

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD INVESTMENT PLAN**

Major street arteries to the north, south, east and west spatially define this neighbourhood. It is situated near the northeastern boundary of the City. It has been described as a community in transition as demonstrated by population growth in every census period since 1976 ranging from 12 to 20%. The growth in population can be attributed to the high rate of recent immigrants moving into the area. During the period of 1991-1996, 21% of all newcomers to Toronto arrived in this neighbourhood. This has led to the formation of communities of common bond based on culture and language.

### **Neighbourhood Assets and Challenges:**

Neighbourhood assets includes:

- Community leadership
- A vacant school
- Local employer base
- Recreational facility
- Library
- Public health services
- Schools
- Education (foreign trained professionals)
- Adjacent programs and services

This community's rich diversity is challenged by the reality of poverty. It has a high concentration of social housing, a large number of newcomers, lone parent families, and a large youth population that is unemployed/underemployed. It is identified as a high priority area within numerous reports.

The following features/concerns were identified during the asset mapping process:

- Growing youth population,
- High rates of poverty (children and families),
- Unemployment/Underemployment (foreign trained professionals and youth),
- Limited recreation programming for youth and seniors,
- Shortage of community space for programming,
- Access to green space
- Youth violence, and
- Isolation.

There are 20 organisations located adjacent to this neighbourhood offering programs and services, which address issues such as:

- Child and family,
- Employment, education and training
- Food
- Legal
- Health
- Homelessness
- Housing
- Seniors
- Settlement and newcomer
- Youth
- Culture

Groups/organisations within the geographic boundaries of the neighbourhood, and with varying levels of organisational capacity to involve local residents and offer programs and services which address the following issues:

Groups/organisation with capacity

- Subsidised housing
- Recreation

Groups/organisation with limited capacity

- School retention
- Food
- Youth leadership
- Tenant advocacy
- Faith

Groups/organisation lacking in capacity

- School retention
- Food
- Faith

Programs and services within this neighbourhood are generally limited to children and pre-teens. This neighbourhood does not access adjacent programs and services and has identified the need for local programs and services. Local agencies with limited organisational capacity have recognised the need to work collaboratively, with local and adjacent organisations and city staff to improve their capacity to involve residents and deliver programs/services.

Local community agencies with low levels of organisational capacity have expressed the need for additional resources if they are to increase resident involvement and program delivery capacity. These agencies have a mandate to provide services to specific ethno-racial populations within the neighbourhood and have strong leaders advocating on behalf of their communities.

The neighbourhood also lacks local leadership that is reflective of the neighbourhoods' diversity. It lacks a unified voice from some ethno-racial groups, and these groups generally access services from agencies located in adjacent areas.

Organisations and groups in this neighbourhood are limited in their ability to offer diverse programs and services as they are not able to meet the requirements of most funding programs. A mentoring relationship with more established organisations might improve their ability to access funds.

A Neighbourhood Investment Plan for this community must include:

- Support to formal/informal community groups and individuals to facilitate meaningful participation in the local neighbourhood investment partnership.
- Opportunities for local organisations to engage in a mentoring relationship with more experienced organisations to improve sustainability and share best practices.
- Orientation to the concepts involved in developing strong neighbourhoods and training for city staff, community organisation, local residents and business in the development of a Neighbourhood Investment Plan.
- A clear communication plan, accessible to all community stakeholders.
- Full-time dedicated Strong Neighbourhoods Unit staff to support the Local Neighbourhood Investment Partnership and liase with the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Board.

Proposed Indicators would include:

1. Increased Community Capacity, Services and Programs,
2. Employment opportunities,
3. Increased Training opportunities, and
4. Accessible green space and appearance.

Indicator	Outcomes	Actions	Funding/Resources	Timing (month/year)
<b>1. Increased Community Capacity, Services and Programs</b>	Local best practices for building sustainable programs are identified. Opportunities to share best practices are increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ financial support and <b>training for community leaders</b> to build a cohesive voice</li> <li>▪ Increased opportunities to demonstrate and build community unity</li> <li>▪ <b>Mentoring relationships</b> with more established organisations</li> <li>▪ <b>Multi-service centre</b> developed and managed by local community agencies with long term investment by government</li> <li>▪ Increase <b>Access to school space</b> for formal and informal groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Investment Fund</li> <li>▪ Local Neighbourhood Investment Partnership</li> <li>▪ Neighbourhoods first community space policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9/05</li> <li>▪ 9/05</li> <li>▪ 11/05</li> <li>▪ 6/06</li> <li>▪ 10/05</li> </ul>
<b>2. Employment opportunities</b>	Improved economic development prospects. Local businesses increase emphasis on local social benefits of business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information <b>campaign for the private sector</b> on the benefits of strong neighbourhoods.</li> <li>▪ Enhanced <b>training</b> opportunities provided by local employers</li> <li>▪ <b>Increase entrepreneurial opportunities</b> for individuals and groups through enhanced small business and CED support</li> <li>▪ <b>Marketing plan</b> which highlight skills sets available locally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Investment Fund</li> <li>▪ Private/Public/Voluntary sector local partnership</li> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Investment Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 8/05</li> <li>▪ 10/05</li> <li>▪ 2/06</li> <li>▪ 2/06</li> </ul>

Indicator	Outcomes	Actions	Funding/Resources	Timing (month/year)
<b>3. Training opportunities</b>	Local skills set gaps and educational/training assets identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local business <b>identify skills deficit</b> and job opportunities available</li> <li>▪ Increase local business use of government incentives to <b>increase the skills</b> of local residents</li> <li>▪ Short-term <b>training initiatives</b> to increase the skills of local residents</li> <li>▪ <b>youth training opportunities</b> which includes a continuum of services</li> <li>▪ <b>Early intervention</b> program for students who are identified as being at risk of leaving high school before graduation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Colleges/Universities/professional associations/unions and local schools</li> <li>▪ Public sector programs coordinated locally</li> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Investment Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 9/05</li> <li>▪ 10/05</li> <li>▪ 8/05</li> <li>▪ 9/05</li> <li>▪ 1/06</li> </ul>
<b>4. Space - appearance</b>	Accessible, safe green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish <b>community garden</b> spaces</li> <li>▪ <b>Increased lighting</b> on pathways and parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City of Toronto</li> <li>▪ TCHC</li> <li>▪ Local Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3/06</li> <li>▪ 10/05</li> </ul>