

# STRONG COMMUNITIES COALITION

A Coalition of Human Services in Durham, Halton, Peel & York

## Funding No Match for Growth

Provincial funding for health and social services **has not kept pace** with the growing number of residents in the GTA/905 - 100,000 new residents a year and expected to continue for the next 20 years.

## Funding Gap Widening, says PWC

A recent analysis by PricewaterhouseCoopers makes clear that there is a large and growing per capita funding gap for health and social services in the GTA/905. The annual funding gap for provincially funding social services has grown over the last several years to more than \$550 million; in health care the gap is over \$900 million. These funding gaps are not only large but they are worsening. The results are as follows:

### Adult Services

Since 2001 and as of 2004, the per capita funding gap for GTA/905 residents' Adult Services has increased from \$17 to \$18 but is still less than half of the provincial average of \$30 per Ontarian. This means that the annual gap in funding for these services has grown from \$28.9 million below the provincial average to \$34.6 million below 2004 – an increase of \$5.7 million since 2001.

### Child Care Services

Since 2001 and as of 2004, the per capita funding gap for GTA/905 residents' Children's Services including Child Welfare, has increased from \$202 to \$218 below the provincial average of \$416 per child and still about half of average provincial funding levels. This means that the annual gap in funding for these services has grown from \$213.7 million below the provincial average to \$291.7 million below 2004 – an increase of \$78 million since 2001.

### Children's Services Including Child Welfare

Since 2001 and as of 2004, the per capita funding gap for GTA/905 residents' Children's Services including Child Welfare, has increased from \$275 to \$347 below the provincial average of \$594 per child. This means that the annual funding gap for these services has grown from \$213.7 million below the provincial average to \$291.7 million below 2004 – an increase of \$78 million since 2001.

## Recommendations to the Ontario Government

- Immediately provide **growth funding** for health and social services in the GTA/905 regions of Durham, Halton, Peel and York.
- 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*.
- **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.

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## Developmental Services

Since 2001 and as of 2004, the per capita funding gap for GTA/905 residents' Developmental Services has increased from \$35 to \$45 below the provincial average of \$95 per adult. This means that the annual funding gap for these services has grown from \$94.8 million below the provincial average of \$138.3 million below 2004 – an increase of \$43.5 million since 2001.

## Community Care Access Centre Services

Since 2003, the per capita funding gap for GTA/905 residents' home care and school programs service through Community Care Access Centres has increased from \$25 to \$32 below the provincial average of \$122 per person. This means that the annual funding gap for these services has grown from \$64 million below the provincial average of \$94 million in 2005-2006 – an increase of \$30 million since 2003.

## Hospital Services

Since 2003, the per capita funding gap for GTA/905 residents' hospital care has increased from \$156 to \$215 below the provincial per capita funding of \$877. This means that the annual funding gap in GTA/905 Hospital Services has grown from \$585 million below the provincial average to \$899 million below the 2006-2007 average – an increase of \$314 million since 2003.

## The “Growing Pains” of the Provincial Funding Inequity

- There are **longer waiting times** for health and social services in the GTA/905.
- GTA/905 residents **often have to leave their communities** (support of family and friends) to get services.
- In many cases, **residents are going without needed services** and require more costly services later on when their circumstances spiral out of control.

## The Rationale for Solving the Funding Inequity

By addressing the funding inequity, access to services will be improved and that means:

- **Fewer problems spiralling out of control** and requiring more costly interventions by the health care, child welfare and criminal justice systems.
- Allows GTA/905 residents to contribute more fully to the Ontario economy, **boosting the tax revenues for all Ontarians.**
- Ensures that the Ontario Government's *Places to Grow* plan fulfills its potential and **maximizes the economic growth of the GTA/905.**

*Coalition members include the United Ways in Durham, Halton, Peel and York and the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance*

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For more information:

Dominika Flood, 416-205-1331

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## The Coalition

The Coalition was created to speak out about the need to improve local and timely access to health and social services for the three million residents of Durham, Halton, Peel and York by encouraging the Province of Ontario to provide growth funding for health and social services in the GTA/905 and by revising the way provincial funds are allocated so that funds are allocated on the basis of population size, growth and characteristics.

The mandate of the coalition is to advocate for equitable and sustainable funding policies and formulae for health and social services in the GTA/905 communities.

The GTA/905 Region (Durham, Halton, Peel and York) is the fastest growing region in Ontario and North America.

Containing a quarter of Ontario's population, between 1996 and 2004, the GTA/905 grew by more than 100,000 residents each year – (the equivalent of adding all residents of the City of Kingston to the GTA/905 each year). Growing almost three times faster than Ontario as a whole, the GTA/905 represents more than half the annual population growth in Ontario. This growth is expected to continue into the future with the GTA/905 growing at more than twice the provincial rate.

In addition to growing at a faster rate than the rest of the province, the GTA/905 is also aging at twice the rate of the province as a whole. Not only growing and aging, the GTA/905 is also becoming more culturally and socio-economically diverse. Some parts of the GTA/905 have the highest rate of growth in the country for new immigrants.

In the face of rapid and sustained population growth, and given the increasing cultural and socio-economic diversity, meeting the social service and health care needs of GTA/905 residents has been a challenge due to one factor in particular – the fact that provincial ***funding for social services and health care services has not kept pace with population growth in the region.***

## PricewaterhouseCoopers

As one of the world's leading professional services firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers provides industry-focused assurance, advisory and tax services for public, private and Government clients in all markets. More than 120,000 people in 139 countries connect their thinking, experience and solutions to build public trust and enhance value for clients and their stakeholders.

In Canada, PricewaterhouseCoopers and its related entities have more than 4,200 partners and staff, and offices in 25 locations.

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PricewaterhouseCoopers has advised clients such as the Government of Ontario, on critical policy issues, and has authored major reports including:

- *Cities of the Future - Global Competition, Local Leadership*, a recently-released report on the state of cities worldwide;
- *HealthCast 2020*, released in November 2005, a research report on the sustainability issues in global health care;
- *"Will There Be Room For Me?"*, a report on the Ontario post-secondary education sector and the challenge of the "double cohort" and beyond; and
- *"A Fine Balance - The Impact of Offshore IT Services on Canada's IT Landscape"* and *"A Fine Balance - The Buying and Selling of Canada"*, penetrating Canadian studies of the offshore movement in IT and business services.

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