

**CONTRACT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY
Analysis of City Ranking Studies
(Revised and reposted July 26, 2010)**

Recently, a number of reports or scorecards have been published ranking Toronto against other cities, both within Canada and internationally. These have included Quality of Life reports, benchmarking economic performance and prosperity, and assessments of the cost of doing business. These rankings are intended to measure Toronto's relative strengths and weaknesses against other metropolitan areas, and to provide a basis for policy prescriptions which build on identified assets and address comparative deficits. However, the variances among the reports, from the cities used for comparison purposes to the indicators selected and the conclusions drawn, present challenges in determining an overall picture of how well or how poorly Toronto is performing. To determine their value to government policy-making, it is important to assess the reports themselves, the assumptions on which their respective designs are based, and how their design affects their results.

Research Tasks

The researcher will conduct a literature review to identify studies over the past 5 years which rank cities, including Toronto, against a defined set of indicators.

Based on the studies identified, the research will explore the following questions:

- Is there any agreement on what should be measured?
- Are there common elements to various methods for measuring performance and tracking trends, and for making comparisons with other jurisdictions at the municipal level?
- What is the impact on results of using one methodology over another?
- Have there been critiques of these methodologies and the indicators used and, if so, what are they?

The researcher will be responsible for the performing the following tasks:

- Performing a literature review as outlined above, with specific reference to measures where Toronto does well;
- Writing the initial draft of an analytical report;
- Developing a checklist of questions to guide policy-makers so that they can critically read city ranking studies;
- Completing the final written analytic report; and
- Presenting the findings of the final report to an ICE meeting.

Budget

The maximum budget for this contract research project is \$6,000 plus HST if applicable.

Application Process

To apply, email your resume and cover letter to info@icecommittee.org with the subject line "ICE Contract – City Rankings". Your cover letter should clearly outline how the combination of your education and experience makes you a good candidate for this research project.

Application deadline: **Friday, August 6, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

We encourage applications from current graduate students and graduates with relevant degrees. Credentials and professional experience earned either in Canada or internationally will be recognized.

For additional information, please contact info@icecommittee.org.

Note that only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

About the ICE Committee

The Intergovernmental Committee for Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (the ICE Committee) was established in 1997 by officials in the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and the City of Toronto. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the economic and labour force development activities of the three governments (and the various departments and ministries within each government) in Toronto. The ultimate goal of the ICE Committee is to achieve the effective delivery of economic and labour force development programs in Toronto. ICE has played a key role in bringing together critical players to share information on their respective programs and projects. For more information about ICE, please visit www.icecommittee.org.