

A Statistical Economic & Social Profile of Muskoka

May 2010



Employment & Income

- Muskoka's median family income is \$61,159 leaving Muskoka families 12% behind the provincial average. (2006 Census)
- 40% of the permanent households in Muskoka earn less than \$30,000 annually. (2002 Muskoka Housing Review Report, District of Muskoka)
- Income Disparity: Women in Muskoka earn 36% less per year than men in Muskoka on average. (Financial Post Markets – Canadian Demographics 2007)
- The fastest growing economic sector in Muskoka is the retail wage sector, creating more minimum wage jobs (\$10.25 for adults, \$8.90 for liquor servers) and less dignity wage incomes for families. (Financial Post Markets – Canadian Demographics, 2007)
- We have 2030 single parent families, 1645 of those headed by women. (2006 Canadian Census)
- Only 33% of expectant mothers are eligible for maternity benefits Canada-wide. (Dr. Paul Kershaw, UBC 2006)

Violence

- 3-5 children in every Canadian classroom witness violence in their homes. (YWCA Canada, 2006)
- 89% of abused women do not report the violence or enter a shelter. (YWCA Canada, 2006)
- Muskoka Interval House and Chrysalis Shelter for women and children sheltered 207 residents in 2009/2010, including 91 children. The shelters were over capacity on 141 days of the year and answered 2666 crisis calls. (Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group, Joy McCormack, 645-4461)
- Muskoka Interval House and Chrysalis outreach and court support services worked with 257 non-resident women in 2009/2010. (Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group, Joy McCormack, 645-4461)
- Partner Assault Response Program data confirms a relationship between employment and violence against women by men: 32% of participants are unemployed, 32% have an annual income less than \$10,000, and 30% have an annual income less than \$25,000. (Katreena Scott, Ph.D. C. Psych. OISE/University of Toronto, March 2008)

Shelter & Housing

- Muskoka has a homeless problem. The Salvation Army oversees the 3 Emergency Family Units funded through the District of Muskoka in Huntsville, Bracebridge and Gravenhurst; 30 families are placed in Emergency Housing for durations of 4-6 weeks annually.
- Muskoka has an affordable housing crisis. There are currently 495 applications on the wait list for 384 subsidized housing units in Muskoka up from 439 in 2009, 376 in 2008, 305 in 2007 and 217 in 2006. (District of Muskoka, 645-2231)
- Chrysalis, a 10-unit supportive housing complex for women, housed 26 women and 12+ children in 2009-2010. (Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group, Joy McCormack, 645-4461)
- 90% of users of Muskoka Affordable Community Housing pilot program for emergency vouchers for singles are males between the ages of 17 – 25. (Kim Doughty, MACH, 2009)
- Wenonah House for young offenders, an eight-bed open custody program for male youth from 13 to 18 years of age located in Gravenhurst, closed September 2008.
- There are no shelter services for men in Muskoka. The closest shelter is Lighthouse Shelter in Orillia.

Trauma, Abuse, Mental Health and Addiction Services

- Muskoka has a nine-month waiting list for sexual assault trauma therapy. 70% of adult women in therapy are dealing with childhood sexual assaults. 43% of counselling is for familial abuse. (Sexual Assault Services 646-2122, Lauren Power, Therapist)
- One in six men has been abused sexually as a child. (Fireweed Project, Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing, 2007).
- There are no funded support services in Muskoka for males aged 16 and over who have been sexually abused.
- There are no publicly funded adult mental health services available in Muskoka for mild to moderate depression.
- In the fiscal year ending March 2008, Addiction Outreach for Muskoka-Parry Sound served 937 clients, with males representing 59% of their client base.

Child Care and Child Welfare

- \$7.7 million is the annual budget to aid at-risk children and youth in Muskoka, including approximately \$1.7 million for mental health and \$6 million for child welfare. (Allan Hogan, Muskoka Family & Child Services, 645-4426) The 2002 Canadian FREDA study indicates that 24% of girls under the age of 16 have experienced rape or coercive sex and a further 17% have experienced incest. (YWCA 645-9827)
- Across Ontario, less than 15% of the child population aged 0-4 can be served within the licensed childcare system. The determination of financial eligibility for the child care subsidy changed in 2007. These changes have been positive for Muskoka families with the numbers of children and families served almost doubling since January 2007. Provincial Best Start funding has assisted in meeting these extra fee subsidy demands, yet the provincial funding is set to end March 31st, 2010, which could have a negative impact on Muskoka. (Arfona Zwiers, District of Muskoka, 645-2412)

Social Welfare and Ontario Disability Support Program

- In Muskoka, there are 552 clients on the Ontario Works caseload, and 1254 on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) caseload. (December 2008)

Seniors

- 18.4% of Total Muskoka population is aged 65+ (Muskoka Demographic Profile, District February 2009):
- 25.9% (2951) of those aged 65+ in Muskoka live alone (Ontario Trillium Foundation)
- Of those aged 65+ who live alone, 75% (2213) are women
- 49.1% (1087) of women aged 65+, who live alone, live in poverty (annual incomes less than \$16,273) LICO rates – Statistics Canada
- 33.3% (246) of men aged 65+ who live alone, live in poverty
- 1333 of Muskoka's seniors live alone - in poverty
- Factors that contribute to higher incidence of poverty amongst women 65+ include:
 - Lower employment rates therefore lower employment income
 - Lower employment rates – lower pension income
 - Live longer alone – widows- loss of partners income