



THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN PEEL

Summary: Research Findings from Four Reports

F.A.C.E.S. of Peel Collaborative | 2015

Prepared by the Social Planning Council of Peel

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Report 1:

**Fighting an Uphill Battle:
Report on the Consultations into the Well-Being
of Black Youth in Peel Region**

F.A.C.E.S. of Peel Collaborative

March 2, 2015

Prepared by: Turner Consulting Group

Abstract

This report is about the social well-being of Black youth in Peel Region and the supports they need in order to improve their quality of life and achieve their aspirations. It was commissioned in 2014 by Faces of Peel (Facilitating Access, Change and Equity in Systems) - a collective made up of organizations and individuals who strive to improve the state of equity and inclusion in Peel's human services sector, with a major emphasis on racialized and marginalized groups, especially Black youth. The information in the report – mostly qualitative and perception data - was collected from consultations with Black youth, adult Black residents, service providers and key informants in Peel Region (a total of 103 respondents). The findings and recommendations are based on the acknowledgment of systemic anti-Black racism in Canada and are focused on issues of equity and inclusion in the Peel community, with emphasis on the educational system, employment and poverty, the Police and community-based services in Peel Region. The main audiences for this report and its recommendations are service providers, funders of public and social services, Black youth, and community leaders in the Black community.

Background

The Problem of Systemic Anti-Black Racism and Its Impact on the Well-Being of Black Youth

In 1992, the Government of Ontario commissioned a study of racism in Ontario. One of the major conclusions of its author, Stephen Lewis, was that outside of the historical racism against the indigenous peoples of Canada, the primary form of racism in Ontario and Canada as a whole is anti-Black racism. Lewis explained what he meant by “anti-Black” racism:

...what we are dealing with, at root, and fundamentally, is anti-Black racism. While it is obviously true that every visible minority community experiences the indignities and wounds of systemic discrimination throughout Southern Ontario, it is the Black community which is the focus. It is Blacks who are being shot; it is Black youth that is unemployed in excessive numbers; it is Black students who are being inappropriately streamed in schools; it is Black kids who are disproportionately dropping-out; it is housing communities with large concentrations of Black residents where the sense of vulnerability and disadvantage is most acute; it is Black employees, professional and non-professional, on whom the doors of upward equity slam shut. Just as the soothing balm of 'multiculturalism' cannot mask racism, so racism cannot mask its primary target (Lewis, 1992: 2).

In the 23 years since Lewis penned this statement about racism in Ontario, little has changed. The main indicators of this can be found in the high drop-out rates of Black high school students, the high levels of unemployment and poverty in the Black population relative to other groups, and the over-representation of Blacks in Canada's prisons. In Ontario, the percentage of youth not graduating from high school is approximately 9%; for Blacks in Toronto, it is approximately 23% (Toronto District School Board, 2013). Blacks earn approximately 76 cents of every dollar earned by a White worker, and Blacks account for 10% of the prisoners in Canadian jails even though Blacks comprise 3% of the total Canadian population (Toronto Star, January 13, 2013). The short term impact of these negative social indicators is the impoverishment and social exclusion of Blacks in Canadian society. The long-term impact is the build up of rage and sadness in the psyche of the Black population and their feelings of alienation and estrangement from mainstream Canadian society.

Description of Study and Research Undertaken

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To document the social well-being of Black youth in Peel Region and to identify the supports needed to help them succeed - from the perspectives of Black youth, other members of the Black community, and service providers in Peel.

VALUES FRAMEWORK OF REPORT

Equity and Inclusion

Public discussion of racialized and marginalized groups should be focused not on the deficits of those groups but on the rights of the latter to fair and equitable treatment in society and those factors (systemic, cultural and personal) that are barriers to fair and equitable treatment of those groups.

Data Collection for Equity and Inclusion

When equity and inclusion are core values of a society, then collection of data related to these values becomes a moral and political imperative. This means that data should be collected to show how different groups in society are being treated in different areas of society and the impact of that treatment on the well-being of the different groups and their right to fair and equitable treatment . For Black people, three major areas for equity-related data collection are the education system, employment, and Police services.

Responsive and Proactive Public Policies and Services

Services provided to citizens should be responsive to the needs of citizens as directed by those citizens. This implies that service providers should proactively engage and consult with citizens in order to plan and deliver services that are socially and culturally appropriate for them.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Primary Data: Interviews with 20 key informants; On-line survey of 23 Black youth; Focus Groups with 30 Black residents in Peel; Interviews with 30 service providers.

Secondary Data: Summary of demographic and socio-economic data on the Black community; summary of the literature on Blacks in Peel and other North American jurisdictions.

It is important to note that aside from the information in the professional literature and the socio-economic data, the majority of the information provided in the report is “perception” data collected via consultation with members of the Black community and service providers.

Summary of Findings

Common Themes in the Findings

A rapidly growing Black population in Peel; anti-Black racism; more racism towards Black males than females; negative stereotypes of Blacks in the media; under-representation and underemployment of Blacks in the workforce; services of public institutions, city governments and community agencies ill – equipped to address the needs and aspirations of the Black community, especially those of Black youth.

The Black Population in Peel (Census of Canada, 2011)

There are 116,225 Black persons living in Peel Region. They comprise 9% of the total Peel population and represent 28% of the Black population in the Greater Toronto Area. The majority of the Black population in Peel lives in Brampton (60%), followed by 39% in Mississauga, and 1 % in Caledon. The Black population is not a culturally homogenous group. Many of them emigrated from the Caribbean (39%) and Africa (12%). Almost half of the Blacks in Peel are Canadian-born (43%). The Black population in Peel is increasing at a relatively high rate. Between 2001 and 2011 it grew by 64%, compared to a 31% growth rate for the Peel population as a whole.

The Black Youth Population (ages 15 -24)

Children and youth make up 44 % of the Black population in Peel. The comparative figure for Peel as a whole is 35%. Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 make up 17% of the Black population in Peel. The comparative figure for the total Peel population is 14%. Similarly, 27% of the Black population is under age 15 compared to 21% of the Peel population as a whole.

Feelings of Social Inclusion and Belonging in Peel Region

While some of the participants in the study expressed their satisfaction about living in Peel Region and being socially active in many aspects of community life, others reported that many Black youth feel unwanted, devalued and socially isolated in Peel Region. This is the case, they said, because racism against Blacks was a part of their everyday life. Several of the examples given of this pertained to Black youth's experience in schools and the negative stereotypes of Blacks in the media, especially negative stereotypes of young Black males. It was frequently mentioned that Black males were treated more harshly by the "system" than Black females. This was attributed in part to Black males being stereotyped as dangerous and Black females being stereotyped as promiscuous. Other factors cited as barriers to Black youth feeling a sense of belonging in Peel were:

- the high cost of public transportation which affected their ability to participate in local community programs and to apply for employment
- the lack of positive role models in their schools and in the community at large
- recreational facilities and activities that did not reflect the interests of Black youth (for example, more hockey centres and baseball diamonds than basketball courts)
- some neighbourhoods with a high concentration of poor black families and few social services
- racial profiling by Police; Police stopping Black youth for questioning with little or no justification

Education

While there is no official data on high school drop-out rates for Blacks in Peel, the comparative figure for Blacks in nearby Toronto is 23% compared to 9% for Ontario (Rushowy, 2013). Black youth in Peel reported feelings of isolation and marginalization in the public education system. The following factors were mentioned as contributors to their feelings of exclusion:

- Teacher's low expectations of Black students (compared to their expectation of Asian and White students)
- The relative absence of Blacks and Black culture in the curriculum in a positive manner
- Relatively few Black teachers in schools
- More encouragement of Black students in sports than in academic studies (but not in some sports such as hockey and tennis)
- Streaming of Black students away from math, science and the academic track to university studies
- Differential discipline of students based on race, with Black students being disciplined more harshly than non-Black students
- The presence of Police in schools (often strikes fear and mistrust in Black students)

Employment and Poverty

The unemployment rate for youth in Toronto aged 15 – 14 is 20% compared to 30% for Black youth in the same age group in Toronto (Civic Action, 2014). Black youth in Peel reported that they face difficulty in securing employment even after completing college or university. The high rate of unemployment among Black youth and the high level of poverty in the Black population serve to make them vulnerable to low self-esteem and other mental health issues (Connely et al., 2014). They also reduce the ability of Black youth to participate in recreational activities and the social life of the community. This situation is compounded by the fact that 18% of the Black population in Peel live on low incomes (compared to 15% of the Peel population) and that Blacks earn, on average, 76 cents for every dollar a White worker earns (Block and Galabuzi, 2011).

Police Services

Black youth are over-represented in Canadian prisons even as the incarceration rates of young men have steadily declined since the introduction of the Youth Criminal Justice Act in 2003 (Rankin and Winsa, 2013). Black youth in Peel reported their distrust of Peel Police due in large part to racial profiling of Blacks by Police and the fact that Police tend to stop Blacks for questioning more than other groups. They also reported not feeling comfortable with Police in schools. One of the factors related to negative interaction between Black youth and the Police is the inaccessibility of safe recreational spaces for Black youth due to the fees charged for using those spaces or the cost of public transportation to get to those spaces (McMurty and Curling, 2008). Instead of going to communal recreational spaces such as community centres, tennis clubs, and programs for youth, Black youth would often “hang out” in shopping malls or public parks which do not charge a fee for being on the premises. However, in a society characterized by anti-Black racism, such gatherings of young Black men is not valued and is seen as potentially dangerous and, thereby, cause for surveillance by the Police.

Community Services

Service providers along with key informants indicated that there is a shortage of culturally appropriate and accessible programs and services needed to support Black youth in Peel. In this situation, investments need to be made for supporting mainstream organizations to better serve the Black community as well as supporting the development of Black human service organizations.

As of 2014, there were 17 community-based service organizations that provided services to the Black population in Peel (Social Planning Council of Peel, 2014). Fourteen (14) of these were Black-focused organizations; however, only 6 of them provided social services, and only 2 of them offered programs for Black youth. Some of the mainstream agencies that participated in the study reported that they were aware of the needs of the Black community and had taken steps to develop their capacity to serve the latter. Others reported that they lacked the capacity to serve the Black population due to shortage of staff, not enough funding, and their limited knowledge of the Black community.

Some respondents reported that there were few Black male social workers in Peel's community service organizations and that this should be addressed because of the need to reach Black youth who feel isolated and marginalized and the need to provide services that are culturally appropriate for the diverse groups in the Black community.

Black youth reported that very often they were unaware of the services that were available in the community. They also pointed out that even in the organizations that were supposed to serve diverse groups – the settlement agencies or agencies serving immigrants - the staff were not very diverse, and hardly any Blacks were staff members or volunteers.

Recommendations

The recommendations are directed at three major groups of players in Peel’s human services sector:

- Public Institutions (Education, Police, Municipal Governments)
- Community Service Organizations
- Funders

In addition, the recommendations are focused on issues pertaining to equity and inclusion, data collection for equity purposes, and the use of a responsive and proactive approach to service planning and service delivery for the Black community, especially Black youth

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN PEEL REGION

1. The Public Education System in Peel

- 1.1. Mandatory training of teachers about anti-Black racism, equity and the provision of educational services to Black students in order to mitigate the effects of workplace and worker bias against Black students.
- 1.2. Hiring of Black teachers
- 1.3. Consultation with the Black community on identifying best practices for creating curriculum that reflects and values the diverse student population
- 1.4. Addressing the school-to-prison pipeline for Black students: reviewing and addressing the high drop-out rate of Black students and the over-representation of Black youth in Canadian prisons.
- 1.5. Exploration/community discussion about the feasibility of having an Afro-Centric school in Peel
- 1.6. Data collection and public reporting of student achievement and student discipline by the characteristics of students (gender, age, race, disability, etc.)
- 1.7. Development of a systematic approach for consulting with the Black community on a regular and proactive basis: establishment of a “Cultural Consultation Team” for teachers, parents and community members. This team would provide guidance and support for improving outcomes specific to Black students and would address issues related to racism, mental health, poverty, etc.

2. Police Services in Peel

- 2.1. Mandatory training of Police officers about the Black community and how to provide services to the latter in culturally appropriate ways
- 2.2. Hiring of Black Police Officers
- 2.3. Review and modification of the practice of having Police in schools and the impact on Black students. Focus on using Police as positive role models for Black youth and as a way of building trust and respectful relationships between the Police and Black youth
- 2.4. Data collection and public reporting on interaction between Police Officers and members of the community by characteristics of citizens (gender, race, age, disability, etc.) In particular, issues of racial profiling should be examined through the collection and analysis of police contact and arrest data by race and gender in Peel Region.
- 2.5. Development of a systematic approach for regular and proactive consultation with the Black community Peel Police to develop and implement a strategy for improving outreach to the Black community and recruitment of candidates for Police officer positions.

3. Municipal Governments in Peel

- 3.1. Provision of subsidized tickets for public transportation to persons living on low incomes
- 3.2. Review of recreational centres and programs to assess their accessibility by Black youth and making the necessary changes
- 3.3. Hiring of Black workers
- 3.4. Collaboration with other service providers to create a “Community Hub” of services and supports for Black youth at the neighbourhood level. The hub would provide cultural, arts, and entertainment programs for Black youth in an accessible and affordable manner to minimize the level of isolation among Black youth.
- 3.5. It is recommended that the Region of Peel work with community partners (like the Regional Diversity Roundtable) to develop an anti-racism public education campaign to support the social inclusion of Blacks and all racialized residents within the Peel community to build a truly inclusive community.
- 3.6. Collection and public reporting of data on municipal employees, municipal services and users of municipal services in relation to the personal and ethnic characteristics of the employees and service users (gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, etc.)
- 3.7. Development and implementation of a strategy for regular proactive consultations with members of the Black community. (For example, a Black Advisory Group for the City of Brampton.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES IN PEEL REGION

4. Mainstream Agencies, Immigrant Serving Agencies, Black-Focused Agencies

- 4.1. Review of their programs, services and client population to assess the extent which they are serving the needs of Peel's Black population. This should be followed by appropriate strategies to better address the gaps, including educating staff about the needs of the Black population in Peel, providing culturally relevant services, and conducting outreach to ensure that Blacks in Peel know about and can access these services.
- 4.2. Taking steps to ensure that their staff and decision-makers reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. As such, organizations should commit to and implement Employment Equity Programs and board diversity programs.
- 4.3. Staff Training: the Black community; how to provide services to the Black community in culturally appropriate ways
- 4.4. Hiring of Black Workers
- 4.5. Hiring of Black male workers
- 4.6. Provision of mentorship programs for Black youth
- 4.7. Provision of programs for Black youth that are focused on entrepreneurship
- 4.8. Development and implementation of an employment outreach plan for Black youth at the neighbourhood level. (To be done in collaboration with employers in the public and private sectors and with Black-focused agencies.)
- 4.9. Collection and public report of data on clients, services provided to clients, and client impact or outcomes by the characteristics of the clients (gender, race, age, ethnicity, area of residence, etc.)
- 4.10. Collaboration and sharing of resources among Black-focused agencies. (For example: establish a network of Black-focused agencies in Peel; establish a network of Black social workers in Peel)
- 4.11. Under the leadership of FACES of Peel Collaborative, organizations from all sectors be engaged to develop a strategic approach to assessing and addressing the issues facing vulnerable Black youth in Peel Region.
- 4.12. Development and implementation of a strategy for regular proactive consultations with members of the Black community. (For example, networking and collaborating with the Black Community Action Network for Peel /BCAN and with the Black Community Advisory Committee of the United Way of Peel.)

FUNDERS IN PEEL REGION

- 5.1. Place equal emphasis on commitment to the values of equity and inclusion in addition to valuing commitments about service outcomes (in funding proposals, service management, organizational management). Ask organizations and agencies within Peel to place high priority on issues of race and marginalization as part of their agendas and/or strategic plans.
- 5.2. Documentation and review of the pattern of funding to different racial and ethnic groups in Peel to reveal the extent to which Black-focused agencies and programs focused on Blacks are funded compared to those for other racial and ethnic groups.
- 5.3. Increase in investments to strengthen Black human service organizations and build their capacity to better meet the needs of the Black community.
- 5.4. Increase in investments to strengthen the capacity of mainstream agencies and immigrant-serving agencies to meet the needs and aspirations of the Black community
- 5.5. Increase in investments in programs and services for Black youth
- 5.6. Provision of funding for the collection of equity data by agencies: on the use of services by individuals and families from different population groups and the impact of the services on those individuals and families
- 5.7. Collaboration among funders in the Peel Funders 'Consortium for the purpose of improving the quality of life for Black youth.
- 5.8. Development and Implementation of a strategy for regular and proactive consultation with members of the Black community in Peel.

Report 2:

A Socio-Economic Profile of the Black Population in Peel, 2006 & 2011

F.A.C.E.S. of Peel Collaborative

September 2014

Prepared by: The Social Planning Council of Peel

Introduction

As of 2011, there were 116,265 Black people living in Peel Region (a growth of 21.8% since 2006). This report provides an overview of selected demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the Black population in Peel. The information provided may be useful for determining priorities for social services and community development for the Black community in Peel Region as a whole and within specific Peel municipalities.

The report is divided into two sections. The first section provides demographic information as per the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The second section provides more specific socio-economic information by forward sortation area (FSA)*. Due to limited availability of data from the NHS, this information is based on data from Statistics Canada's 2006 Census of Canada for residents in private households only (Special Custom Cross-Tabulation).

The remainder of the executive summary is organized in the following categories:

1. Comparison of the Black population in Peel to the Black population in Ontario and Canada
2. Summary of the socio-economic status of the Black population in Peel and its municipalities (Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon; 2011)
3. 2006 fact sheet on the Black population in Peel
4. Summary of overall themes and trends based on the data about the Black population in Peel.

*FSA refers to the first three letters of a postal code. For more information, see Appendix D.

Blacks in Peel Compared to Blacks in Ontario and Canada, 2006 & 2011

Peel has a greater proportion of Black people within its population than Ontario or Canada. Blacks comprise 9.0% of the total Peel population; 4.3% of the Ontario population, and 2.9% of the Canadian population. Furthermore, between 2006 and 2011, the rate of growth of the black population in Peel was 21.8% versus only 14.3% in Ontario and 21.1% in Canada. The vulnerabilities and strengths of Blacks living in Peel are revealed through further comparison between the Black population in Peel and the Black population in Ontario and Canada.

Peel Versus Ontario and Canada, 2011:

- Compared to Ontario and Canada, Peel has a higher proportion of ethnic origins reported as African and Selected Caribbean¹ and a higher proportion of Jamaican immigrants.
- Peel has a lower male to female ratio within its Black population and a smaller proportion of immigrants from Haiti than Ontario or Canada.
- Peel has a larger proportion of immigrants from Africa in comparison to Ontario, but a smaller proportion compared to Canada.

Peel Versus Ontario and Canada, 2006:

With richer data available from the 2006 Census of Canada [Special Custom Cross-Tabulation], a more detailed contrast can be seen. A comparative perspective of Peel yields a picture which says that on average, the Black population in Peel, compared to the Black population of Ontario and Canada as a whole, is:

- more likely to report English as their mother tongue
- more family-oriented
- more property conscious (likely to own their homes)
- better-educated (more likely to have high school education or above)
- more involved in the labour market
- richer (economically speaking), and
- more diverse (likely to be born outside Canada)

¹“Selected Caribbean” origins includes, from the origins reported by Statistics Canada, those that are associated with a Caribbean country that has a population with over 85% Black people. This was determined using figures from The World Factbook (see Appendix A).

The Black Population in Peel and its Municipalities, 2011

The following table summarizes information on Peel's Black population obtained from the 2011 National Household Survey:

Characteristic	Peel	Mississauga	Brampton	Caledon
Proportion of Blacks in Population	9.0%	6.3%	13.5%	2.0%
Rate of Growth of Black Population between 2006 and 2011	21.8%	8.3%	31.9%	40.1%
Proportion of Blacks that are Male	46.4%	45.6%	47.0%	46.5%
Proportion of Blacks that are Female	53.6%	54.4%	53.0%	53.1%
African/Selected Caribbean origins as % of total reported origins	8.6%	6.9%	11.7%	2.2%
% Immigrants from Africa	5.6%	5.8%	5.4%	1.2%
Top countries of Immigration from Africa	1. Egypt 2. Nigeria 3. Kenya	1. Egypt 2. Nigeria 3. Kenya	1. Nigeria 2. Kenya 3. Egypt	1. South Africa 2. Kenya
% Recent Immigrants* from Africa	8.1%	9.0%	6.8%	0.0%
Top countries of Recent Immigration from Africa	1. Nigeria 2. Egypt 3. Mauritius	1. Egypt 2. Nigeria 3. Mauritius	1. Nigeria 2. Mauritius 3. Cameroon	None
% Immigrants from Jamaica	5.0%	3.1%	7.8%	4.4%
% Recent Immigrants from Jamaica	2.9%	1.4%	5.1%	0.0%

- As can be seen above, Brampton had the highest proportion of Blacks within its population, a faster rate of growth of its Black population than Mississauga, and the highest proportion of ethnic origins reported as African/Selected Caribbean.
- Brampton also had the closest male to female ratio, though all of the municipalities had more Black females than Black males.
- Mississauga had the greatest proportion of African immigrants, while Brampton had the greatest proportion of Jamaican immigrants. (There was no significant immigration from other Caribbean countries with high Black populations).

* *Recent immigrants* are immigrants who landed in Canada between January 1, 2006 and May 10, 2011.

- The highest African immigration in Mississauga was from Egypt, while in Brampton it was from Nigeria, and in Caledon it was from South Africa. *(It is important to emphasize that not all people reporting origins or being born in Africa will identify as being Black.)*
- While Caledon's Black population grew at the fastest rate, it still had the lowest proportion of Blacks within its population, compared to Brampton and Mississauga.
- Despite the high rate of growth of the Black population in Caledon between 2006 and 2011, there was no recent immigration of Blacks to Caledon from Africa or Jamaica (as of 2011). This suggests the increase may be due to Blacks moving to Caledon from other places in Canada or countries outside of Africa and the Caribbean.

THE BLACK POPULATION, 2006 PEEL REGION

Population

Total Black Population	95,490	100.0%
Male	44,300	46.4%
Female	51,195	53.6%

Age Groups

0 - 4 years	7,895	8.3%
5 - 9 years	8,530	8.9%
10 - 14 years	9,715	10.2%
15 - 24 years	15,930	16.7%
25 - 44 years	29,325	30.7%
45 - 64 years	19,275	20.2%
65+ years	4,815	5.0%

Place of Birth

Total Black Population	95,490	100.0%
Born in Canada	41,260	43.2%
Born Outside Canada	54,225	56.8%
African Countries	11,210	11.7%
Caribbean or Bermuda	37,525	39.3%
Other Countries	5,495	5.8%

Immigrant Status by Period of Immigration

Total Black Population	95,490	100.0%
Non-permanent residents	1,150	1.2%
Non-immigrants	41,335	43.3%
Immigrants	53,005	55.5%
Before 1961	360	0.4%
1961 to 1970	5,265	5.5%
1971 to 1980	12,580	13.2%
1981 to 1990	11,915	12.5%
1991 to 2000	15,425	16.2%
2001 to 2006	7,455	7.8%

Language (Mother Tongue) [single/multiple response]

Total Black Population	95,490	100.0%
English	84,755	88.8%
French	1,000	1.0%
Non-Official Languages	9,730	10.2%

Marital Status (Persons 15+ Years)

Total Black Population 15 yrs.+	69,350	100.0%
Single	31,510	45.4%
Married	26,970	38.9%
Separated	3,775	5.4%
Divorced	5,615	8.1%
Widowed	1,485	2.1%

Home Ownership

Total Black Population	95,490	100.0%
Owners	69,915	73.2%
Renters	25,570	26.8%

Census Family Status

Lone parents	10,250	10.7%
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Household Living Arrangements

Persons living alone	4,085	4.3%
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Education (Highest Level Achieved)

Total Population 15+ years	69,350	100.0%
No Certificate or Diploma	12,395	17.9%
High School Certificate	18,005	26.0%
Trades with Cert/Diploma	7,670	11.1%
Community College	16,700	24.1%
University:		
Without degree	4,870	7.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9,710	14.0%

Employment (Persons 15+ Years)

Labour Force Participation Rate	52,700	76.0%
Unemployment Rate	4,120	7.8%

Employment Income, 2005 (Persons 15+ years)

Average Employment Income	\$32,523
Median Employment Income	\$30,035

Total Income, 2005 (Persons 15+ years)

Average Income	\$31,394
Median Income	\$28,432

Low Income by Living Arrangement, 2005

Persons in Private Households

Living on low income before tax	17,400	18.2%
Living on low income after tax	13,460	14.1%

Persons in Economic Families

Living on low income before tax	15,275	17.2%
Living on low income after tax	11,630	13.1%

Unattached Individuals

Living on low income before tax	2,125	31.9%
Living on low income after tax	1,825	27.5%

Themes or Trends in the Black Population in Peel (2006)

Theme/Trend	Social Indicators	Implications for Human Services Sector
Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peel's Black population is growing at a faster rate than Peel's population as a whole (21.8% versus 11.9% respectively between 2006 and 2011). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased demand for social, health, housing, employment, language training and other services for the Black population
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The majority of Blacks in Peel are immigrants (53,005 or 55.5%) ▪ The majority of the Black immigrants in Peel are from Africa and the Caribbean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased demand for culturally appropriate services for the Black population. ▪ Increased demand for settlement services for Black immigrants. ▪ Increased demand for diversity management training for health and social services organizations.
Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black persons living on low incomes: 17,440 (18.2%) ▪ Black single parents: 10,250 (10.7%) ▪ Black unemployed persons: 4,120 (7.8%) ▪ Black persons living alone: 4,080 (4.3%) ▪ The number of divorced Black persons increased by 55% between 2001 and 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased demand for income support and employment training for the Black population. ▪ Increased demand for affordable housing, affordable recreation services, dental services, etc. for Blacks in Peel. ▪ Increased demand for family support services for the Black community.
Resilience and Civic Capital	<p>Compared to Canada and Ontario:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peel has a larger percentage of Blacks as homeowners. ▪ Peel has a higher percentage of Blacks earning more than \$50,000 per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased demand (need) for civic participation in the Peel community at large, including opportunities for volunteerism and other forms of civic engagement and leadership.

Conclusion

The Black population in Peel has continued to grow. While it has experienced some vulnerabilities, such as a relatively high percentage of people living on low incomes, it has also shown resilience with a large proportion of homeowners and a fair number of people earning over \$50,000 per year. Furthermore, compared to the Black populations of Ontario and Canada as a whole, Blacks in Peel experience better socio-economic conditions in their personal lives.

The information conveyed in this report is intended to provide a general picture of the Black population in Peel, which may be used to aid in appropriately planning and prioritizing services. To examine more specific geographic areas of interest, the reader may wish to refer to Section II of the report, which contains socio-economic characteristics of the Black population by FSA (by postal code). While the data provided should be used with caution due to its age, it serves as a starting point for aiding in community planning and may provide a basis for further research.

Report 3:

**Socio-Economic Status of the Black Population
by Peel Neighbourhoods, 2006**

F.A.C.E.S. of Peel Collaborative

January 2015

Prepared by: The Social Planning Council of Peel

Abstract

Many studies on how to improve the quality of life of citizens recommend focusing public policy and social programs on where people actually live: local neighbourhoods. This paper provides a preliminary comparative analysis of the socio-economic status of the Black population across neighbourhoods in Peel Region. Thirty-one (31) neighbourhoods in Peel are included in this study. The focus of analysis is on three areas of socio-economic status: education, employment, and income. A total of twelve (12) social indicators related to these three areas of socio-economic status are chosen for analysis.

The taxonomic method is used to measure and analyze variations among the neighbourhoods with respect to the socio-economic status of Blacks in Peel. The findings of this research reveal many differences among Blacks in Peel both within and among neighbourhoods, with the neighbourhood of Urban Caledon (L7C) having the highest percentage of Blacks of high socio-economic status, and that of East Brampton (L6T) having the highest percentage of Blacks of low socio-economic status. The findings of this study can be used to inform the development of public policy and the provision of services for the Black community.

Education

- At the neighbourhood level, Bolton (L7E) had the highest proportion of its Black population with no certificate, diploma or degree (28.0%) followed by West Creditview/Mavis/Erindale (L5C) with 25.4% and Malton (L4T) with 24.1%.
- The neighbourhoods with the lowest percentage of the Black population with no certificate, diploma or degree were Urban Caledon (L7C) with 8.7%, Central Lakeview (L5E) with 11.3%, and Meadowvale Village/West Gateway (L5W) with 12.5%.
- Urban Caledon (L7C) also had the highest proportion of university graduates within its Black population (27.5%), followed by Churchill Meadows/Central Erin Mills/South Streetsville (L5M) with 21.5%, and Bolton (L7E) with 20.0%.
- Malton (L4T) had the lowest proportion of university graduates within its Black population (5.7%), followed by Southeast Brampton (L6W) with 6.6% and East Brampton (L6T) with 7.6%.
- Of Blacks with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree, Urban Caledon (L7C) had the greatest proportion who received it within Canada (95.5%), while West Port Credit/Lorne Park/East Sheridan (L5H) had the lowest with 63.9%.

Employment

- The highest unemployment rate amongst the Black population was in West Port Credit/Lorne Park/East Sheridan (L5H) with 15.7% unemployed, while the lowest was in Urban Caledon (L7C) with 3.4% unemployed.
- West Port Credit/Lorne Park/East Sheridan (L5H) had the highest proportion of Black people who were self-employed (14.9%), while Matheson/East Rathwood (L4W) had the lowest (0%).
- Urban Caledon (L7C) had the greatest proportion of its Black community with management occupations (15.5%) while Central Lakeview (L5E) had the lowest with 0%.
- The highest proportion of Blacks with business, finance and administrative occupations was in Central Lakeview (L5E) with 34.1%, while Bolton (L7E) had the lowest with 16.7%.
- The proportion of the Black population employed in health occupations was highest in West Port Credit/Lorne Park/East Sheridan (L5H) with 14.9%, and lowest in Bolton (L7E) with 0%.
- West Port Credit/Lorne Park/East Sheridan (L5H) had the greatest percentage of its Black population (38.3%) in sales and service occupations, while Southwest Brampton (L6X) had the lowest with 17.8%.

Income

- Central Lakeview (L5E) had the highest percentage of Black families living on low incomes (46.6%) while Urban Caledon (L7C) had the lowest percentage (3.8%).
- The neighbourhoods with the three highest percentages of Black families living on low incomes were: Central Lakeview (L5E), 46.6%; Mississauga Valley/East Cooksville (L5A), 30.4%; and West Applewood/West Dixie/Northwest Lakeview (L4Y), 30.3%.
- The neighbourhoods with the three lowest median employment incomes for Blacks were: Southwest Lakeview/Mineola/East Port Credit (L5G), \$19,884; Southeast Brampton (L6W), \$22,758; and East Brampton (L6T), \$23,345.
- The neighbourhoods with the three highest median employment incomes amongst the Black population were: Bolton (L7E) with \$43,609; Urban Caledon (L7C) with \$40,555; and Meadowvale Village/West Gateway (L5W) with \$39,961.
- The highest rate of home ownership was in Urban Caledon (L7C) with 100%. This was followed by Northwest Brampton (L6R) and West Brampton (L7A) Brampton with 96.1% and 95.4% respectively.
- Home ownership amongst the Black population was lowest in East Applewood/East Dixie/Northeast Lakeview (L4X) with 27.9%, followed by Mississauga Valley/East Cooksville (L5A) with 35.5%, and Southwest Lakeview/Mineola/East Port Credit (L5G) with 36.6%.

A Comparative Perspective of Peel Neighbourhoods With Respect to the Socio-Economic Status of Their Black Population

Peel Neighbourhoods with High Socio-Economic Status of the Black Population:

Urban Caledon (L7C), Meadowvale Village/West Gateway (L5W), Churchill Meadows/Central Erin Mills/South Streetsville (L5M), West Sheridan (L5K), Lisgar/Meadowvale (L5N) and West Central Brampton (L6Z).

Peel Neighbourhoods with Medium Socio-Economic Status of the Black Population:

West Brampton (L7A)	Erin Mills/Western Business Park (L5L)
Central Brampton (L6V)	West Rathwood/East Hurontario/Southeast Gateway (L4Z)
East Credit (L5V)	West Hurontario/Southwest Gateway (L5R)
North Brampton (Gore) (L6P)	East Applewood/East Dixie/Northeast Lakeview (L4X)
North Central Brampton (L6S)	West Port Credit/Lorne Park/East Sheridan (L5H)
Southwest Brampton (L6X)	Mississauga Valley/East Cooksville (L5A)
Northwest Brampton (L6R)	West Cooksville/Fairview/City Centre/ East Creditview (L5B)
South Brampton (L6Y)	West Creditview/Mavis/Erindale (L5C)
Clarkson/Southdown (L5J)	
Bolton (L7E)	

Peel Neighbourhoods with Low Socio-Economic Status of the Black Population:

Matheson/East Rathwood (L4W), Southwest Lakeview/Mineola/East Port Credit (L5G), West Applewood/West Dixie/Northwest Lakeview (L4Y), Malton (L4T), Central Lakeview (L5E), Southeast Brampton (L6W) and East Brampton (L6T).

The Relationship Between the Size of the Black Population in a Neighbourhood and the Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Black Population

Another important consideration is the relationship between the concentration of the Black population within neighbourhoods and the socio-economic characteristics of that population. For example, Malton (L4T) has a high concentration of Blacks in its total population, with a high percentage of these Blacks being of low socio-economic status. In contrast, Lisgar/Meadowvale (L5N) has a high concentration of Blacks in its population, but many of them are of high socio-economic status. On the other hand, Urban Caledon (L7C) and West Sheridan (L5K) have a relatively low concentration of Blacks in their total population, but these Blacks are of high socio-economic status. In other words, it is not wise to generalize about the socio-economic status of the Black community in a neighbourhood based on the number of Blacks in the neighbourhood. A large Black population in a neighbourhood does not necessarily mean that the majority of that population are of high socio-economic status. Similarly, a small population of Blacks in a neighbourhood does not mean that the majority of those Blacks are of low socio-economic status.

Socio-Economic Index Black Population in the Neighbourhood	High Socio-Economic Status (0-0.682)	Medium Socio-Economic Status (0.683-0.894)	Low Socio-Economic Status (0.695-1)
High Concentration (5000-10,500)	Lisgar/Meadowvale (L5N)	West Brampton (L7A), Southwest Brampton (L6X), Northwest Brampton (L6R), South Brampton (L6Y)	Malton (L4T)
Medium Concentration (1000-4999)	Meadowvale Village / West Gateway (L5W), Churchill Meadows/Central Erin Mills/South Streetsville (L5M), West Central Brampton (L6Z)	Central Brampton (L6V), West Rathwood/East Hurontario/Southeast Gateway (L4Z), East Credit (L5V), West Hurontario/Southwest Gateway (L5R), North Brampton (L6P), North Central Brampton (L6S), Erin Mills/Western Business Park (L5L), Clarkson/Southdown (L5J), Mississauga Valley/East Cooksville (L5A), West Cooksville/Fairview/City Centre/East Creditview (L5B), West Creditview /Mavis/Erindale (L5C)	Southeast Brampton (L6W), East Brampton (L6T)
Low Concentration (0-999)	Urban Caledon (L7C), West Sheridan (L5K)	East Applewood/East Dixie/Northeast Lakeview (L4X), West Port Credit/Lorne Park/ East Sheridan (L5H), Bolton (L7E)	Matheson /East Rathwood (L4W), Southwest Lakeview /Mineola/ East Port Credit (L5G), West Applewood/West Dixie/ Northwest Lakeview (L4Y), Central Lakeview (L5E)

Report 4:

**An Inventory of Agencies that Serve the Black Community and Youth
in Peel Region**

F.A.C.E.S. of Peel Collaborative

September 2014

Prepared by: The Social Planning Council of Peel

A. Number of Black-focused Organizations in Peel Region

- **Fourteen** (14) Black-focused organizations in Peel Region.
- **Three** (3) mainstream agencies offering specific services for the Black community (for Black seniors).
- **Four** (4) agencies in Toronto serving the Black population in Peel. (mental health, HIV/AIDs prevention, youth in the criminal justice system)

B. Organizational Characteristics

- 42.9% of the 14 organizations that target the Black community in Peel are registered charities and are thereby able to receive grants directly from funders.
- 17.3 years is the average age of Black human service organizations in Peel.
- 20.8 years is the average age of Black-focused organizations registered as charities in 2013.
- The majority of the agencies serving Blacks in Peel are located in Mississauga. There are no Black-focused agencies in Caledon.

Location	Number of Agencies Focused on Serving the Black Population
Mississauga	10
Brampton	4
Caledon	0

C. Target Groups/Primary Service Areas of Black-Focused Agencies

The following is a distribution of the 14 Black-focused organizations in Peel by the primary focus of their services.

Type of Black-Focused Organization in Peel (2014)	Number (n = 14)
Social Services: Settlement, Education, Employment, Counselling, etc.	6
Youth	2
Women	1
Black Francophones	1
Sports and Culture	2
Advisory/Planning Groups	2

There are at least three mainstream agencies in Peel that offer programs specifically designed for the Black population. These agencies are:

1. **The Women's Centre of Peel** (does substantive outreach to the Black community and provides culturally appropriate services to Black women from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds)
2. **Malton Neighbourhood Services** (provides a program for Caribbean seniors)
3. **Elderhelp Peel** (provides programs for seniors from Caribbean and African countries)

D. Services for Black Youth

- 65% of the 14 Black-focused organizations offer programs and services for youth.
- The top three services for youth offered by organizations specializing in serving the Black population in Peel are:
 1. Pro-social Relationships (n = 9)
 2. Academic Achievement (n = 7)
 3. Mentorship (n = 6)
 4. Community Engagement/ Volunteering (n = 6)
 5. Physical Activity/ Recreation (n = 6)

Black-focused Organizations in Peel in Relation to Services Identified in *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* (2013)

Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed (2013), is a document prepared by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to help the government and agencies to “step up and do more” for the children and youth of Ontario. Stepping Up identifies a wide range of services that are needed for the well-being of youth in Ontario. According to this report, programs and services are greatly needed to assist children and youth with mental health issues, escaping poverty, avoiding conflict with the law, and finding employment in order to grow up into healthy, happy, successful adults.

E. Gaps in Services for Black Youth in Peel

The 14 organizations that target the Black community in Peel offer services in all of the enumerated categories outlined within the seven guiding themes in the Government of Ontario's Report on Youth: *Stepping Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed* (2013), with the exception of four services types:

- Apprenticeship / Skilled Trades
- Community Hub/Meeting Area/ Storefront
- Reintegration Services
- Business Skills & Management

Furthermore, given the over-representation of Blacks and Black youth in Canadian jails, there is a great need for services that are focused on helping Black youth to graduate from high school, to enter into colleges and universities, and to find employment. Related to this is the need for a careful examination of the treatment of Black youth by the criminal justice system compared to the latter's treatment of youth from other racial backgrounds.

F. Gaps in Services for the Black Community in Peel

Overall there are relatively few services for the Black population in Peel. There are 14 Black agencies in Peel compared to 15 agencies for South Asians and 10 agencies for the Chinese in Peel. As of 2014, there are no Black agencies in Peel focused specifically on

- Services for Black Families
- Services for the Elderly
- Services for Blacks with Disabilities