

National Metropolis Conference Workshop

Title

Growing pains and human service provision in Toronto's suburbs

Abstract

Focusing on the 905 area, this workshop will discuss current human service provision, the looming crisis due to growth in these traditional middle-class and mono-cultural regions, and strategies and policy plans that promote social sustainability.

Description

Containing a quarter of Ontario's population and growing by more than 100,000 residents per year in the past decade, the 905 region of the GTA is growing at a faster rate than the rest of the country. It is also aging at twice the provincial rate, and becoming more culturally and socio-economically diverse as a result of international migration. Meanwhile the region is getting less per capita funding for human services. Expected to continue into the future, these trends impose tremendous challenges in meeting the human service needs of its residents, especially the most vulnerable groups, which is the focus of a current CERIS project funded by Infrastructure Canada and York University. Focusing on immigrants, seniors and low incomes in the 905 area, we propose a roundtable of provincial and municipal policy makers, NGO's and academics to discuss the current situation of human service provision, the looming crisis emerged from exponential growth in these traditional middle-class and mono-cultural suburban regions, and innovative human service strategies and policy plans that promote social sustainability in the suburbs. The focus is on the need to improve local and timely access to human services, and strategies to maintain strong and vibrant communities.