Toronto’s 13 Priority Areas

Research Methodology

Tri-Level Committee
on Gun/Violence
Staff Work Group

January 25, 2006
1) **Creation of the Priority Areas**
   - 140 Toronto Neighbourhoods
   - Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force (STNF)
   - Additional factors in determining the Priority Areas
   - resulting **“13 Priority Areas”**

2) **Demographic & Service Scan**
   - Jane-Finch example
CREATION OF THE PRIORITY AREAS
140 Toronto Neighbourhoods

- Developed by the City as another way of reporting statistics
- 140 in total
- Minimum population of 7,000-10,000 people
- Not “administrative” in nature
- Defined by grouping income characteristics in combination with man-made and natural features
- Refined through consultations
- Now in use across City service areas and other organizations
• Final SNTF report based on six background research reports:

1. *Why Neighbourhoods Matter: Implications for Policy & Practice*
   Neighbourhood planning approaches and international examples.

2. *The Role of Community Infrastructure*
   Importance and components of social infrastructure.

3. *Measuring Neighbourhood Vitality*
   Exploration and recommendations on neighbourhood socio-economic indicators.

4. *Neighbourhood Social Infrastructure in Toronto*
   Detailed service and demographic analysis.

5. *Putting Theory to Practice*
   Testing these research findings in 3 Toronto communities.

6. *Multi-partner Funding for Neighbourhood Revitalization in Toronto*
   History, challenges & successes of neighbourhood investment strategies.

**Web Resources:**
http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/sntf.htm
http://action.web.ca/home/uwgt-sn/documents.shtml?AA_EX_Session=2b8bf85bdd47bd5a13dc0fda806bee99
This research report builds on the findings of previous research background reports #1, #2, and #3.

Specifically analyses proximity of community infrastructure to socio-economic need at a neighbourhood level.

Types of services analysed

**General services for a broad pop’n:**

1. Recreation & Community Centres
2. Libraries
3. Schools
4. Community Heath Centres & Hospitals

**Services for specific needs:**

5. Children’s services
6. Youth services
7. Senior’s services
8. Services for new immigrants
9. Employment services
10. Community Food programs
11. Food banks
Methodology:

- Use GIS buffering techniques to compare each service location to block-level population distribution, by neighbourhood:
  - General services x total population
  - Children’s services x children age 0-14
  - Youth services x youth age 15-24
  - Senior’s services x seniors age 65+
  - Immigrant services x recent immigrants
  - Employment services x unemployed persons
  - Food programs x total population
  - Food banks x population below low-income cut-off

- Proxy for service coverage is 1km “walking distance”
• Service coverage ranges
  – Very poor coverage: (20% or fewer residents are within walking distance of service)
  – Poor coverage: (21-40%)
  – Moderate Coverage: (41-60%)
  – Good Coverage: (61-80%)
  – Very Good coverage: (81%+)

• Population (“needs”) coverage ranges
  – Much higher: Pop’n group is 50% or higher than city average
  – Higher: 20-49% higher than city average
  – Similar: 20% +/- the city average
  – Lower: 20%-49% lower than city average
  – Much Lower: 50% or more lower than city average

• FOCUS ON: Neighbourhoods with POOR COVERAGE and HIGH NEED
• Map on next slide summarizes the framework visually, by counting the number of times a neighbourhood has poor coverage (less than 40% of the neighbourhood's population is within walking distance of services), but also has higher need (neighbourhood population group is 20% or higher than city average).
Legend

Number of Poorer Access Services

- N/A
- 1 Service
- 2 Services
- 3 Services
- 4 Services
- 5 Services
- 6 Services

Notes: Numbers on map refer to neighbourhood. If not coverage, refer to neighbourhood map in the Appendix for proper names. There is no data for the 905 area, and this may affect coverage ratings in border areas.

Source: City of Toronto, Social Policy Analysis & Research
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Date of Publication: April 2005
Contact: span@toronto.ca

Notes: This is part of the Research Strategy of the Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force.
• Now compare this to 11 socio-economic indicators (as identified in background research report #3):

1. median household income
2. % pop’n spending 30%+ on shelter costs
3. % pop’n age 25+ unemployed
4. % students passing High School Literacy test
5. % pop’n with college or university qualifications
6. % pop’n attaining less than grade 9 education
7. % dwellings requiring major repair
8. # low birth weight babies per 1000 live births
9. % pop’n without English or French language skills
10. % pop’n that are recent immigrants
11. % pop’n by mobility status 1 year ago

• Map on next slide shows the number of times each indicator was 20% worse than city average.
NEIGHBOURHOOD INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK:

- Number of services with poor coverage and higher need
- Number of high-risk measures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Risk / High Service Need</th>
<th>High Risk / High Service Need</th>
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<td>Low Risk / Low Service Need</td>
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Neighbourhoods Prioritized for Investment
Result: Nine priority neighbourhoods in the final Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force Report.
Also factored in are the Community Safety Plan, and neighbourhoods that experiencing violence.
THE RESULTING “13 PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS”

• These neighbourhoods are now combined where geographically appropriate into “13 Priority Areas”.
DEMOGRAPHIC & SERVICE SCAN

Example: Jane-Finch
• Demographic & Service scans are derived from CT and DA level census data.

• Service listings are from both city and community sources (ex. 211 Toronto), and are being updated constantly.

• Some demographic highlights:
  – Youth comprise 14% of the pop’n (vs. 12% citywide)
  – 28% of all families are single-led (vs. 20% citywide)
  – Immigrants make up 62% of the pop’n (vs. 43% citywide)
  – Youth unemployment & % low income, higher than city average
  – Average income: $48,650 (vs. $69,125 citywide)
Demographic & Service Scan

- Some initial service scan highlights:
  - Well-established network of churches and other faith institutions
  - Social Housing mostly located to the east of Hwy400
  - Few employment services (given higher area of unemployment)
  - Few immigrant settlement services (given high number of immigrants)
  - With the exception of childcare and some health agencies, not all agencies provide services in languages other than English
  - Most agencies (with exception of health services), provide services only during the work week
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<tr>
<th>HEALTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Project Community Against Drugs</td>
<td>15 Millwick Dr</td>
<td>M9L 1Y4</td>
<td>(416) 748-9988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humber River Regional Hospital. Finch Avenue Site</td>
<td>2111 Finch Ave W</td>
<td>M3N 1N1</td>
<td>(416) 744-2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humber River Regional Hospital. Finch Avenue Site, Emergency Department</td>
<td>2111 Finch Ave W</td>
<td>M3N 1N1</td>
<td>(416) 747-3833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mens Sana, Families for Mental Health</td>
<td>87 Irondale Dr</td>
<td>M9L 2S6</td>
<td>(416) 747-6018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Toronto After Hours Children's Medical Clinic (Hwy 400-Finch Ave W)</td>
<td>2100 Finch Ave W, Ste 202</td>
<td>M3N 2Z9</td>
<td>(416) 665-8515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Aziz Centre</td>
<td>155 Deerhide Cres</td>
<td>M9M 2Z2</td>
<td>(416) 363-9196</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Bernadette's Family Resource Centre. St Jude's Academy of the Arts</td>
<td>3100 Weston Rd</td>
<td>M9M 2S7</td>
<td>(416) 740-7187</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Clinical Services</td>
<td>3451A Weston Rd (at Finch)</td>
<td>M9M2V9</td>
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<tr>
<th>IMMIGRANT AND ETHNO-SPECIFIC SERVICES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afghan Association of Ontario</td>
<td>29 Pemican Court, Unit 6</td>
<td>M9M 2Z3</td>
<td>(416) 744-9289</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Canadian Seniors' Day Centre</td>
<td>196 Toryork Dr</td>
<td>M9L 1X6</td>
<td>(416) 631-9671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamaican Canadian Association</td>
<td>995 Arrow Rd</td>
<td>M9M 2Z5</td>
<td>(416) 746-5772</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamaican Canadian Association. Caribbean Youth and Family Services</td>
<td>995 Arrow Rd</td>
<td>M9M 2Z5</td>
<td>(416) 746-5772</td>
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<th>PLACES OF WORSHIP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abiezer Penetecostal</td>
<td>94 Milvan Dr</td>
<td></td>
<td>4167453579</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Community Church</td>
<td>7 Penn Dr</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agape Ministeries</td>
<td>555 Oakdale Rd</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>All Nations Full Gospel</td>
<td>4401 Steeles Ave W</td>
<td></td>
<td>4166659964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apostles Revelation Society</td>
<td>266 Eddystone Ave</td>
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Conclusion

- Current work now involving detailed demographic and service scan for each of the 13 priority areas.

- Initial set (version 1.1 January 2006) has been completed. These profiles will be modified and added to, on an on-going basis to provide another layer of research material for service planning purposes.
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