

## Mending Canada's Frayed Social Safety Net: The role of municipal governments

Facts & Figures for the 24 QOLRS Communities - 2005/2006

Population of QOLRS Communities as a % of Canada's Total Population	54% (17 million residents)
Number of Working Poor	1,332,111
Number of Low Income Families	995,813
Increase in Employment Insurance recipients	Increased by 72% between August 2008 and August 2009 (Chart 11)
Proportion of individuals with Low Incomes	18% (chart 17)
Total population in QOLRS communities	43% (Chart 14)
Recent immigrants (In Canada 5 years or less)	36% (Chart 17)
Aboriginal persons	25% (Chart 22)
Persons with activity difficulties/limitations	34% (Chart 28)
Female-Headed Lone Parent Families	
Public Transit	1 in 6 commuters relies on public transit (Chart 37) Public transit commuters have half the income of commuters using cars (Chart 38)
Social Housing Wait Lists	Average Minimum Wait time: 2 years Average Maximum Wait time: 5 years (Chart 33)
Homelessness	The number of reported shelters beds grew by 32% between 2001 and 2006 (Chart 36)
Childcare	1 childcare space for every 10 children aged 0-12 (Chart 40) 1 subsidized childcare space for every 5 children (aged 0-12) living in a low-income family (Chart 41)
Recreation Programs	1.3 million people, or 1 in 8 residents made use of formal municipal recreation programs, excluding drop-ins (Chart 43)
Libraries	Per capita library usage grew by 9% between 2001 and 2006 (Chart 44)

### Other Research:

New Canadians are disproportionately dependent upon municipal services. For example, in Montreal, nearly 50% of recent immigrants commute to work by public transit, compared with 20% of the Canadian-born population. Moreover, nearly two-thirds of all New Canadians are renters. Of those, nearly half (48%) spend more than 30% of their income on rent, compared with 38% for Canadian-born renter households.

Research clearly shows that in previous recessions, recent immigrants were more affected by job loss than Canadian born workers, contributing to a widening of employment rate and unemployment rate gaps.