

# Poverty in Durham:

## Profiles of low-income by local electoral ridings in the Region of Durham

October 2012

### Introduction

This series of profiles has been created to highlight conditions of poverty and community responses to these conditions in the federal electoral district (ridings) that make up the Region of Durham. The profiles are part of a larger set that includes communities across the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton, and have been produced by the Community Development Council Durham in partnership with Social Planning Toronto and our colleagues in the Social Planning Network of Ontario.

The goal of this series is to initiate cross-sectoral and non-partisan discussions about poverty in our community, leading to increased understanding and laying the foundation for long-term solutions. In order to be effective, this dialogue must engage multiple voices and perspectives, acknowledging that poverty and the precarious social and economic conditions that many in Durham live in are community concerns that affect us all.

This series provides an overview of poverty and some related conditions in our community. The data presented is not intended to be comprehensive, rather, it is designed to provide an entry point for discussion. Some of the key facts are summarized below:

- ⇒ In Durham, **149,315\*** individuals (26.6% of the population) reported income below the Low Income Measure (LIM)\*\*
- Of these individuals, **63.4%** (or 94,750 individuals) were women
- ⇒ The number of individuals in Durham living below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO) increased by **25%** between 2000 and 2005 (Chart 1)
- ⇒ **18.6%** of lone female parent families in Durham live in poverty (LIM), compared to **5.7%** of couple families
- ⇒ **25%** of recent immigrants in Durham report income below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO)
- ⇒ **15%** of children in Durham live in poverty\*\*\*



Chart 1: Population by Income Level (< \$20,000 per year) and Sex in Durham (2005)

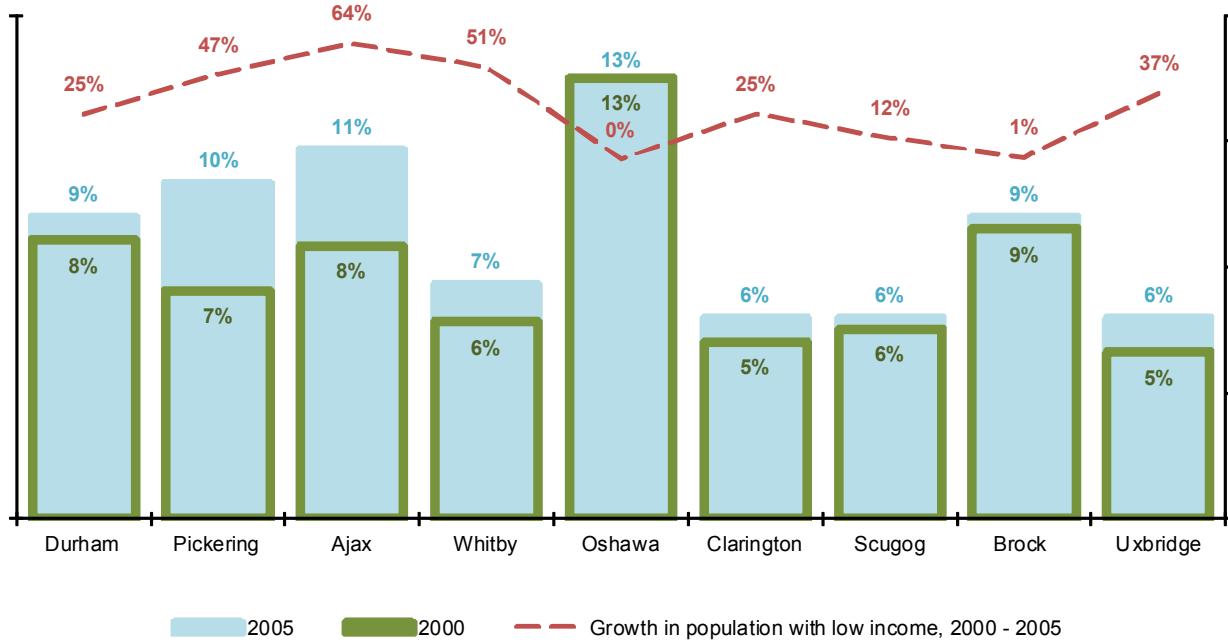


\* Based on data from the 2006 Canadian Census

\*\* The Low Income Measure (LIM) was set as the official measure of poverty in Ontario in the 2009 Poverty Reduction Act.

\*\*\* Based on the Low Income Measure, After-Tax (LIM-AT) and calculated by the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, 2008, *Greater Trouble in Greater Toronto: Child Poverty in the GTA* (<http://www.torontocas.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/castchildpovertyreportdec2008.pdf>)

**Chart 2: Percent of population with low-income (after-tax), in Durham & by Municipality, 2000 and 2005**



### Community Development Council Durham

The Community Development Council Durham (CDCD) is an independent, not-for-profit social planning organization that has been working to enhance the quality of life for individuals, families and communities in Durham for more than 40 years. We organize and implement a variety of research, community development and social planning initiatives as well as administer and deliver front line social service programs.

For more information see our website at [www.ccdcd.org](http://www.ccdcd.org), or contact Ben Earle at [bearle@cdcd.org](mailto:bearle@cdcd.org), (905) 686-2661, ext. 115

### REPORT: *Giving Voice to Poverty in the Region of Durham*

Beginning in 2009, the Community Development Council Durham set out to better understand poverty in the Region of Durham by moving beyond the available quantitative data and statistics to examine the qualitative experiences of those who live in poverty. The purpose of this project was to develop a local assessment of the experience of poverty in Durham in a way that could inform local policy and service practice while also contributing to provincial and federal dialogue on poverty amelioration and eradication.

The full report can be found online at: <http://www.ccdcd.org/resources/>

### Social Planning Network of Ontario

The **Social Planning Network of Ontario** (SPNO) is a coalition of social planning councils (SPC), community development councils (CDC), resource centres, and planning committees located in various communities throughout Ontario. Each of the individual organizations has their own mandates but are connected in the cause of effecting change on social policies, conditions, and issues.

For more information on the SPNO see our website at: [www.spno.ca](http://www.spno.ca)