

BACKGROUND FACTS:

Employment in York Region

- **Largest population increases in Vaughan, Markham, and Richmond Hill**
- **Unemployment in YR 1% lower than GTA, 2% lower than Toronto**
- **Businesses without employees are 62% of total**
- **Unemployment for 25-54 year old recent immigrants (1996-2001) 21% versus 2% for Canadian born**
- **Recent immigrants more like in natural sciences and processing, manufacturing and utilities**

FINDINGS FROM 2006 CENSUS:

- Recent immigrants (RIP) vs York Region Population (YRP)
 - Mainly live in Markham (41.9%), Richmond Hill (26.7%) and Vaughan (23.3%)
 - Approximately 80% of RIP & YRP in paid employment; with 60.3% of YRP and 52.6% of RIP working full-time
 - 7.7% of recent immigrants & 5.5% of YRP were unemployed
 - Approximately 36% of immigrants and YRP were employed in upper skill level occupations (senior/middle management, professional)
 - More immigrants worked in the lower skilled occupations (22.2%) than those in YRP (18.2%)
 - Recent immigrants had lower median household incomes (\$67,456) than Canadian-born households (\$92,560)

FINDINGS BASED ON SPATIAL ANALYSIS:

- A comparison of the ratio of the number of persons living in each community divided by the number of providers offering employment services in each community revealed lowest availability of employment agencies for recent immigrants/low income persons living in Vaughan, followed by Markham
- A weighted accessibility measure plus an examination of the average number of employment agencies available in York Region communities reveals, generally, that Newmarket and Richmond Hill are better served than Markham and Vaughan which house the largest number of low income persons as well as recent immigrants

FINDINGS BASED ON ISR SURVEY:

- Users of employment services were:
 - Likely to be of either gender
 - More likely to be immigrants (81% v. non-users 76%)
 - More likely to be recent immigrants (58% v. 42%)
 - More likely to speak a language other than English at home (65% v. 60%)
 - More likely to report Canadian/British or European ethnic identities (50.4% v. 46.1%)
 - Have higher levels of education than non-users
 - More likely to report their income than non-users
 - More likely to be new to York Region

FINDINGS BASED ON ISR SURVEY

- Low percentage of service use (12.1% in RDD sample, 7.3% in list)
- Ethnic identities other than Canadian, British or European were significantly more likely to express satisfaction with the employment services

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Recent immigrants in York Region are more likely to have precarious forms of employment and experience low income
- Few are aware of and use employment services in York Region
- Require more research on those not using employment services
- Improve information outreach to newcomers
- Public transit subsidies to support low income immigrants to reach agencies