawa was \$920 in 2005 (a slight decrease from 2004). Rent in Gatineau was significantly lower at \$660, and was somewhat higher in Toronto at \$1,052. 🌳🌳🌳





GETTING STARTED IN THE COMMUNITY

OTTAWA'S GROWTH AND FUTURE SUCCESS WILL, IN PART, DEPEND UPON OUR ABILITY TO ATTRACT PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES WE NEED TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY FLOURISH AND GROW. THE CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE TRULY WELCOMING TOWARD NEWCOMERS TO OUR CITY AND THAT WE REMOVE OBSTACLES TO THEIR FULL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

Ottawa has seen a net migration of almost 40,000 people to the city in the period between 1999 and 2004. Since 1999, much of our city's growth has come through immigration from other countries, and Ottawa is the second-largest recipient of immigrants to Ontario, surpassed, by far, by Toronto. 🌳🌳🌳

Immigrants to Ottawa are highly educated. 50% of those who immigrated in the period between 1996 and 2001

possessed a university degree, compared to 26% of Ottawa's Canadian-born population. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

14% of recent (i.e. within the last 10 years) immigrants to Ottawa are unemployed, and those who are employed tend to have lower incomes than their Canadian-born neighbours. Key challenges facing immigrants relate to language issues and difficulties in gaining recognition of their previous (foreign) work experience, and of the credentials they have earned in other countries. 🌳🌳



ARTS AND CULTURE

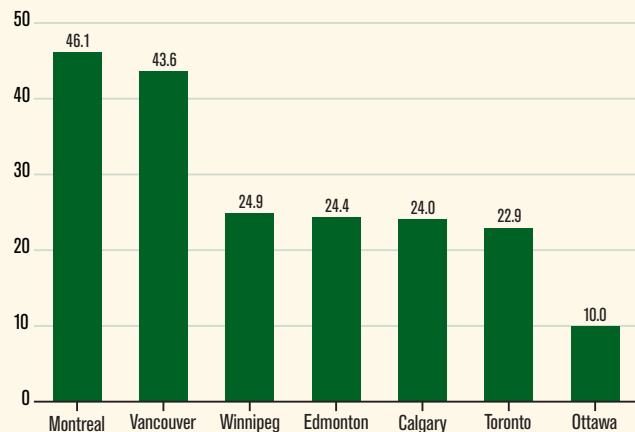
IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING TO OTTAWA'S LOCAL ECONOMY, THE CITY'S CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS ENRICH THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS AND ATTRACT VISITORS TO THE CITY. AS THE CAPITAL, OTTAWA IS RICH IN NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE RANGE OF CULTURAL EXPERIENCES THEY MAKE AVAILABLE TO AREA RESIDENTS. THE CITY ALSO BOASTS A THRIVING AND VIBRANT LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY, WHICH, HOWEVER, IS UNDER-FUNDED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, RELATIVE TO OTHER LARGE CENTRES IN CANADA.

Among Canada's seven largest single cities, Ottawa ranked last in 2003 for municipal arts and culture funding at \$3.44 per capita. It was also last in receiving provincial funding at \$2.59 per capita, and second-last in Canada Council for the Arts funding at \$3.98 per capita. Overall, Ottawa ranked last at \$10.01 per capita in funding for arts and culture. 🌲🌲

Between 1995 and 2000, employment in culture occupations grew by 2.8% per year in Ottawa, compared with 2.4% per year for non-culture occupations. The average annual income of people working in culture occupations in 2000 was \$35,651, whereas the average income for all occupations was \$39,487. 🌲🌲🌲

The local scene is vibrant. On July 8, 2006 the *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper listed 131 different cultural activities taking place in the city. These activities included art shows, museum exhibitions, literary events, dance, music, and theatre performances. 🌲🌲🌲🌲

Combined Municipal, Provincial Arts Funding Agency and Canada Council for the Arts, 2003
\$ per capita



Source: City of Ottawa

ENVIRONMENT

THE CITY OF OTTAWA IS RICH IN GREEN SPACE AND PROVIDES A MULTITUDE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR CITIZENS TO ENJOY. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, TROUBLING SIGNS RELATED TO AIR QUALITY AS WELL AS OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THAT REQUIRE IMPROVEMENT.

In 2005, the average water consumption per person for residential use in Ottawa was 438 litres per day. Consumption has decreased progressively since 2001 when it was at 510 litres, but is still higher than the 2001 national average of 335 litres per day. 🌳🌳🌳

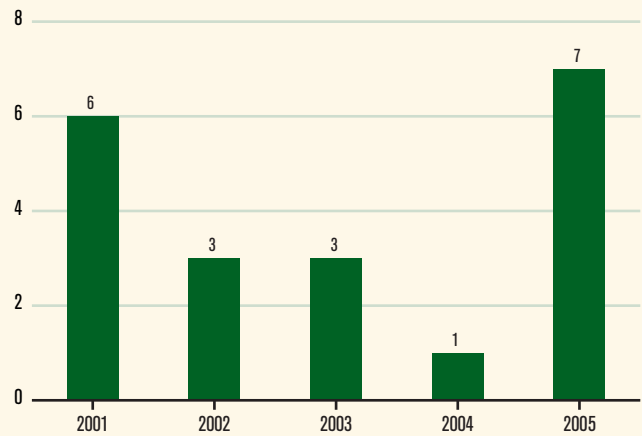
Of the five-year period from 2001 to 2005, last year recorded the highest number of smog alert days, with a total of seven days. There was one smog alert day in 2004; three in 2003; and three in 2002. 🌳🌳

The City of Ottawa collected over 310,000 tonnes of waste from households in 2005. 33% of that amount was diverted through recycling programs, including backyard composting. This was a slight increase over 2004 when the Leaf and Yard Collection Program was discontinued, along with the collection of certain plastics. 🌳🌳🌳

20% of the land inside and outside Ottawa's green belt is used for recreation and open-space land, making Ottawa an especially green city. Recreational land is divided into active

and passive recreation land (e.g. sports fields vs. walking trails). There is about twice as much passive recreational land as there is active. 🌳🌳🌳🌳

Smog Alert Days in Ottawa



Source: City of Ottawa





WORK

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING. TWO-THIRDS OF OUR ADULT POPULATION IS EMPLOYED, MOST OF WHOM ARE WORKING FULL-TIME. HOWEVER, RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT ARE HIGH FOR SOME OF OUR CITIZENS. FOR PARENTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE, CHILDCARE CONTINUES TO BE A CHALLENGE.

In 2005, 66.2% of Ottawa's population aged 15 and over were employed. The full-time employment rate was 53.7% and the part-time rate was 12.5%. The percentage of the population engaged in part-time work has been inching upwards since 1995. 🌳🌳🌳

In 2005, the employment rate of youth (those aged 15-24) was 26.1%, down slightly from five years ago, but on par with a decade earlier. Employment among Ottawans aged 65 years and over is on the rise. In 1995, the employment rate of these older citizens was 2.8% and it had risen to over 4% in 2005. 🌳🌳🌳

In 2001, Ottawa boasted a low unemployment rate of 5.7%, which was slightly better than that of the overall rate in

Ontario (6.1%). However, certain segments of Ottawa's population had higher rates of unemployment; for example, the rate was 5.7% for our immigrant population, versus 4.9% for non-immigrants. Visible minorities in our city had an unemployment rate of 10.8% – and within the visible minority population, the rates were highest among blacks (13.7%) and West Asians (13.2%). The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people was 6.8%, which is far below the Ontario rate of 14.7%. 🌳🌳

There are currently more than 8,000 children on the centralized waiting list for licensed childcare in Ottawa. Half of that number is for *subsidized* childcare spaces. 🌳🌳



BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS IS INDICATIVE OF A COMMUNITY'S VITALITY. OTTAWA CITIZENS ARE AMONG THE MOST CHARITABLE IN ONTARIO AND CANADA. THEY GIVE GENEROUSLY OF BOTH THEIR TIME AND THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, ALTHOUGH RATES OF VOLUNTEERISM ARE DECLINING. OTTAWA CITIZENS, LIKE OTHERS IN CANADA, TEND TO BE DISENCHANTED WITH POLITICS. ENGAGEMENT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, PARTICULARLY AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL, COULD BE IMPROVED, AS COULD THE DIVERSITY OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS.

In 2003, voter turnout for the municipal election remained low at 33% (compared with just over 30% in major municipalities across Canada between 2000 and 2002). This was a sharp decline from 47% in 2000, and was about the same as 1997 (at 30%). Turnout for the provincial election in 2003 was quite a bit higher at 58%, and the federal election garnered 73% of voters in 2006. 🌳🌳

In 2004, 31.3% of people who filed tax returns in Ottawa made a charitable donation (compared with 27.7% for Ontario and 25% for Canada). The median donation

totalled \$280 per donor, compared to \$290 per donor across Ontario. 🌳🌳🌳

In 2004, 59% of people in Ottawa (aged 15 or older) volunteered an average of 158 hours each, compared with 50% in Ontario (at 162 hours per volunteer) and 45% across Canada (at 168 hours per volunteer). 🌳🌳🌳

In a 2005 study on health indicators, 61.5% of Ottawa residents reported having a strong sense of belonging to their local community. This is below the overall rate of 65.5% in Ontario. 🌳🌳



GETTING AROUND

OTTAWA'S VAST GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES AND URBAN-RURAL CHARACTER MAKE IT CHALLENGING TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CITIZENS. OTTAWA CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ON ITS CAPACITY TO PROVIDE PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION, BUT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. WHILE THE COST OF RIDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS ON THE RISE, OTTAWA CITIZENS HAVE ACCESS TO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF BICYCLE PATHS AND BIKE-FRIENDLY ROADS.

Like all city dwellers across Canada, Ottawa-Gatineau residents are spending more time commuting to and from work than they did in the '90s. In 1992, it took residents an average of 57 minutes to make the round trip home. Ottawa's daily commute time had increased by 14% to 65 minutes in 2005. Overall, however, we take less time commuting than residents of Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. 🌳🌳

It currently costs \$71.25 for a monthly adult bus pass in Ottawa. This represents a 9.6% price increase over 2005, and a 21.8% increase since 2000. A monthly adult Metro Pass in Toronto costs \$99.75 and provides access to the transportation system linking buses, streetcars and the subway system. 🌳🌳

58% of Ottawa's active bus fleet in 2005 was made up of low-floor buses that provide accessible public transportation, compared with 51% in 2004 and 39% in 2003. 🌳🌳🌳

Ottawa has an extensive cycling network of approximately 470 kilometres that is equally divided between bike paths and bicycle-friendly roads. The City has proposed an ambitious plan to enlarge this network to approximately 2,500 kilometres by the year 2021. In 2005, 32.1% of city buses were equipped with bicycle racks (a 23% increase since 1999, when OC Transpo first introduced its "Rack and Roll" Program). 🌳🌳🌳🌳





Thanks to our Partners and Sources!

We are grateful to all the individuals and organizations who provided information and assistance in the preparation of this report. We owe special thanks for the meticulous work put in by the OVS Research Team, including the group of volunteers who dedicated countless hours of expert research assistance and direction on this project. Thank you to all the members of the OVS Steering Committee who provided invaluable guidance throughout the process of bringing this report to fruition.

Special thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Canyon Foundation and the Baxter Family Fund for their generous contributions towards the completion of this first Ottawa's Vital Signs report. Thanks, also, to all our community graders who completed the OVS questionnaire and qualified all the findings brought forward in the final report.

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Community Graders

Thanks to the many people who voted on the performance of our city on each of the indicators. This group included current and former CFO Board members, Foundation donors, members of the Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee, opinion leaders and key informants from each of the issue areas identified through the consultation process.

All photos by Matthew Claydon

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Vital Signs is an annual community checkup conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our cities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in at least 10 areas critical to quality of life. *Vital Signs* is based on a project of the Toronto Community Foundation and is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.



Measuring the health of our community in 2006

Using a five-point ranking system (an ordinal scale), community graders, comprising a cross section of individuals knowledgeable of our community, ranked each indicator in this report according to their view of how well we are doing in Ottawa. The ranking system provided the community graders the opportunity to reflect upon which should receive appropriate attention.

The scale used by the graders is as follows:

- 1 In dire need of corrective action
- 2 Of concern, needs attention
- 3 Progress is being made
- 4 We're doing well and headed in the right direction
- 5 Awesome! Ottawa's the tops!

For ease of understanding and summarizing the collective sentiment of the graders, for each indicator a median value was assigned. The median is the value of the midpoint of the range of responses that are arranged in order of value (in this case, from urgently requiring attention to not at all requiring our attention.) The number of symbols next to the indicator denotes its median value – and reveals its relative importance to the community graders.



For Good. Forever. Le bien... toujours.

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Ottawa's Vital Signs® is an initiative of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

This report, as well as an expanded version with additional indicators and full source data and links, is available on our website: www.cfo-fco.ca

Aussi disponible en français