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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-P-15
Date: October 1, 2024

Subject:

Durham Region Profile – Demographics and Socio-Economic Data, File: D01-04

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Durham Region Profile is a comprehensive collection of demographic and socio-economic data for Durham Region, with comparative information on the broader geographic areas of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and the province of Ontario. Published approximately every five years, this is the fifth edition of the Profile, which was first published in 2001.
- 1.2 The Statistics Canada 2021 Census is the central source of information for the Durham Profile. Census data was collected by Statistics Canada in the Spring of 2021 and released in several data sets between 2022 and 2023. The Census is conducted across Canada every five years.
- 1.3 Other sources used in the Profile include: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and data collected by the Durham Region Planning Division. The full list of data sources is provided on page 39 of the technical report (Attachment #2). All Durham Region sources are

available at www.durham.ca/planning, including the [Durham Region Business Count](#) (2023), [Durham Region Monitoring Growth Trends Report](#) (2024), and [Envision Durham](#), the new Durham Regional Official Plan (September 2024).

- 1.4 The purpose of the Profile is to present key demographic and socio-economic information on Durham Region that is of interest to the general public, business community, and various levels of government.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 Statistics Canada made Census data publicly available over a series of seven data releases. The Durham Region Planning Division reported on each of the data releases separately in the following information reports:

- [2022-INFO-31](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Population and Dwelling Counts (Release 1)
- [2022-INFO-77](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Age, Gender, and Dwelling Type (Release 2)
- [2022-INFO-79](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Families, Households, Marital Status, and Income (Release 3)
- [2022-INFO-80](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Language (Release 4)
- [2022-INFO-98](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Indigenous Peoples and Housing Portrait (Release 5)
- [2022-INFO-102](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Citizenship and Immigration, Ethnocultural and Religious Composition, Mobility and Migration (Release 6)
- [2023-INFO-04](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Education and Employment (Release 7)

3. Overview of the Durham Region Profile

- 3.1 The Profile is divided into six key categories: population; social characteristics; households; employment; income and education; and agriculture. The Regional Planning Division reported on each of these categories as Census data was released by Statistics Canada. The data included in the Durham Profile reports on key factors that go beyond those releases. The following summarizes key trends and statistics for the Region:

- Durham's population has increased significantly, from 247,473 in 1976 to 696,992 at the time of the 2021 census¹. The population at the end of 2023 was estimated to be 753,090. Over 83 per cent of population growth between 2018 and 2023 was through immigration;
- The proportion of residents 65 years of age and older increased from 14.4 per cent in 2016 to 15.9 per cent in 2021;
- Durham's population is increasing in diversity, with approximately 36.3 per cent of residents identifying as a visible minority, an increase from 27.1 per cent in 2016;
- In 2023, the average cost of a resale home was \$936,032², and the average monthly rent was \$1,607³;
- In 2023, there were approximately 210,038 jobs and 12,718 businesses in Durham⁴;
- The prevalence of low income⁵ was lower in Durham (6.6 per cent) in contrast to Ontario (10.1 per cent); and
- There were 1,200 farms reported in Durham in 2021, and over a third of farms in Durham are 130 acres or more in size.

3.2 The information is presented in a variety of formats to suit a broad range of users, including an infographic summary of key statistics (Attachment #1), and a technical report with detailed appended tables (Attachment #2).

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

4.1 The Durham Region Profile supports the corporate value of Innovation through a commitment to ongoing research, knowledge exchange, and continuous quality improvement. This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham region Strategic Plan:

¹ This figure does not include an estimate of the Census net undercoverage, which accounts for factors such as missed enumeration and processing errors.

² Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) Market Watch.

³ Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Rental Market Survey Data Tables.

⁴ Durham Region Planning Division, 2023 Business Count.

⁵ For the 2021 Census, Statistics Canada defined prevalence of low-income as the position of an economic family (or a person 15 years of age and over not in an economic family) in relation to Statistics Canada's low-income measure after tax (LIM-AT).

- Goal 5.3 – Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Profile was prepared by the Planning and Economic Development Department in consultation with various departments including: Health, Social Services, Works, Finance, Transit, Police Services, Corporate Communications, and the CAO's Office.
- 5.2 The 2021 Census of Population was the central source of information for the Durham Region Profile. It should be noted that the Census took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this unprecedented time, there were numerous government-mandated measures in place to limit the spread of the pandemic, such as province-wide lockdowns, that resulted in anomalies in social, economic, and demographic data collected during the 2021 Census. As such, many indicators, such as, employment, income, and commuting habits—while representative of the snapshot in time—may not be a true representation of demographic and socio-economic realities post pandemic. For example, many employees shifted to remote work while lockdowns were in place and did not commute to their usual place of work. Since the lifting of such measures, many employees have returned to their usual place of work in varying formats, suggesting that the data collected during the Census may not necessarily represent actual commuting habits today. Future Census of population data will provide a greater understanding of the temporary and lasting impacts and shifts in demographics resulting from the pandemic.
- 5.3 The Durham Profile includes the most recently available data from the Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) conducted in 2016. Data from the 2022 TTS is not available at the time this report is being published. The Durham Profile will be updated once this data is available.
- 5.4 The Durham Region Profile (infographic summary and technical report) will be publicly available on the Region's website. An online dashboard will also be updated with data from this edition of the Durham Region Profile. Limited printed copies of the infographic summary will also be available from the Planning and Economic Development Department. Information on how to access the Profile will be shared with the area municipalities, school boards, and public libraries.

6. Attachments

Attachment #1: [Durham Region Profile - Infographic Summary](#)

Attachment #2: [Durham Region Profile - Technical Report \(online\)](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
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