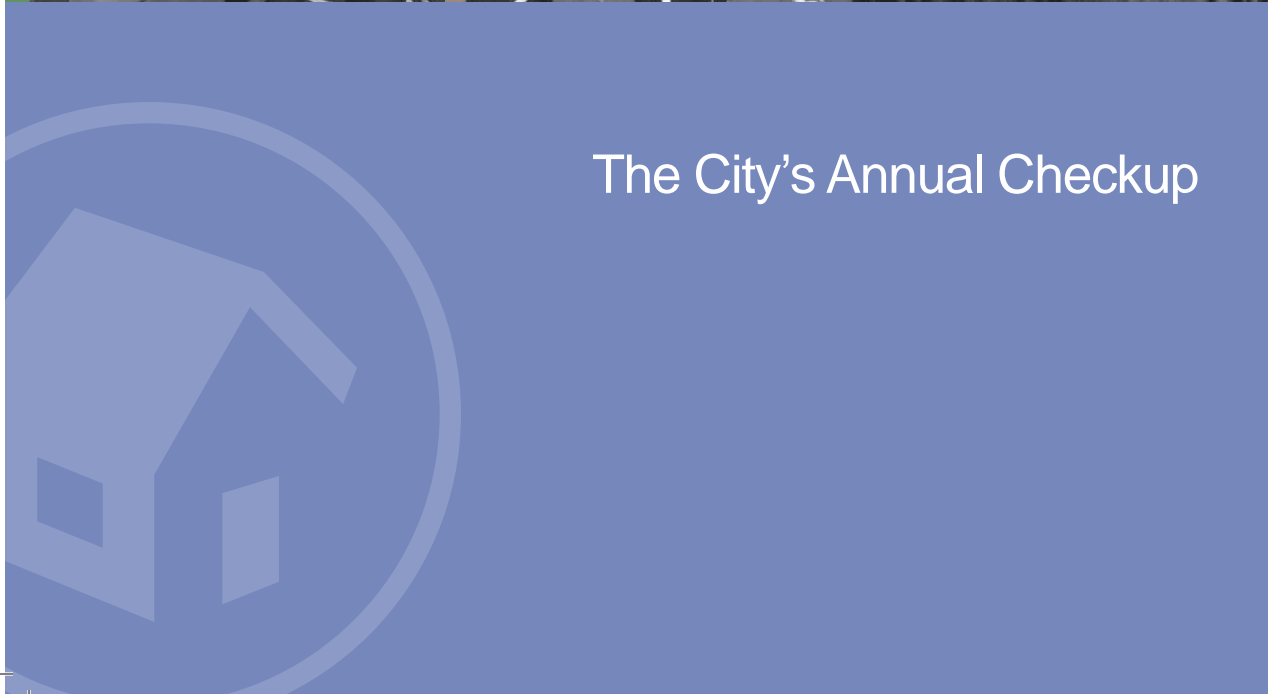


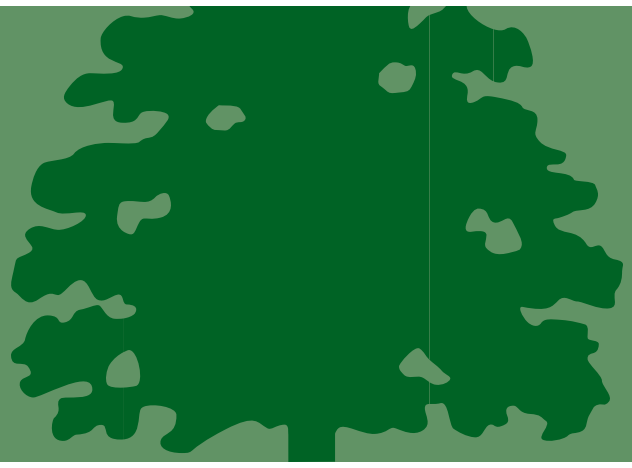
Ottawa's **Vital Signs**[®] 2008



The City's Annual Checkup



The Community Foundation of Ottawa



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. As a respected community convenor, we provide local leadership by bringing people from all sectors together to identify and address issues in a proactive manner.

Our Vision

Inspired by our donors, grantees and partners, we make a vital difference in our community and our world. The Community Foundation of Ottawa is a powerful force to engender a strong, positive and caring community.

Our Mission

The Community Foundation of Ottawa nurtures philanthropy and works with partners to have an enduring impact on communities.



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This report, as well as an expanded version with additional indicators and source links, is available at www.ottawavitalsigns.ca.

Taking the Pulse of our Community

Welcome to the third edition of Ottawa's Vital Signs, the Community Foundation of Ottawa's annual report card on the health of our city based on eleven key areas affecting everyone, from housing and health to arts and culture.

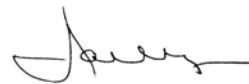
In the months leading up to this publication, the Community Foundation of Ottawa met with hundreds of community members representing organizations working to build a better community. Among those we reached out to were youth, members of the Aboriginal community, and people with disabilities. These community consultations, conversations, and subsequent research form the basis of this report.

Prior to publication, indicators identifying our community's priority interests and concerns were distributed in survey form to more than 800 Ottawa citizens. They were asked to grade each thematic area and add their comments. This process of community engagement and consultation has left no doubt that the citizens of Ottawa are well

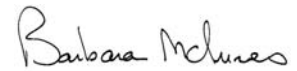
informed and care deeply about their community and their neighbours.

Inspired by our donors, grantees, and community partners, the Community Foundation of Ottawa is working to realize a vision – to make a difference and help to build a strong, positive and caring community. We hope that this report will support your vision of Ottawa, and your efforts to achieve it.

We thank everyone who has participated in the development of Ottawa's Vital Signs and we honour all those individuals and organizations who are working so passionately to address many of the issues highlighted on the pages of this report. The impact of this good work resounds in Ottawa's Vital Signs.



James R. Nininger, PhD
Chair of the Board of Governors



Barbara McInnes
President & CEO

Grades and Priorities

Based on the indicators provided in this report, along with their own knowledge and experiences, a cross-section of individuals were asked to assess how well Ottawa is doing in each issue area by choosing a letter grade using the following rating system: A = Excellent; B = Very Good; C = Average; D = Poor; F = Very Poor

In order to summarize the opinions of the graders in a clear and concise way, a median value was used to grade and prioritize each issue area, representing the midpoint of the range of responses received.

Graders were then asked to share their opinion on the importance of each issue area by selecting from a five-point scale ranging from one (highest priority) to five (lowest priority).

Ranking Level of Priority for Issue Areas

(Results from Community Graders Survey, 2008)

	1	2	3	4	5
	Highest				Lowest
	Priority				Priority
Issue Area:					
Gap Between Rich and Poor		✓			
Safety		✓			
Health & Wellness		✓			
Learning		✓			
Housing		✓			
Getting Started in the Community			✓		
Arts and Culture			✓		
Environment		✓			
Work			✓		
Belonging & Leadership			✓		
Getting Around		✓			

Context

Ottawa is unique among major Canadian urban regions. As the national political capital, its population is relatively affluent and on average well-educated. Located on the Ontario-Quebec boundary, the city is enriched by its bilingual and bicultural characteristics.

Ottawa continues to grow, albeit somewhat more moderately than either the province of Ontario or the country as a whole. In 2007, the population of the city reached 888,882, an increase of 1.3% from the year earlier. The 2006 census showed that over 1.13 million people lived in the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, the country's fourth largest urban agglomeration, and just ahead of rapidly-expanding Calgary. Population growth in West Quebec has exceeded that on the Ontario side since the previous census in 2001.

Ottawa's population is younger than the national average but, like the country as a whole, it is aging quickly. Census data between 2001 and 2006 indicated that Ottawa's median age increased by 1.4 years to 38.4.

Foreign-born persons accounted for 22.3% of Ottawa's population in 2006 compared to 21.8% in 2001. An additional 11,795 persons born outside the country brought the total foreign-born population to 178,545 people in 2006. Persons born outside Canada tend to settle in the city core, with the Bay Ward being the census tract with the most concentrated foreign-born population in the region.

Canada's Aboriginal population also has a significant presence in the city. According to census data, Aboriginals accounted for 1.6% of Ottawa's population in 2006, consisting predominantly of First Nations people (0.8%), but also Métis (0.6%) and Inuit (0.1%), the latter representing the largest concentration in Southern Canada. While persons who identified themselves as Aboriginal remain a small minority within the total Ottawa population,

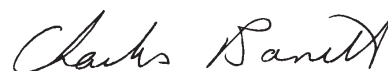
their growth rate since the previous census was almost tenfold that of the non-aboriginal populace.

In the 2006 census, six times as many Ottawans reported English as the language predominantly spoken at home than French. Moreover, one in 10 Ottawans did not speak either official language at home. Over 2% of the population spoke a Chinese language at home, followed by Arabic (1.75%) and South-Asian languages (1.5%).

Although traditionally dominated by the presence of the federal government, Ottawa has a vibrant and increasingly important private sector. In 2007, Ottawa's constant-dollar GDP registered a respectable growth of 2.6%. In the 2006 census, 480,320 Ottawans reported that they worked, with service-oriented occupations being most predominant.

Unique among large Canadian cities, Ottawa has approximately 1,000 working farms within its boundaries. However, both the pressures of urban growth and economic conditions in the farm sector are contributing to agricultural activity. Twenty-six rural villages remain within the city's amalgamated boundaries, but as has been reported in previous editions of *Ottawa's Vital Signs*, the amount of land under cultivation is falling.

According to the latest data from a City of Ottawa satisfaction survey, a majority of Ottawans reported a positive sense of belonging. Notably, respondents from the central region (the pre-amalgamation City of Ottawa) reported somewhat higher satisfaction than did the residents of rural areas, reflecting the ongoing tensions between the urban core and its surrounding areas.



Charles Barrett
Chair, OVS Advisory Committee

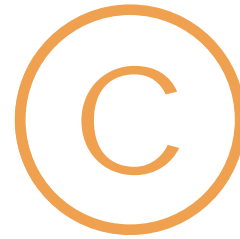
"The changing price of food is not measured by most households in terms of percentages or clever statistics. It is measured by the impact on a grocery bill."

– Excerpt from "A Gathering Storm", a 2008 Ontario food banks report

Community Snapshot

The rising cost of food, fuel (transportation), and energy (home heating) over recent months is putting increasing pressure on people's budgets, often making the difference between whether they can put food on the table or not. The hike in the cost of living is also forcing low-income and working poor families to request Food Bank services beyond the emergency monthly hamper, as it is now proving to be insufficient for many people, especially families with children.

The Ottawa Food Bank is working with others across the city to address the dramatic rise in the number of people requesting emergency food services over the past year. Ottawa also continues to be one of the cities in Canada with the largest percentages of employed people relying on emergency food assistance. Unfortunately, as the entire community is working to respond to increased financial pressures, many agencies are struggling to increase the amount of food in their monthly emergency hampers in order to help families get by.



Gap Between Rich and Poor



Income determines our ability to purchase adequate housing, food, other basic needs, and to feel more in control over decisions in life. While Ottawa continues to prosper compared to both provincial and national averages, many women raising their children alone, seniors, and people with disabilities struggle to make ends meet.

Average before-tax income for families, including individuals living alone in Ottawa, was \$72,600 in 2005. This was substantially higher than the national average of \$65,500 and slightly higher than the provincial average of \$72,000. The average before-tax income for families in Ottawa with at least two individuals was \$101,286, which was also significantly higher than the national average of \$82,325 and the provincial average of \$90,526.

A common approach to measuring the income gap among the population is to examine the ratio of the average income of the top 10% of earners to that of the bottom 10% of earners. Families headed by a single parent had the widest income gap in 2005. Those in the top 10% of earners among single-parent families earned 13.8 times more than those in the bottom 10%, an increase from 8.7 times in 2000.

Female-headed lone-parent families continued to experience a higher poverty rate at 31.3% than other family types, despite a slight improvement of 2.7% between 2000 and 2005. In contrast, the poverty rate in Ottawa among male-headed lone-parent families

in Ottawa in 2005 was 17%, while the rate among two-parent families was 7.4%.

In 2006, the child poverty rate in Ottawa, based on the Low Income Measure (LIM), an indicator of relative poverty, was 20.3%, which was down from 23.7% in 2000. Ottawa's rate in 2006 was lower than both the provincial rate of 23.4% and Canadian rate of 23.1%.

Approximately one in eight seniors (persons 65 and over) lived below the Low Income Cut-Off rate in 2006 for the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA. The proportion of seniors receiving social assistance in Ottawa (5.7%) did not change between 2004 and 2005, however the average amount of social assistance received per recipient to supplement annual income dropped by 8% in the same period to \$2,336.

The number of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients among lone-parent families in Ottawa decreased by 106 between 2006 and 2007, falling to 2,683. At the same time, the overall provincial number of ODSP recipients was increasing, due in part to an aging population and the rising incidence of disabilities.

Overall poverty by family types

	Total economic families			Couple families			Female lone-parent families			Male lone-parent families			Other economic families		
	2000	2005	+/-	2000	2005	+/-	2000	2005	+/-	2000	2005	+/-	2000	2005	+/-
Canada (%)	12.9	11.6	-1.3	9.2	8.4	-0.8	36.8	32.2	-4.6	17.8	16.0	-1.8	18.1	18.5	0.4
Ontario (%)	11.7	11.7	0.0	8.5	8.6	0.1	34.2	31.6	-2.6	16.0	16.4	0.4	15.2	16.4	1.2
Ottawa (%)	11.2	10.8	-0.4	7.5	7.4	-0.1	34.0	31.3	-2.7	17.0	17.0	0.0	19.7	19.7	0.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006.

▶ Did You Know?

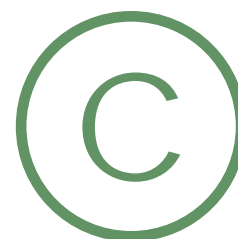
The Nutritious Food Basket is Ontario's standardized food costing tool that measures the real cost of healthy eating. In 2007, the cost of a nutritious food basket for a two-parent family with two children (13-year-old boy and eight-year-old girl) was \$573 per month. This represented a 1.8% increase from 2006, which is less than the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 4.0% for store-bought food in Canada.

Oshki Kizis means 'new sun' or a 'new beginning', offering hope to the vulnerable and an opportunity to heal.

Community Snapshot

The Oshki Kizis Lodge, operated by Minwaashin Lodge: Aboriginal Women's Support Centre, is a 19-bed culturally-based emergency shelter for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and their children who are fleeing abuse. Their suffering has often been compounded by experiences of systemic racism and the intergenerational impact of residential schools and urbanization. For this reason, the support and care provided in Oshki Kizis reflects sacred Aboriginal teachings and a holistic view of healing.

In 2007, Oshki Kizis provided shelter and food to 356 women and children from the Aboriginal community. The lodge also offers its clients a wide variety of services including advocacy, counselling, referrals, and transitional support. Most of all, it provides safety. According to one woman, Oshki Kizis was the first place that she had ever felt safe enough to sleep through the night.



Safety





Oshki Kizis Lodge staff and volunteers

Ottawa aspires to be a community where residents can live, work, and play safely. However, threats to personal safety can often be found very close to home.

In 2007, a total of 613 women and 486 children fleeing domestic abuse situations were sheltered in residential care facilities in Ottawa. However, a total of 5,150 women had to be turned away due to full capacity at these shelters.

In 2007, the traffic crime rate was 302 incidents per 100,000 people, which was lower than the national average (400 per 100,000) and higher than the provincial average (253 per 100,000). The Ottawa rate, which increased 3% in 2007, was at its highest point on record.

Traffic-related fatalities increased significantly in Ottawa between 2006 and 2007. The number of fatal collisions increased by 40% to 35 incidents, and traffic fatalities increased by 54.5%. After declining for the past five consecutive years, total injuries resulting from collisions climbed 7% between 2006 and 2007.

Between 2001 and 2007, Ottawa has seen a 39.2% decline in property crime rates. The 2007 figure dropped by 7% from 2006, and stood at 2,818 cases per 100,000 population. Property crime represents 50% of all Criminal Code of Canada offences in Ottawa.

The average police response time for Priority One (most urgent) calls was 8.8 minutes in 2007, which was well below the performance target of 15 minutes. Approximately 89% of the responses met this target, which is a 2% increase from 2006.

The average response time for paramedic calls lengthened in 2007 for both urban and outlying areas. 90% of all paramedic calls had an average response time of 13:15 minutes for high-density areas of the city and 20:03 minutes for low-density areas. Both figures are the highest in the past five years.

Traffic collisions

	2006		2007		1 yr. change
	Incidents	Rate	Incidents	Rate	%
Fatal Collisions	25.0	2.8	35.0	3.9	40.0%
Traffic Fatalities	22.0	2.5	34.0	3.8	54.5%
Total Injuries resulting from collisions	3,624.0	413.1	3,891.0	437.8	7.4%

Source: Ottawa Police Service

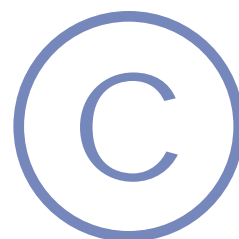
"The stories are real and now I understand that people with mental illness are just like everyone else."

– Program Participant

Community Snapshot

Open Minds is a program that has been educating and opening the minds of Ottawa youth to the truth about mental illness since 2003. A partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and CHEO's Youth Net, the program trains and supports community volunteers to deliver presentations to local high schools and universities.

By raising awareness in this way, Open Minds is able to break down many of the myths and stereotypes often associated with mental illness, and to promote a more constructive dialogue about mental health amongst youth. An important message that many of the young people take away from these presentations is that individuals suffering from mental illness are people just like everyone else.



Health and Wellness

Dietician, community health centre





Open Minds youth presentation

While many factors influence community health, the well-being of Ottawa residents is closely related to their ability to access and use services that prevent and treat disease. Delays in access affect everyone, especially the most vulnerable members of our community.

In 2008, the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) region lagged behind the rest of Ontario in wait times for hip replacements, knee replacements, cataract surgery, MRIs, and CT scans. The average wait time for MRIs lengthened by 100 days to 249 days when measured during a specific period of time in 2007 and 2008, which is significantly higher than the provincial average of 109 days. However, the Champlain LHIN outperformed the Ontario average for wait times on five out of 12 types of cancer procedures. Treatments for bone, joint and muscle cancers experienced a significant improvement in wait times from 398 to 58 days in comparison to the same period of time in the previous year.

In 2007, the proportion of the population suffering from chronic diseases in Ottawa was comparable to the provincial and national rates for all age groups. However, there were fewer people in Ottawa aged 45 to 64 suffering from arthritis, diabetes and high blood pressure compared to the provincial average. The age group of 12- to 19-year-olds accounted for the majority of asthma sufferers (16.1%), which is consistent with both the national and provincial averages.

In 2007, the obesity rate for the population aged 18 and over in Ottawa was 12.3%, which was lower than the national average of 16% and the provincial average of 16.1%.

In 2007, 86.5% of people in Ottawa aged 12 and over reported having regular access to a medical doctor, which was lower than the provincial average of 90.4% and slightly higher than the national average of 84.8%.

In 2007, the number of adult patients hospitalized for mental health reasons in Ottawa decreased by 7.3% to 4,994 from 2006. The 500 beds dedicated to acute mental health care remained at the same level as in 2006, but was lower than the 568 beds available five years ago. The occupancy rate for mental health beds was 91.3%, a slight decrease from 94.4% from 2006.

In 2006, there were 3,000 injection drug users in Ottawa and one in 100 are estimated to become infected with HIV each year. The HIV prevalence is 19-20% and the prevalence of the Hepatitis C virus is 76% among Ottawa's injection drug users.

▶ Did You Know?

As a result of provincial legislation passed in 2006, 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) were established in Ontario. Each LHIN has the responsibility to plan, manage, and fund the health care system at the local and regional levels. The network that includes the Ottawa region is called the Champlain LHIN.

“Without Pathways I would have dropped out by now.”

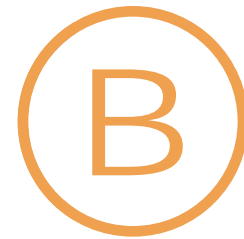
“Last year I got 52% in English and this year I got 75% thanks to this program.”

– Student Participants in Pathways to Education

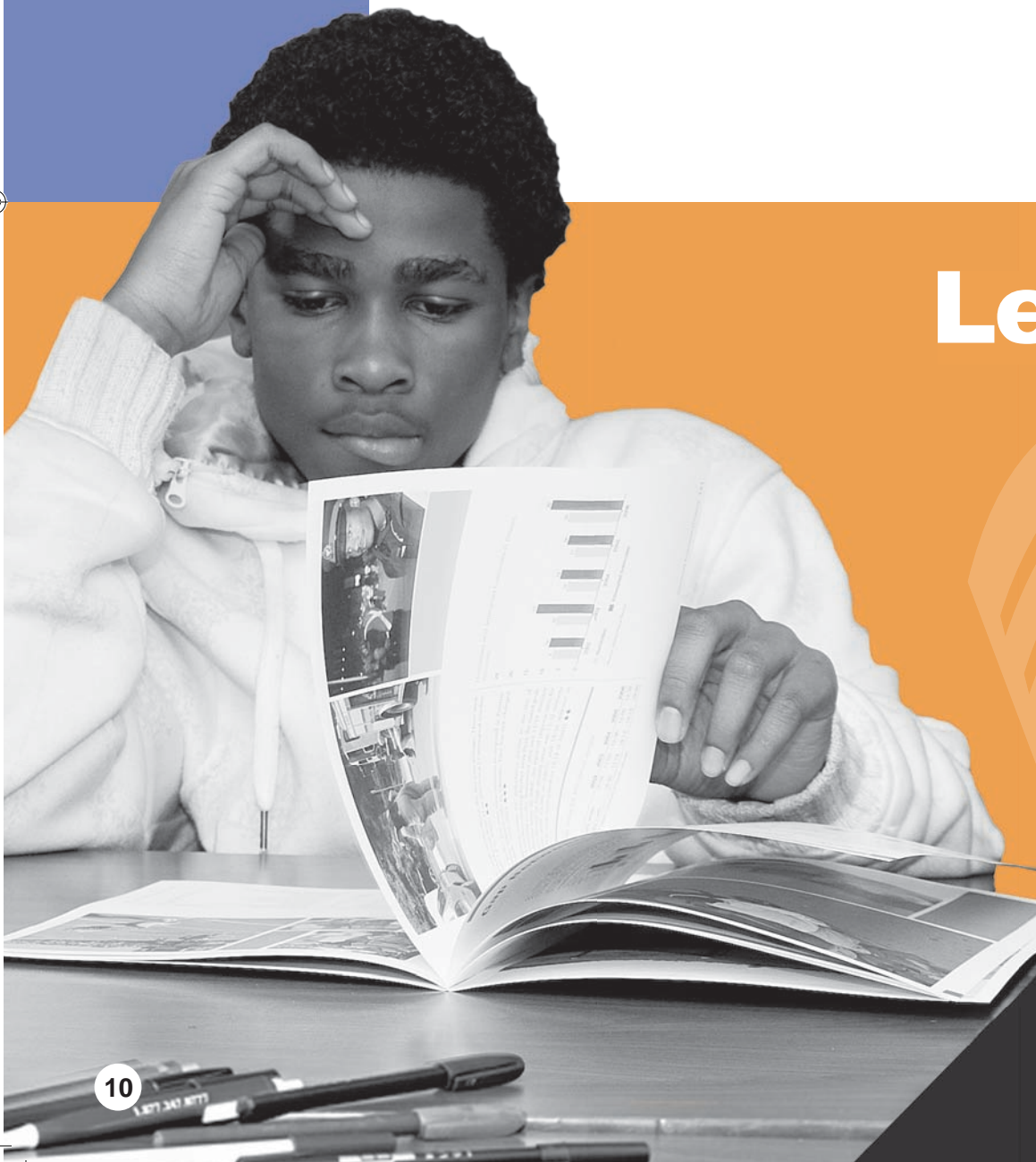
Community Snapshot

Pathways to Education is a community-based program operating out of Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre in the west end of Ottawa. Designed to support high-school students affected by poverty in four important areas, the program provides tutoring, mentoring, financial assistance and advocacy. It is modeled after a similar initiative in the Regent Park neighbourhood of Toronto that has dramatically reduced high-school drop-out rates and increased post-secondary education enrolment.

Although still in its early stages, many of the program’s participating students are already crediting Pathways with keeping them from dropping out of school altogether. Staff in the high schools partnering with Pinecrest-Queensway have also noticed a difference. Homework and assignments are completed and the students have increased self-confidence and hope for the future.



Learning





Pathways to Education mentors and students

Equal access to education for Ottawa's children and youth is vital to breaking the cycle of poverty – the most important risk factor for health. Compared to their peers elsewhere in Canada, Ottawa's educational institutions perform well. Our challenge is to ensure an equal playing field for all of our young citizens.

Students from all four school boards in Ottawa have performed well in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test over the past four years, with over 80% of first-time eligible students succeeding. All school boards compared favourably to the provincial average between 2006 and 2008.

Ottawa has a very high percentage of homes connected to the internet. At 82.2% in 2007, Ottawa is well above the national average of 68.6% and the provincial average of 70.9%.

In the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), 2,847 or 4% of students were on the wait list for assessments or other learning support services in 2007. The majority of students waited two-to-four months for assessments or other support services.

The four school boards in Ottawa have made significant progress in reducing primary class size over the last five years. In 2007, only 1% to 4% of junior kindergarten to grade three classes in Ottawa had more than 23 students, compared to 40% to 57% five years prior. 89% to 94% of schools in Ottawa had class sizes of less than 20 students, very close to the provincial target of 90%.

In 2006, 15.6% of the population aged 15 and over had not completed high school compared to 22.2% in Ontario and 23.8% in Canada.

Gender differences related to possessing a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree are most pronounced among the 25-to-34 age group. In 2006, 56% of graduates in Ottawa were female and 44% were male within this age group. This difference is consistent with the national trend, whereby females account for 60% of university graduates between the ages of 25 to 29.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test results

	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Oct.	March	March	March
Provincial average English-Language students	82%	84%	84%	84%
Ottawa-Carleton District Catholic School Board	88%	87%	86%	88%
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	87%	87%	90%	89%
Provincial average French-Language students	80%	81%	83%	83%
Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est	83%	85%	87%	88%
Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	80%	80%	83%	84%

Source: Education Quality and Accountability Office

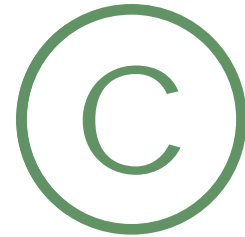
“People with intellectual disabilities are pursuing the dream of a good life as self-advocates and contributing citizens, and most of all, a quality home of their own in the communities where they were born and raised.”

– Keenan Wellar,
CEO, LiveWorkPlay

Community Snapshot

Tim is a member of LiveWorkPlay, a local organization that champions the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities. He participates in LiveWorkPlay’s housing programs, designed to address urgent needs resulting from the shift away from institutional living and the dilemma faced by aging parents of people with disabilities.

One such program is called the *On Our Own Together* initiative. This innovative pilot project supports clients’ transitions to a real home in the community through opportunities to live with a roommate in a supported living apartment. Through this experience, participants and their families become knowledgeable and more confident about their long-term housing plans.



Housing

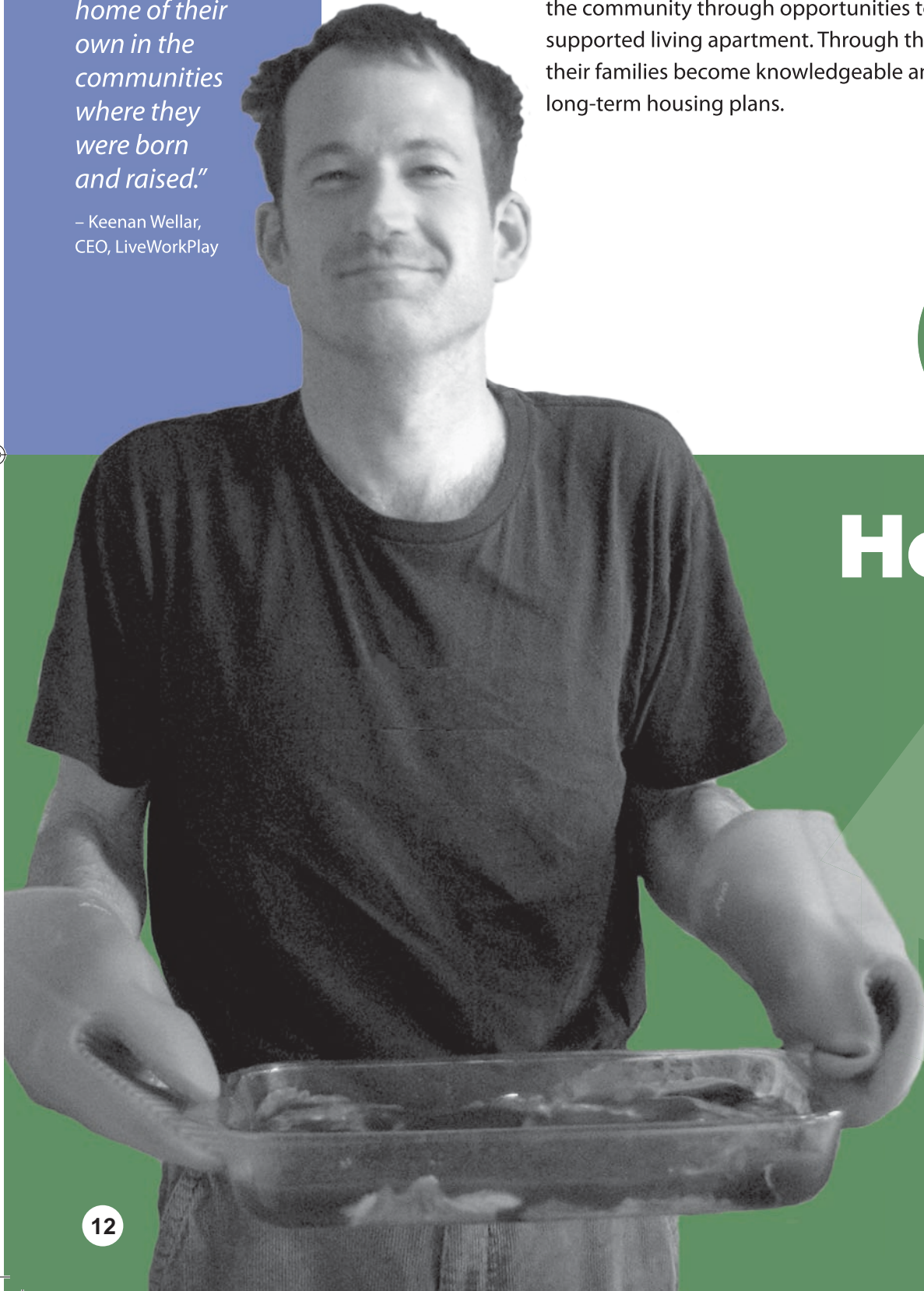


Photo courtesy of LiveWorkPlay

Shelter is a basic prerequisite for health. Ottawa residents enjoy high-quality and relatively affordable housing by Canadian standards. Many others affected by poverty, disability and illness would disagree.

In 2007, the rental vacancy rate in Ottawa was 2.2% for a one-bedroom unit, 2.3% for a two-bedroom unit, and 2.8% for a three-bedroom unit. The current vacancy rate for a two-bedroom unit is comparable to that of Montreal, but is lower than Toronto's rate of 3.2%.

In 2007, the average price of condominiums was \$193,954, up by 8.6% over the previous year, representing a faster rate of increase than for single, detached dwellings. The average price of single detached dwellings was \$301,252, up by 6.6% in 2007. The average price for all housing types was up by 6.3% at \$267,729.

Ottawa Community Housing is the largest social housing provider in Ottawa, providing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households. Households with children and single adults constitute the majority of social housing tenants in Ottawa. The two groups account for approximately 80% of all social housing tenants, followed by seniors aged 60 and over at 16%. In total, these three groups account for 96% of the social housing tenant population.

In 2007, the number of people on the waiting list for social housing declined by 6.8%, down to 9,370. The number of people that were newly housed in social housing in 2007 declined 2.3% from 2006 to approximately 2,116.

Demographic in subsidized housing

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Households with children	44%	43%	40%	39%
Single adults	38%	37%	40%	39%
Households with two or more adults	5%	7%	6%	6%
Seniors (60+)	14%	13%	14%	16%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: City of Ottawa

There was an increase of 20 in the number of supportive housing spaces between 2006 and 2007 to 885 spaces. These accommodations include assistance for people with disabilities to ensure their safety and independence. Together with a drop in the number of people on the wait list, supportive housing spaces were able to accommodate approximately 31% of demand, an improvement from 24.7% in 2006.

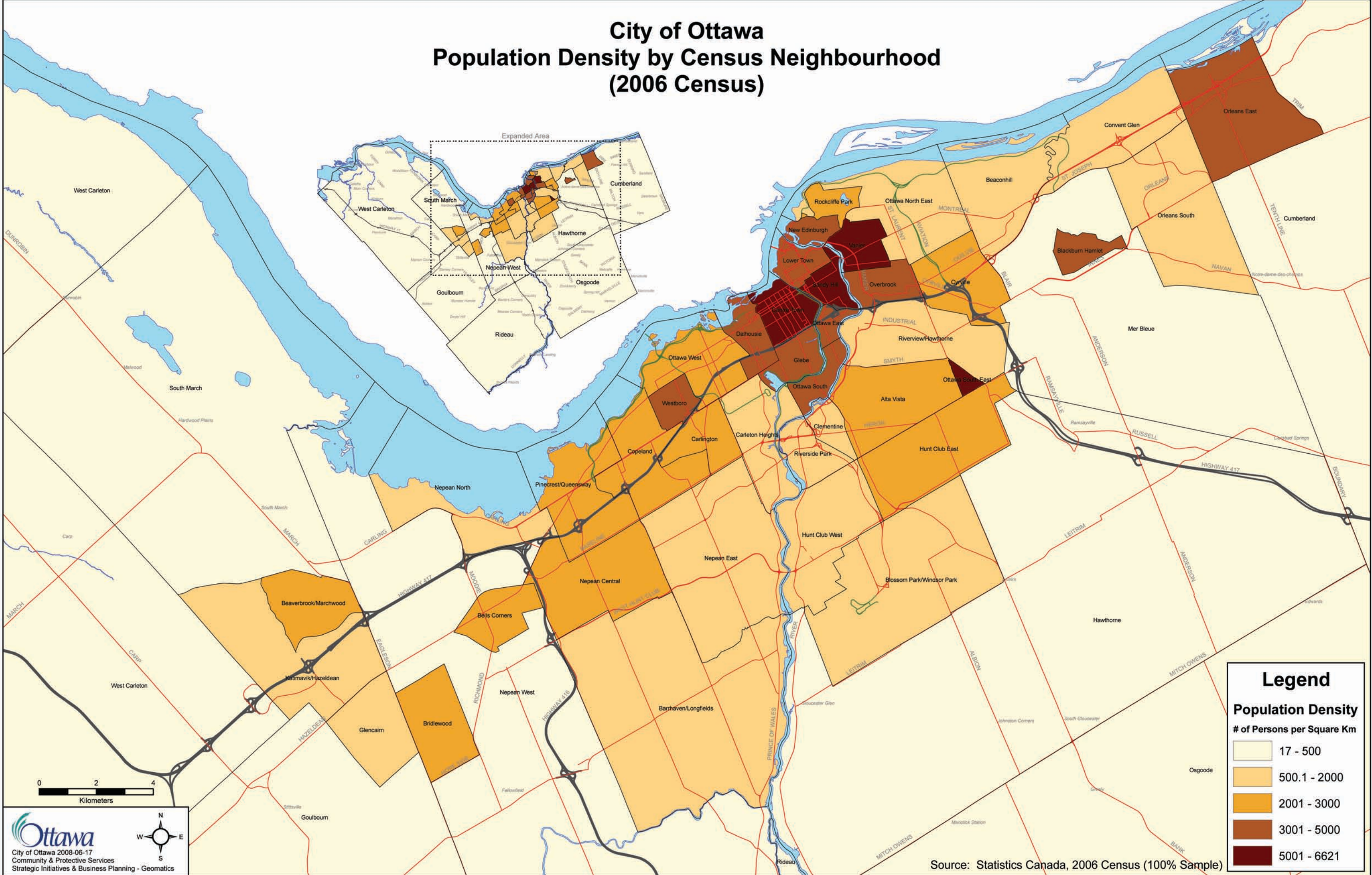
In 2007, there were 8,915 people using emergency shelters, which was a slight decline of 1.1 % from 2006. However, the average length of time per stay was 38.4 days, which was an increase of 13.9% from 2006. In 2007, there was also a shift in shelter users, with more children (+12.4%) and families (+3.9%) using emergency shelters, compared to a decline among youth (-15.2%) and single women (-7.9%). Single men represented the largest group accessing emergency shelters, accounting for over half of the users in 2007.

Housing Prices

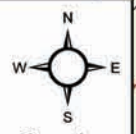
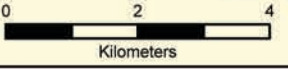
Housing Type	2008 Year to Date (April 2008)	2007 Year to Date (April 2007)	% change from 2007
Single Detached	321,026	301,252	6.6%
<i>Bungalow</i>	285,385	270,599	5.5%
<i>Two-Storey</i>	357,651	337,565	6.0%
<i>Other</i>	286,684	258,632	10.8%
Row	259,442	238,826	8.6%
Semi	275,406	273,838	0.6%
Condominium	210,619	193,954	8.6%
<i>Apartment</i>	236,309	218,345	8.2%
<i>Row</i>	182,693	169,607	7.7%
<i>Other</i>	330,625	162,500	103.5%
Total	284,527	267,729	6.3%

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Housing Now report

City of Ottawa Population Density by Census Neighbourhood (2006 Census)



Legend	
Population Density	
# of Persons per Square Km	
[Light Yellow]	17 - 500
[Light Orange]	500.1 - 2000
[Orange]	2001 - 3000
[Dark Orange]	3001 - 5000
[Dark Red]	5001 - 6621




 City of Ottawa 2008-06-17
 Community & Protective Services
 Strategic Initiatives & Business Planning - Geomatics

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census (100% Sample)

“Seek support from organizations that serve the newcomer population, and get involved through volunteering. While there are systemic barriers, there are also goodwill people who will go the extra mile to help.”

– Mohamoud Hagi-Aden

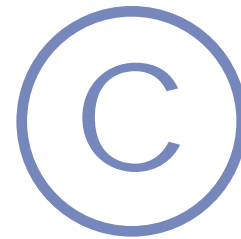


Community Snapshot

When Mohamoud Hagi-Aden arrived in Ottawa in 1989 with a Masters Degree in Business Administration and work experience as a senior finance controller, he had no idea that it would take close to 1,000 job applications before he found work in a completely unrelated field.

From these trying beginnings, Mohamoud became a valued member of a multidisciplinary team at a community health centre in south-east Ottawa, assisting others to overcome hardship through access to vital community resources. He also became an eloquent community advocate and leader, consulted by government and community organizations for guidance on settlement and integration issues.

By believing that ‘the challenges are many but the opportunities are limitless’, Mohamoud gives hope to us all.



Getting Started in the Community





Twenty-five years ago, the people of Ottawa threw open their doors to 4,000 South East Asian refugees known as “the boat people.” Our city’s future depends on a recommitment to inclusiveness and respect for the abilities of the nearly 200,000 immigrants and refugees living in Ottawa today.

There were 178,545 foreign-born residents living in Ottawa in 2006 who made up 22.3% of Ottawa's total population. This number is higher than the national average of 19.8% but lower than the provincial average of 28.3%. In 2006, 1,131 refugees also settled in Ottawa.

The foreign-born population in Ottawa had an unemployment rate of 7.2% in 2006, higher than the rate for Canadian-born residents which stood at 5.4%. The unemployment rate was significantly higher for recent immigrants (those arriving in the last five years) at 13.5%.

In 2005, the median total family income of recent immigrants (who arrived between 2001 and 2004) in Ottawa was \$42,219, which represents a decrease of 18.3% from 2000.

The median income for Canadian-born individuals with university degrees was \$62,566 in 2005, which was 1.3 times greater than for immigrants (\$49,714) and 2.3 times greater than for recent immigrants (\$26,640) with comparable levels of education. The median income for Canadian-born individuals without university degrees was \$40,177, which was 1.5 times greater than for immigrants (\$26,287), and 2.5 times greater than for recent immigrants (\$16,254).

In 2006, the unemployment rate of recent immigrants in Ottawa with post-secondary education was 2.8% in comparison to a rate of 3.7% for the non-immigrant population with a post-secondary education. The situation was worse for recent immigrants without post-secondary education, who had an unemployment rate of 17.9%, substantially higher than the comparable non-immigrant population at 7.9%.

The proportion of recent immigrants who arrived between 2001 and 2006 with no knowledge of English was 11%, which was significantly higher when compared to other immigrants who had arrived in Canada in earlier years. The proportion of recent immigrants with knowledge of French only was 4%.

Immigrant family income

	2000	2005
Total	84,432	86,692
Non-immigrants	88,520	92,460
Immigrants	73,391	72,360
Recent immigrants	51,688	42,219
Recent immigrant's income as a share of non-immigrant income	58.4	45.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

*"Grab hold of
your dream
...let it grow.
Think openly
and your world
will grow."*

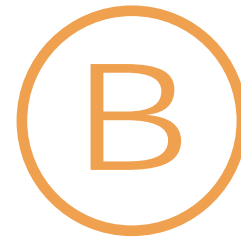
– Excerpt from "Your
World" poem by the
OSA mural camp
participants

Community Snapshot

Art is for Everyone. This is a motto that the Ottawa School of Art (OSA) constantly strives to live up to. In working to enrich the city's cultural experience, the OSA is making visual art accessible for everyone to learn and enjoy. People of all ages are given the opportunity to develop their creativity through a variety of programming, much of which is supported by scholarships, bursaries, community outreach, and numerous free events.

In addition to its regular educational programming during the school year, the OSA runs one of the city's most diverse and accessible summer art camps for children and youth. Weekly courses are tailored to suit different age groups of young people from 6 – 15, and include everything from sculpting to painting to fashion design.

As part of an ongoing partnership project to break down the stigmas associated with mental illness, youth spent a week collaborating on a mural titled "Overcome" for CHEO's Provincial Centre for Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health.



Arts and Culture





Ottawa School of Art mural camp participants

Ottawa's artists and cultural institutions enrich the lives of residents by enlivening city life, attracting visitors and investment, and building new bridges across cultures. By all accounts, Ottawa has a vibrant cultural scene, but those making their living in the arts community continue to struggle.

The average income for artists in Ottawa was \$28,114 in 2005, which was just over 60% of the income earned in all other occupations (\$45,560). In 2000, artists in Ottawa reported an average income of \$29,700, suggesting a decline of \$1,586 between 2000 and 2005. The number of people working as artists in Ottawa increased by 5.5% to 4,640 people between 2000 and 2005. The number of actors and comedians doubled from 70 to 155 people, and conductors, composers and arrangers also increased by one and a half times. Artisans/craftspeople, authors and writers experienced more than a 10% decline in numbers.

Ottawa's 2007 funding for arts and festivals per capita was \$5.49, up 40% from \$3.93 in 2006.

In 2007, there were approximately 650,000 participants in programs operated by the City of Ottawa attending performances, educational programs, and visiting local galleries, museums or arts centres.

In 2007, 56 festivals, fairs, and community and special events were allocated \$989,690 by the City of Ottawa. These events varied in size and included such events as the Ottawa International Jazz Festival, the Carp Fair, Canada Day and Remembrance Day celebrations.

In 2005, 50% of the people in Ottawa attended live performing arts. This was higher than the average for Canadian communities reporting a similar statistic in their Vital Signs reports (44%), and the overall national average for Canada (41%). In terms of other arts and cultural events, 33% of people in Ottawa attended theatrical performances, 33% attended popular musicals, 31% attended cultural festivals, and 19% attended cultural/heritage dance performances. These were all above the national average.

Artist income (\$), 2005

	Total (\$) 2005
Total All earners	44,130
All occupations	45,560
Authors and writers	39,499
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	41,039
Conductors, composers and arrangers	26,277
Musicians and singers	16,805
Dancers	10,973
Actors and comedians	19,943
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	13,943
Other performers	14,487
Artisans and craftspeople	18,273
Average of artist occupations (weighted by occupation)	28,114

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

▶ Did You Know?

In 2008, a survey of 11 major national museums and art galleries in Ottawa revealed that only 3% of the hours of operation are offered free of charge and almost 89% of these hours are offered free only to young children (ages three and under). The average admission for a family of two adults and two children (up to age 12 or 15) was \$18, ranging from \$13 to \$30.

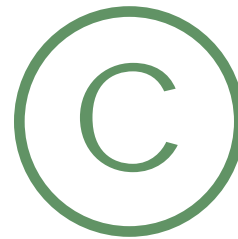
"I think it is very important for people in Ottawa to continue swimming in the river and we will continue to remind our leaders that a clean and healthy river adds to our quality of life".

– Meredith Brown,
Ottawa Riverkeeper

Community Snapshot

Ottawa Riverkeeper rallied over 70 volunteers to clean up the western tip of Kettle Island on October 20th 2007. Debris had been piling up over the past few decades and was brought to the attention of Ottawa Riverkeeper. Ottawa Riverkeeper worked with local businesses, community groups and many enthusiastic volunteers to haul almost five tonnes of garbage off the island. This alluvial island is situated in the Ottawa River between the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau and has recently been purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to conserve the ecological integrity of this important flood-tolerant habitat.

The Ottawa Riverkeeper brings people together to protect and promote the ecological health and diversity of the Ottawa River and its tributaries. The organization believes that rivers reflect the places through which they flow, and that healthy rivers reveal well-informed, active, and responsible communities.



Environment





Kettle Island clean-up crew, courtesy of Ottawa Riverkeeper

Access to good quality air, water, and food is a health imperative. With strong community leadership, we now realize that pollution reduction and successful waste management cannot be achieved without widespread education, effort, and learning from mistakes.

Land: In 2007, a total of 8,800 trees were planted, 6,521 of which were on City property and 2,279 of which were on private property. Together with the removal of 986 trees, the City had a net gain of 7,814 new trees planted.

In 2007, the total amount of solid waste collected in Ottawa was 320,695 kg, which was a decrease from 325,634 kg in 2006. Also in 2007, Ottawa's residential solid waste diversion rate was 32.4%, which remains unchanged from the previous year and is 7.6% away from the City's target and 27.6% off the provincial target. Waste diversion calculations include the materials handled through the City's recycling, leaf and yard waste programs which is diverted from disposal.

Water: In 2007, the population served by the City of Ottawa's water system was 806,400, which was an increase of 11,250 people from the previous year. Despite this increase, water treated for consumption decreased by 8%. This resulted in an overall decrease by 9.3% in water consumption per capita to 376.2 litres in 2007.

In 2007, the number of beach closure days at Ottawa's four supervised beaches was 33, which was substantially fewer than the 84 days of beach closures in 2006. A large

combined sewer overflow event was found to have contributed to some of the poor water quality days experienced at Petrie Island Beach in August 2006.

Air: In 2007, there was one day in which the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeded 50 (very poor quality) in downtown Ottawa. However, there were 33 days when the AQI was between 32 and 49 (moderate quality), which is five more days than in 2006.

Ottawa's unplanned hospital readmission rate following discharge for asthma in 2005 was 6.6% higher than the provincial rate of 5%. According to the Ontario Medical Association, it was estimated that air pollution contributed to 290 premature deaths, 750 hospital admissions and 3,010 emergency room visits in the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA in 2005.

In 2006, there were six days in Ottawa of above threshold levels of ground-level ozone (a reactive, unstable form of oxygen), down from 20 days in 2001. The average between 2001 and 2006 was nine days. The number of days above the threshold level for airborne particles that may be deposited in the lungs (PM – particulate matter – 2.5 concentrations) was one, which was down from three days in 2001. The 2001 to 2006 average was four days.

▶ Did You Know?

Ground-level ozone is formed in the air from pollutants, most notably nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. Vehicle exhausts and industrial emissions are large contributors of ground-level ozone.

Airborne particles with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less that bypass filtration in the nose may be deposited in the lungs. Common sources of these particulates include wind-blown soil dust and human activities such as fuel combustion and construction work.

"Transitions are processes of saying goodbye. My role is to support seniors in making positive choices as they move into the next stage of their lives"

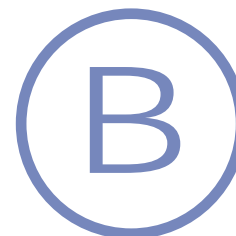
– Gail McEachern,
entrepreneur

Community Snapshot

Gail McEachern is known as something of a saviour for a growing number of Ottawa seniors looking to downsize their lives. With degrees in social work and architectural design, she has brought her unique skills to bear on a business she started ten years ago helping seniors make the transition from larger residences into retirement homes or small apartment settings.

Gail also happens to be 70 years old, and over the years she's become quite an expert on making many types of transitions. She is also one of an increasing number of seniors remaining active in the workforce well beyond the age of 65. An avid community volunteer and teacher of "mindfulness" in healing, Gail is already planning to devote the next phase of her career to supporting people in making positive transitions to more fulfilling lifestyles.

The one transition Gail doesn't plan to make is a move into any sort of leisurely retirement lifestyle herself. In fact, the idea has scarcely ever occurred to her. The work is what keeps her fulfilled.



Work



Access to employment and good working conditions are a sign of a thriving community. Ottawa has a vibrant labour market with increasingly diversified employment opportunities for people of all ages. However, limited access to affordable childcare remains a barrier for parents who work.

In 2007, the employment rate increased to 68.6%, which is the highest it has been since 1988 and is 5.1% above the Canadian average. According to the 2006 Census, 448,565 people 15 years of age and over were employed in the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

From 2006 to 2007, Ottawa experienced an employment growth of 1.1%, less than the rate for Canada (2.3%) and Ontario (1.6%), and a 2.9 percentage point decrease from the period between 2005 and 2006. Between 1987 and 2007, Ottawa saw an average annual employment growth of 1.8%, which was slightly higher than both the provincial rate (1.6%) and the national rate (1.7%) during the same period.

The unemployment rate for youth between the ages of 15 to 24 years old in Ottawa was 11.5% in 2007, a slight increase of 0.6 percentage points from 2006. This rate is comparable to the Canadian average of 11.2% and better than the averages for Ontario (13%), Toronto CMA (14.1%), and Montreal CMA (12.7%).

The employment rate for seniors aged 65 and over was 9.5% in 2007, a slight decrease of 0.3 % from the previous year. Nevertheless, this rate is higher than the provincial average of 9% and the Canadian average of 8.6%.

The public sector was the largest source of employment in Ottawa, with over 119,316 federal public service employees in the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA in 2007. The City of Ottawa employed 14,998 people in the same year, more than any private sector

employer. In terms of private sector employment, Nortel had 5,000 employees and Canada Post Corporation, the University of Ottawa, Bell Canada, Alcatel-Lucent and Rogers Communications each had more than 2,000 employees.

There were a total of 19,020 licensed childcare spaces and 12,717 children on the waiting list in 2007. This was an increase of 1,775 spaces and an increase of 4,534 children on the waiting list from 2006. As a result, only 60% of the childcare demand was accommodated in 2007 as compared to 68% in 2006.

There were 7,481 subsidized, licensed childcare spaces in 2007 and 3,614 children on the waiting list. This was an increase of 245 spaces and a decrease of 486 children on the waiting list. This means that subsidized childcare spaces were able to accommodate 67% of demand, higher than the rate of 64% in 2006.

Employment Growth Rate

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Canada	1.2	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.4	1.9	2.3
Ontario	1.9	1.8	3.0	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.6
Ottawa	3.2	-0.9	5.1	0.0	0.6	4.0	1.1
Toronto	3.4	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.4	2.3
Montreal	1.4	3.7	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.8	2.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

▶ Did You Know?

In 2005, the average earnings of secondary and elementary teachers, as well as educational counsellors, in the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA was \$61,000, compared to that of child care and home support workers who had one of the lowest average earnings of \$22,870.

"I'm building my community."

"I'm trying to be a good role model."

"I'm getting involved."

– Banff Youth Council Members

Community Snapshot

These are just some of the ways that young people who volunteer with the Banff Youth Council sum up why they are working so hard to make Ottawa's Banff/Ledbury community a better place to live.

In addition to organizing "Community Clean-Up Days" and other events at the Banff Avenue Community House, the youth council is now working to improve the literacy skills of neighbourhood youngsters. Every Wednesday, members of the group each spend an hour reading to children at their community house.

Not only does this weekly interaction encourage children to read, but it teaches them the immense value of participation and leadership. It is also this kind of action by local youth that becomes a profound tool for community engagement and development.



Belonging & Leadership





Banff/Ledbury community, courtesy of No Community Left Behind

When people feel that they 'belong', they have a vested interest in their community's future, and want to work together to improve it. Neighbours across Ottawa are getting together to make Ottawa a better place.

In 2007, 60% of people aged 12 and over reported having a strong or somewhat strong sense of community belonging in Ottawa, compared to 62% in 2005. This was slightly lower than the Ontario average of 63% and the Canadian average of 62%.

In 2007, there were 61 Tenants' Associations in Ottawa Community Housing (social housing) neighbourhoods throughout the city. Tenants' Associations take the lead in organizing social events to ease residents' isolation, dealing with community issues, and participating in decisions and plans that affect their community.

The 2006 federal election had a voter turnout rate of 73.1%. This was close to two percentage points higher than that of the previous federal election, and higher than the 2006 municipal election turnout rate of 53.5%.

The addition of one female councillor in the current Ottawa City Council since the previous City Council puts female representation at 30.4%.

In 2006, the rate of Ottawa residents making charitable donations was higher than the provincial and national

rates. 30.5% of Ottawa tax filers made charitable donations in 2006, compared to 26.6% in Ontario and 24.6% in Canada. The median donation of \$300 in Ottawa was slightly lower than the provincial median of \$310, but was higher than the Canadian median of \$250.

Federal Election Percentage of Voter Turnout

	2000 (%)	2004 (%)	2006 (%)
Canada	61.2	60.9	64.7
Ontario	58	61.8	66.6
Ottawa	63.3	71.2	73.1

Source: Elections Canada

Municipal Election, City of Ottawa Percentage of Voter Turnout

	2000 (%)	2003 (%)	2006 (%)
Ottawa	47.1	33	53.5

Source: City of Ottawa

“Moving to Ottawa was a giant step towards enhancing my freedom, decreasing my dependence on others, and introducing an element of spontaneity into my life that was never previously known to me.”

– Leanne Watson

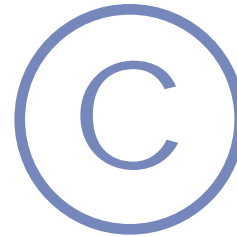


Community Snapshot

Since Leanne Watson moved to Ottawa from a small town eight years ago, she’s found getting around town in the city’s variety of accessible transit options to be miles ahead of her experiences growing up. For many people living with disabilities, however, Ottawa has a long way to go before becoming a truly accessible city.

Among the issues faced are poor design and maintenance of transportation infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, parking lots, etc.), limited audible crossing signals, delays in pick-ups and arrivals by Para Transpo, and ongoing problems boarding public buses and getting seated safely. Then, there is navigating the snow-covered sidewalks in the winter and being left out of buildings and events that lag behind accessibility standards.

Still, in Leanne’s eyes, Ottawa has been a welcoming, accessible place to be ever since she arrived here to attend university. By her estimation, Carleton is one of the most accessible campuses in North America with its underground tunnel system and access both to buses and the O-Train. It’s all added up to an increased sense of freedom that she values most highly of all.



Getting Around



Effective and affordable transportation systems ensure equitable access to employment, education, health services, food and opportunities for social and economic participation. Ottawa's transportation system is a moving target for improvement.

The year 2008 will be remembered for rapid increases in the cost of fuel, which some suggest will have a permanent impact on transportation trends, the full effects of which will not be known for some time. In July 2008, OC Transpo reported that ridership was up by 4.4% over the previous year, with additional sales of 4,000 transit passes in the month of June 2008.

Despite a slight increase in the median travel distance to work of 8.1 km in 2006, up from 7.8 km in 2001, there was a slight decrease in the number of people driving to work in Ottawa. The number of commuters who drove to work in 2006 was 60.4%, compared to 62.7% in 2001. As a result, a slightly greater proportion of commuters were getting to work by public transit, walking or biking. 21.2% of people reported taking public transit to work, 7.6% reported getting to work on foot, and 2.2% reported biking.

Not being dependent on a car to access amenities is an important indicator for the livability of a neighbourhood. The Walk Score measures how easy it is to live a 'less car-dependent' lifestyle in a particular area. The Walk Score for several of Ottawa's inner-city neighbourhoods, such as Parkdale/Hintonburg, the Glebe, Bytown, Civic, Chinatown, and the Byward Market ranges from 70 to 82 out of 100. This suggests that these neighbourhoods are very walkable, based on the proximity to a range of basic amenities such as grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, community centres, and schools.

OC Transpo carried 95.6 million passengers in 2007, representing an increase of 3.8 million passengers or 4.2% from 2006. Ottawa's average ridership per capita on a major transit carrier was 122.9 trips and the usage rate increased 3% from 2006 to 2007.

The cost of an OC Transpo monthly transit pass was \$73 in 2007, representing a 2.5% increase from 2006. Compared to five years ago, when the cost of a monthly transit pass in Ottawa was \$61.75, the cost has increased by 18.2%.

A monthly average of 3,940 Community Bus Passes (transit passes with reduced rates) were sold to Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients in 2007, compared to 3,233 in 2006. This increase of 707 passes sold represents an increase of 21.9% in beneficiaries since the program began in March 2006.

In 2007, the number of on-road cycling facilities in Ottawa increased by 21 km. On-road cycling facilities are defined as improvements made for or utilized by cyclists, including bicycle pockets, bicycle lanes, and paved shoulders.

Cost of monthly transit pass

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1 year change	5 year change
\$60.50	\$61.75	\$63.00	\$65.00	\$71.25	\$73.00	2.5%	18.2%

Source: City of Ottawa, Transit Services

Transit Ridership

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total annual transit ridership	86,761,292	87,943,632	88,779,641	89,555,383	91,839,276	95,646,026
Total urban transit area population	730,657	738,977	751,071	760,221	770,120	778,207
Average ridership per capita	118.7	119.0	118.2	117.8	119.3	122.9

Source: City of Ottawa, Transit Services

Acknowledgements

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OVS Project Team

Advisory Committee

Chair: Charles Barrett
David Brook
Sara Lyons
Judith MacBride-King

Community Foundation of Ottawa:

James R. Nininger
Barbara McInnes
Anita James
Mary Conway
Catherine Dubois
Iona Green

Expert Resource Group

Chair: Judith MacBride-King
Caroline Andrew

Charles Barrett
David Brown
Marni Cappe
Dr. Lee Donohue
John Higgins
Linda Jones
Brenda Lafleur
Neil McIlveen

Research

Acacia Consulting:
Michel Frojmovic
Clarissa Lo
Jacob Ritchie

Centre for the Study of Living Standards:
Dr. Andrew Sharpe

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(unless otherwise noted)

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Ottawa

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Community Foundation of Ottawa
75 Albert Street, Suite 301
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7
Canada
Phone: 613-236-1616
Fax: 613-236-1621
www.cfo-fco.ca

