

Supporting Materials Context for Ministry

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Social Needs and Context for Ministry

Each of the parishes of the Deanery is called to be the body of Christ in the neighbourhoods in which they are located. And so we who worship in these parishes are called to Christ's work in this part of Toronto, regardless of where we may actually live. We are called to do ministry, and our diocese has identified three areas for advocacy and social action: child poverty, homelessness, and HIV/AIDS.

Parkdale is experiencing significant social changes, as newly arrived immigrants and established middle-class professionals move into the neighbourhood. This report tracks some of these changes and identifies the social implications of the area's changing demographics. At the same time, this report also highlights the long-term social issues facing our community. The purpose, then, of this report is to describe the immediate social context in which we are doing ministry. To do this we have used statistical data and have surveyed many of the agencies working in Parkdale.

Parkdale is one the most culturally and artistically active areas of the city. But artists and cultural organizations are now facing significant challenges. Many neighbourhoods are changing. Developers are moving in and available space is shrinking. For those artist studios that remain, waiting lists are years long, both for live/work and work only studios. Smaller groups are finding it harder to find space that suits their needs.

The importance of artistic vitality for social well being and economic activity is gaining increasing recognition. "Given that creativity has emerged as the single most important source of economic growth," Richard Florida has observed, "the best route to continued prosperity is by investing in our stock of creativity in all its forms."

The Anglican parishes of Parkdale have done much to contribute to this process by providing space to various artistic groups and other forms of support, most notably in the area of music. Such partnering has enriched the life of our congregations. And it has been a way for us to open our doors to the public at large. This is something that we have learned to do well. Might it encourage us to explore and to engage in other forms of partnership and outreach?

The population of Parkdale Deanery is the size of a large town or small city. As one would expect, the social and religious profile of the Deanery is complex. And this profile does vary from neighbourhood to neighbourhood in the Deanery. Amidst this complexity, however, some clear trends are emerging.

The first striking trend is that according to the 2001 Anglicans are a small religious minority in Parkdale. Only 3.6% of Parkdale's residents identify themselves as Anglican, making our denomination the fifth largest group (right after Buddhists and Muslims) in the area. This raises the question whether we can reach out to nominal

Anglicans. Or will we need to reach beyond our traditional base? (Almost a quarter of the Deanery's inhabitants identify themselves as having no religion.) Are we ready to do that?

Parkdale is a multicultural and multi-ethnic community, with strong concentrations of Italians, Poles, Filipinos, Chinese, and Jamaicans.

While middle-income households are well represented in Parkdale, lower-income households are over represented. As consequence the median household income in most parishes is significantly below the city-wide average.

In sum, there is a widening gap in socioeconomic status in Parkdale. As a result homelessness is increasing in Parkdale and has become a chronic problem.

We have identified several striking trends among low-income households.

- Two-parent families are the fastest growing group using emergency shelters
- Single-parent families on low income is higher than the national average in 3 of the Deanery's parishes
- Parkdale's population is aging, but many of the children and youth who remain are at-risk
- Childhood poverty is a major problem in the Deanery
- The senior population is growing, and the level of senior households on low-income is increasing
- Immigrants and refugees face unique challenges and require specialized services
- Aboriginal peoples have a significant presence in some parishes of our Deanery, and they are over-represented among the homeless
- A disproportionate number of people living in the Deanery living with addictions and mental illness
- Agencies are noting that their clients are experiencing a number of interrelated problems, making each individual case more complex

Our report examines the causes for the growing homelessness population in our Deanery. It looks at the gentrification of the neighbourhood and other trends that have diminished the area's affordable housing stock and displaced low-income residents into neighbourhoods to the West of Parkdale, if they can afford to move, or onto the streets, if they do not.

In conducting this study we also surveyed working in the area. We offer an inventory of the main agencies and describe their main focus and initiatives. We asked them to identify the major challenges they are facing. We also asked them why they are facing these challenges and might be done by either the agencies themselves to address these challenges or by area residents to mitigate their social origins.

Finally, we asked these agencies what the parishes of Parkdale could do to help. Here's a sampling of what they had to say.

- Some agencies already have linkages with our parishes
- Another 9 agencies would like to explore linkages or support with our parishes
- Some agencies had in mind specific projects or initiatives that we could support and help with
- Our advocacy would be welcomed
- The agencies offered the following advice
 - Don't reinvent the wheel
 - Funding and resources are scarce
 - Find out what agencies need
 - Be patient in building trust
 - Start small and focused, and grow from there
 - Build formal linkages carefully, and be clear about your contribution

Other research done for the Parkdale Ministerial Development Council has shown that the members of Parkdale's parishes largely live outside the parish they belong to. Each parish has developed a distinct identity, form of worship, and mission. Our parishes have become "destination" churches for their members, and they offer their members a readily identifiable way of worship and of community.

How adequate is it for such churches to say, "Our parish is the GTA," or "Our parish is the world." How adequate are those claims as a description of being the body of Christ in the world? And what does this imply for actual ministry in the real world to real people? Is it compatible (or not) with our historic Anglican commitment to incarnational presence and ministry?

Agencies tell us that work on homelessness is difficult and requires a long-term commitment. They tell us that we need to be willing to start small, listen to the needs out there, and gradually grow our involvement in ways that are sustainable. So what would it take for such ministries to be sustainable? Our sense is that we may need to look carefully at rebalancing our activities. Rather than focusing on maintaining an inward-looking liturgy and worship, with a variety of relatively peripheral ministries, we might need to learn to think of ourselves primarily as the body of Christ in the world, with our liturgy and worship nurturing us for our core ministries in the world.

This reorientation will require us to think in new ways. Can we learn to "theologize" these difficult social issues? That is, can we learn to view them from the perspective of the kingdom of God, within the framework of God's concern for the least of us? What might "home," "homelessness," and "living-at-risk" mean when looked at from this perspective?

Such theologizing should be the work of the whole people of God, rather than something that is done by our clergy on behalf of the people. It is something that all of us should struggle with for ourselves, and within our community of faith.

Finally, in our specific Deanery context, it would seem that sustainability would require that such issues find a meaningful place in our liturgical lives, so that the essential connection is made within the liturgy. In this way, the liturgy could again acquire its direction toward sending us out into the world to act as Christ's body in that world. And if we truly get to know the people whom we serve, which is essential in this sort of endeavour, it would be appropriate that these people be welcomed into our communities - even into our liturgies - and that the gifts they bring be celebrated in our midst.

If we are to engage authentically with these very difficult human and social issues of homelessness and living-at-risk, changes to our cherished church lives are inevitable.

The early church chose to leave behind the safe haven of Jewish traditions to embrace the gentiles, with very little idea of the magnitude of changes that might result when they chose to sing the "new song" of redemption in Christ. In our own time, it is essential that we prepare ourselves and our communities for the anxiety attendant on entering a journey with many unknowns, but with a faith that the promised land will be worth the risk.

Jim Marshall, Program Coordinator for Economic Justice & Social Well-Being at the United Church of Canada, forwarded us this quote:

Mission, after all, is not a truth affair, but a love affair. – Dr. Christopher Duraisingh

Jim's own gloss on this saying is:

Are we ready to have our passions stirred by a fresh love affair with the community around us and with the God who loves us and calls us new into mission?

Parkdale Deanery Context for Ministry



Where We are Now
What You Told Us

What you told us about boundaries



- Overlapping in perceptions
- One parish totally enclosed by another's perceived boundaries
- College St. Little Italy area claimed by three parishes

The more realistic boundaries



Where parishioners live



Live near

Live elsewhere

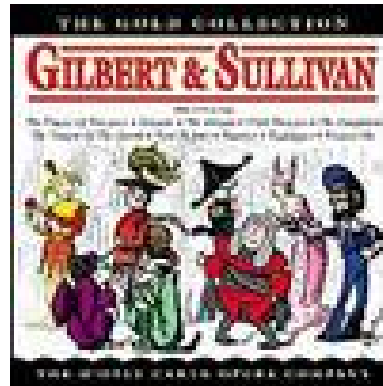
StG	70%	30%
StM	40%	60%
EStM	35%	65%
SMM	20%	80%
StT	20%	80%
StA	minority	majority

How you saw your neighborhoods



- Multicultural and mostly Roman Catholic
- Diverse ethnically and economically
- Multicultural
- Diverse, changing and trendy
- Diverse and becoming more affluent
- Diverse and lower income

Your Presence in your neighborhoods



Worship addressing needs of community



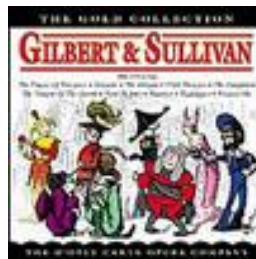
- Prayer vigil for James Loney in Iraq
- Masses celebrated in Italian
- Worship/visiting in nursing and retirement homes

Feeding the Poor



Community Dinners prepared and served by parishioners in their churches for persons living nearby

Arts and Education



- Annual operetta performances
- Annual art sale of mentally challenged and other local artists and craftspersons
- Annual lecture and film series
- Building tours

Beauty in the Neighborhood



Care of gardens and historic buildings

- To enhance the neighborhood
- To share with the neighbours
- Community vegetable garden

Fundraising projects



Yard sales, auctions, teas
(profits normally contribute to parish income)

Participation?



Out of the Cold – 20-30

Yard Sales ?

Arts and Education ?

To which activities do we give most of our volunteer time and energy?

Collaborations



WHAT IS COLLABORATION?

- organization to organization
- always involves people
- may involve finance and buildings

Collaborations



We named:

- Incumbent sits on housing board
- Work with AGO on hoarding board design
- Meeting space for residents' association, scouts, performing arts, playschool
- Worship/visiting in retirement homes and hospitals
- With another denomination for building use

Building Use



- Rentals of churches, halls and rectory: used for concerts, film, recordings, meetings, dance school, yoga, parties for residents of neighbourhood.
- Rental use usually contributes to annual income.
- Subsidized or free use for AA, scouts, Narcotics Anon, community arts (especially music), community groups

Political Involvement



- Most parishes report ambivalence
- Participation in Gay Pride parade
- Community policing
- Drug issues and homelessness
- HSRA re request for by-law exception for rental units

Social Needs and Context for Ministry

Parkdale Ministry Development
Council

22 February 2007

Introduction

If the decline of the Church is ultimately caused neither by the irrelevance of Jesus, nor by the indifference of the community, but by the Church's failure to respond fast enough to an evolving culture, to a changing spiritual climate, and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, then that decline can be addressed by the repentance of the Church. For true repentance involves turning around and living in a new way in the future. A diocese or parish, which, out of repentance, grows a new relevance to the contemporary world, may also grow in numbers and strength, because the Spirit of Jesus has been released to do his work.

Hope for the Church - contemporary strategies for growth by Bob Jackson

Cultural Organizations

- Waiting lists are years long for artist studios, both live/work and work only.
- Performance space that suits the needs of small groups is lacking.
- Lack of stability in available space – first locations to be sold to developers.

Cultural Organizations

Many communities are dependent on the existence and affordability of public spaces. The closure of school buildings puts greater pressure on City-owned space to fill community groups' growing demand for space. Limited space combined with increased costs, due to higher permit fees or to relocation costs, puts a great deal of pressure on community groups, particularly those groups that work with disadvantaged communities such as youth at risk, seniors and single-parent families.

A Map of Toronto's Cultural Facilities,
A Cultural Facilities Analysis, 03.01.10

Cultural Organizations

Given that creativity has emerged as the single most important source of economic growth, the best route to continued prosperity is by investing in our stock of creativity in all its forms, across the board. This entails more than just pumping up R&D spending or improving education, though both are important. It requires increasing investments in the multidimensional and varied forms of creativity - arts, music, culture, design and related fields - because all are linked and flourish together.

Richard Florida, H. John Heinz III Professor of Regional Economic Development, Carnegie Mellon University

Some Demographic Trends

Amidst complexity, clear trends are emerging:

- The deanery is increasingly post-Christian
- A quarter of the people living in the deanery have no religion
- Of those who do claim a religious affiliation:
 - Buddhist rank third (4.6%)
 - Muslims rank fourth (3.7%)
 - Anglicans rank fifth (3.6%)

Some Demographic Trends

- The deanery population is aging
- Many of them are on low income
- Only St Thomas's is close to the national average (13.6%)
- In Epiphany and St Mark, 30% of seniors are on low income
- In the parishes of St Stephen and St George, 40% of seniors are on low income

Some Demographic Trends

- Youth population is declining
- Many youth are at risk
- In St Mary Magdalene's, 25% of the children are in low-income families (the national average)
- In the parishes of St Stephen and St George, over 50% of the children are in low-income families
- In Epiphany and St Mark, 45% of all children are in low-income families

Some Demographic Trends

The deanery population is diverse in terms of ethnicity and religion:

- The top five ethnic groups are: Portuguese, Chinese, Canadian, East Indian, and English
- Poles and Filipinos are well represented in Parkdale-High Park, whereas Jamaicans are well represented in Davenport
- The top five religious groupings are: Catholic, no religion, Buddhist, Muslim, and Anglican
- Catholic and No religion are much higher in our deanery than in the rest of Toronto
- No religion is 9% around St Matthias but 42% around St George

There are also great disparities in income and education:

- Median household income in St Matthias is \$49,212 (very close to city average of \$49,345) while in St Anne's it is \$42,845
- Nearly 18% of the population has less than Grade 9 education (vs. 10% for the city as a whole, while 35% have a university education (close to 36% city average)

At-Risk Groups

Who are they in our deanery?

- Families
 - Couples with children
 - Single-parent families
- Youth
- Seniors
- Refugees and new immigrants
- Mental health and addiction
- Aboriginal peoples

At-Risk Groups

Contributing factors

- It's complex
- No one single factor – no single solution
- Common and unique factors for each group

Common factors across all groups:

- Lack of supportive and affordable housing – Homelessness
- Poverty – a chronic issue in Parkdale

At-Risk Groups

Contributing factors:

- Families
 - Affordability issues
 - Literacy and job skills
 - Women fleeing with their children from violence/abuse
 - Impact on child development and behaviour
- Youth
 - Vulnerable young of homeless parents
 - Abuse
 - Lack of life skills, experience and references to enter work force
 - Higher level of support needed
- Seniors
 - Aging population
 - Unseen at-risk

At-Risk Groups

Contributing factors:

- Immigrants and refugees
 - New language, new customs, new system...
 - Lack of supports and opportunities
 - Coping with trauma
- Mental health and addiction
 - Chronic illness
 - Social isolation
 - Criminalization
- Aboriginal peoples
 - Over-represented among Toronto's homeless population
 - Historical and cultural uniqueness

Housing and Homelessness

Chronic homelessness has multiple contributory factors

- Individual and family tragedies
- City planning decisions (Gardiner expressway, closure of rooming houses)
- Government policies (de-institutionalization, landlord/tenant, erosion of supports)
- Middle-class gentrification

Housing and Homelessness

Continuing and emerging issues:

- Increased homelessness among Asians and aboriginals
- Aging chronically homeless population
- Underhoused or unsafely housed groups
- Increasing need but insufficient housing stock and supports
- Insufficient public support for affordable and supportive housing

Housing, homelessness, and living-at-risk

What might we do to help?

- Build relationships with existing service providers
- Take advantage of opportunities to learn about the complexities of chronic homelessness and the needs of various at-risk groups
- Develop a theological perspective on home, homelessness, poverty and living-at-risk to support authentic, sustainable involvement
- Learn what's needed and prayerfully consider our response
- Prepare ourselves and our communities to take risks for the sake of answering God's call to service

Conclusion

...the impulse for mission cannot be church-centred, as though the primary concern is perpetuating the institution's survival. Instead, the Church must be about the kingdom of God, focussed as it is in Jesus Christ.

Wayne Brighton, *A Church for the 21st Century*, 2004

Conclusion

Start with the Church and the mission will probably get lost.

Start with mission and it is likely that the Church will be found.

Hope from the Margins - New Ways of Being Church
Grove Evangelism 49, 2000, pp. 11f.

PARKDALE MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**SOCIAL NEEDS AND CONTEXT FOR
MINISTRY**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to pull together information that will give us a snapshot of the social needs in Parkdale Deanery. This profile constitutes one part of a larger discernment process for the Parkdale Ministry Development Council (PMDC) and for the parishes of the Deanery.

Each of the parishes of the Deanery is called to be the body of Christ in the neighbourhoods in which they are located. And so we who worship in these parishes are called to Christ's work in this part of Toronto, regardless of where we may actually live. We are called to do ministry, and our diocese has identified three areas for advocacy and social action: child poverty, homelessness, and HIV/AIDS. Parkdale is experiencing significant social changes, as newly arrived immigrants and established middle-class professionals move into the neighbourhood. This report tracks some of these changes and identifies the social implications of the area's changing demographics. At the same time, this report also highlights the long-term social issues facing our community. The purpose, then, of this report is to describe the immediate social context in which we are doing ministry.

In drawing up this report we used as much statistical data as we could gather in a limited time. This research was a labour intensive process. The Deanery's boundaries and those of its member parishes do not coincide with any other boundary used to collect social data (for example, census tracts, federal and provincial ridings, or municipal wards). Much of this information is not recent, as the last federal census was conducted in 2001, but the 2006 census results will not be available for some time.

Much of our information is anecdotal, acquired through extensive conversations with over 40 agencies working in Parkdale (see Appendices A-D).

PART I – CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Parkdale is one the most culturally and artistically active areas of the city. But artists and cultural organizations are now facing significant challenges. Many neighbourhoods are changing. Developers are moving in and available space is shrinking. For those artist studios that remain, waiting lists are years long, both for live/work and work only studios. Smaller groups are finding it harder to find space that suits their needs.

Many groups depend on the existence and affordability of public spaces. The closure of school buildings puts even greater pressure on city-owned facilities. As a result artistic groups in the community are competing for limited space. At the same time, they are experiencing increased expenses, due to higher permit

fees or to relocation costs. Those groups that work with the disadvantaged - such as youth at-risk, seniors, and single-parent families – face even greater pressure.

The importance of artistic vitality for social well being and economic activity is gaining increasing recognition. “Given that creativity has emerged as the single most important source of economic growth,” Richard Florida has observed, “the best route to continued prosperity is by investing in our stock of creativity in all its forms.”

The Anglican parishes of Parkdale have done much to contribute to this process by providing space to various artistic groups and other forms of support, most notably in the area of music. Such partnering has enriched the life of our congregations. And it has been a way for us to open our doors to the public at large. This is something that we have learned to do well. Might it encourage us to explore and to engage in other forms of partnership and outreach?

PART II - PARDALE DEANERY: A STATISTICAL PROFILE AND OVERVIEW

The population of Parkdale Deanery is the size of a large town or small city. As one would expect, the social and religious profile of the Deanery is complex. And this profile does vary from neighbourhood to neighbourhood in the Deanery. Amidst this complexity, however, some clear trends are emerging.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

TABLE 1
TEN LEADING RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS, BY PERCENT

	Area	City
Roman Catholic	42.9%	30.7%
No religion	23.6	18.5
Buddhist	4.6	2.7
Muslim	3.7	5.4
Anglican	3.6	6.1
Hindu	3.2	4.8
Christian (not included elsewhere)	2.9	3.9
United Church	2.4	5.4
Jewish	1.5	4.2
Protestant (not included elsewhere)	1.4	1.6

Data taken from census tracts based on latest Deanery map, which is now out of date. Numbers do not correspond to benchmarks study. The reasons why this is the case are unknown.

The Canadian census asks a respondent to answer this question for each member of their household: "What is this person's religion?" Respondents are asked to give as specific an answer as possible.

Roman Catholics are by far the largest religious group. That said, the responses to the census question on religion reveal that the Deanery is increasingly post-Christian. A quarter of the people living in the Deanery have no religion (compared to 18% in 1981). And that is the second largest religious category in the Deanery, accounting for some 37,000 people.

Of those who do claim a religious affiliation, Buddhists rank third and Muslims rank fourth.

Anglicans rank fifth (5,600 people), just ahead of Hindus and those who wrote down simply “Christian”.

The number of Anglicans in the area is two fifths below the city average.

On a parish by parish comparison, those of no religion range from 9% (St. Matthias) to 42% (St. George-The-Martyr). Anglicans range from 3% (St. Anne’s) to 7% (St. Thomas’).

TABLE 2
TEN LEADING RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS – THE NUMBERS

	Area	City
Roman Catholic	67,900	755,465
No religion	37,375	453,985
Buddhist	7,315	66,510
Muslim	5,810	165,130
Anglican	5,640	150,220
Hindu	5,125	118,765
Christian (not included elsewhere)	4,620	96,345
United Church	3,850	131,825
Jewish	2,435	103,495
Protestant (not included elsewhere)	2,235	96,345

N = 158,145

The number of census Anglicans living in the Deanery is small. If five percent of these census Anglicans could be persuaded to join a parish, that would mean 40 new members for each parish in the Deanery. Can we do that? What difference would that make for the Deanery’s parishes?

It seems likely that if our parishes are to grow, we will need to reach out to those from other religious backgrounds as well as those who currently have no religion. Is this something that we are ready to do?

WHERE THE DATA COMES FROM

Before proceeding further, a brief comment on the sources for statistical data is in order. Further data from the census tracts used to determine religious affiliation is not available for the geographic area covered by Parkdale Deanery.

The closest fit would be the neighbourhood profiles produced by the city of Toronto based on the federal 2001 census. A composite profile would not, however, correspond exactly to the area covered by the Deanery. An essential ethnic data is missing. Area-wide information is available only for the Chinese, Canadian, and Portuguese ethnic groups. Nor is it possible to calculate the numbers for the various visible minorities present in the area as these profiles only give percentages, not actual numbers.

Fortunately, the city has compiled data by ward, and these profiles give fairly complete information on ethnicity and visible minority status. Parkdale Deanery's parishes are located in four city wards.

To get an overall sense of the Deanery's population we have used in this section of the report just three wards. These three wards cover most, but not all, of the Deanery's territory. (Other parts of this report will draw on data from four city wards and on data grouped by postal code)

Wards 14 (Parkdale-High Park), 18 (Davenport), and 19 (Trinity-Spadina) cover the area from Keele St. in the west, to Dupont in the north, Bathurst in the east, and down to the lake in the south. This excludes bulk of the territory covered by St Stephen-in-the-Fields, and all the territory covered by St Thomas. However, to include Ward 20 would add in the equivalent of two parishes that are not part of the Deanery. As it is, the combined profile for Wards 14, 18, 19 include the whole of one parish (St. Martin-In-The-Fields to west of the Deanery) and half of another parish (St. John the Evangelist to the east) that are not part of the Deanery.

Taken together, Wards 14, 18, and 19 do not correspond exactly to the Deanery's boundaries, but the fit is fairly close. Generalizations for the Deanery as a whole are based on the combined profile of Wards 14, 18, and 19.

To complement the profile based on these three wards we also dip into data from each of the four wards.

SOCIAL TRENDS

Together this data reveals several clear social trends. Among the most notable social trends is that the Deanery's population is aging, with Ward 14 (Parkdale-High Park) being the lone exception. From 1996 to 2001 those age 65 and over increased by 8% (Wards 18 Davenport and 19 Trinity Spadina) and 13.5% (Ward 20 Trinity Spadina)

Many of those over 65 are on low income. Using postal code areas as proxy for the Deanery's parishes, census data reveals that only St. Thomas' is close to the national average (13.6%). In Epiphany and St. Mark, 30% of seniors are on low income. In the parishes of St. Stephen-In-The-Fields and St. George-The-Martyr 40% of seniors are on low income,

Meanwhile, the Deanery's youth population is declining in the 7% to 14% range. Unfortunately, many of the youth who remain are at risk. In St. Mary Magdalene, 25% are in low-income families (the national average). By contrast, in the parishes of St. Stephen-In-the-Fields and St. George-The-Martyr over 50% of the children are in low-income families.

ETHNCITY AND VISIBLE MINORITIES

TABLE 3
ETHNCITY

Ward	Ward 14 Parkdale- High Park	Ward 18 Davenport	Ward 19 Trinity- Spadina	Area Wide	City
<i>Total Single Responses</i>	71.5%	81.2%	73.4%	75.2%	73.4%
Chinese	5.2	8.4	14.2	9.2	9.9
Canadian	8.1	4.5	4.7	5.8	6.5
Italian	NA	4.0	8.2	NA	5.6
East Indian	4.1	4.0	1.4	3.2	5.4
English	3.1	2.1	2.2	2.5	3.9
Vietnamese	3.0	2.3	1.2	2.2	NA
Portuguese	2.9	32.6	21.6	18.5	3.1
Ukrainian	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.6
Other	42.8	22.0	18.8	32.2	
<i>Multiple Responses</i>	28.5	18.8	26.6	24.8	26.6
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Parkdale Deanery is a multi-ethnic area.

The ward profiles only contain information for the top ten ethnic groups in each ward.

Some groups do have a significant presence in particular parts of the Deanery but are not in the top ten across the area: Italians 8.2% in Ward 19 (as noted in table 1), Poles 7.4% (in Ward 14). Filipinos 4.2% (Ward 14), and Jamaicans 1.2 % (Ward 18).

Nevertheless, eight groups do have a significant presence across the three wards, and they are represented in table 1.

Portuguese are the largest single ethnic group, and Asians also have a significant presence.

TABLE 4
VISIBLE MIMORITIES

	Ward 14 Parkdale- High Park	Ward 18 Davenport	Ward 19 Trinity- Spadina	Area Wide	City
Chinese	5.7%	8.8%	15.2%	9.8%	10.6%
South Asian	8.1	7.6	2.6	6.1	10.3
Black	6.7	5.7	2.9	5.2	8.3
Southeast Asian	3.8	2.8	1.6	2.8	1.4
Latin American	2.2	3.5	2.1	2.6	2.2
Filipino	4.7	1.6	1.1	2.5	3.5
Visible minority, n.i.e.*	3.1	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.6
Korean	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8**	1.2
West Asian	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	1.5
Multiple visible minorities	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8
Japanese	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Arab	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.9
All Others	62.0	66.7	71.6	66.4	57.2

* n.i.e. = not included elsewhere

** rounding error

Parkdale Deanery is a multicultural community. Visible minorities have a significant presence in the area. Chinese Canadians make up 20% (double the city average) of the population in Ward 20. And the Vietnamese are strongly represented across the Deanery. As noted, Filipinos and Blacks are concentrated in some of Deanery's neighbourhoods. Taken together, tables 3 and 4 reveal that a significant part of the Deanery's multicultural presence is of European origin.

INCOME

TABLE 5
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Ward 14 Parkdale- High park	Ward 18 Davenport	Ward 19 Trinity- Spadina	Area Wide	City
Under \$10,000	9.8%	8.8%	6.5%	8.6%	7.0
10,000- 19,999	17.7	14.5	10.5	14.5	11.5
20,000- 29,999	13.7	13.0	11.4	12.7	11.0
30,000- 39,999	12.6	12.5	11.4	12.2	11.0
40,000- 49,999	9.8	10.1	9.7	9.8	10.0
50,000- 59,999	7.5	7.8	9.1	8.1	8.5
60,000- 69,999	6.5	7.9	7.8	7.3	7.6
70,000- 79,999	4.7	6.3	6.2	5.6	6.2
80,000- 89,999	3.7	4.9	5.4	4.6	5.1
90,000- 99,999	2.4	3.8	4.8	3.6	4.1
100,00 and over	11.6	10.4	17.2	13.0	18.0
Average Household Income	\$48,947	\$50,390	\$61,449	NA	\$69,125
Median Household Income	36,097	40,836	50,104	NA	49,345

This table reveals that middle-income ranges are close to city-wide incomes. Lower-income households are over-represented in the Deanery; higher-income households are under-represented.

Average and median household income is generally significantly lower than the city as a whole, and there are huge differences between the Deanery' parishes.

TABLE 6
AVERAGE AND MEDIAN INCOME BY PARISH

	St Anne	Epiphany & St. Mark	St. George-The-Martyr	St. Mary Magdalene	St, Matthias	St. Stephen-In-The-Fields	St. Thomas	City
Average Household Income	\$52,131	\$47,962	\$57,004	\$62,502	\$70,826	\$62,694	\$61,055	\$69,125
Median Household Income	42,845	35,525	41,086	51,467	49,212	43,164	44,253	49,345

Only one parish comes close to the city-wide average household income, St. Mary Magdalene. All other parishes are below the city-wide average, some considerably so. The average household income in one parish, Epiphany and St. Mark, is almost one third below the city-wide average.

Only one parish comes close to the city-wide median household income, St Matthias, and it exceeds the city wide median. All other parishes are considerably below the city-wide median. One parish (Epiphany and St. Mark) is markedly below the city wide median, with a medium income of \$35,525, which is well over a quarter below the median.

EDUCATION

TABLE 8
EDUCATION
Age Twenty Years or Over

	Ward 14	Ward 18	Ward 19	Area	City
Less than Grade 9	9.6%	25.0%	20.1%	17.9%	10.8%
Grades 9-13	23.6	27.7	20.3	23.7	26.1
Trades Certificate or Diploma	6.8	5.7	4.6	5.7	7.1
College	19.7	16.6	16.2	17.5	19.7
University	40.3	25.1	38.8	35.2	36.3

The large number of those with less than a grade 9 education cannot be explained by the Deanery's elementary age population.

As a consequence, these figures signify huge gaps in levels of education and skills. And this gap is likely to grow (see table 8).

Area wide the university educated is close to the city average. But there are great variations within the Deanery as to levels of university education. In Ward 20 57.5% are university educated; in Ward 18 it's a quarter of the population

TABLE 9
ATTENDING SCHOOL, AGES 15-24

Ward	Ward 14	Ward 18	Ward 19	Area	City
Attending Full Time	51.4%	52.5%	48.7%	50.9%	61.9%

All wards have significantly lower levels of school attendance among those aged 15 to 24. The level for area as a whole is 80% of the city-wide average.

PART III - AT-RISK GROUPS

This section focuses on those groups within our community who are living-at-risk. This is not a comprehensive list of groups living-at-risk in our Deanery nor is it a complete description of these groups.

There is a widening gap in socioeconomic status in Parkdale. The number of middle- to upper- income families coming into the area is rising, and they are moving into gentrified houses on residential streets or into condominiums in new developments. By and large, condominium residents tend to be isolated from their surrounding neighbourhoods. In any case, property prices on residential streets have jumped, making it almost impossible for lower-income families to purchase housing in the area. Rents have also increased, and there is concern that many rental units in houses are being lost as higher-income home owners convert their houses back to single family residences. The result is lack of supportive and affordable housing, with lower-income families being forced to move into homes in other neighbourhoods west of Parkdale, if they have the financial means to relocate, or onto the streets if they do not.

Homelessness is increasing in Toronto, and it is a chronic problem in Parkdale as a result of how the area has developed and how it is now changing. Accurate data on homelessness is, however, extremely difficult to gather. The Toronto Report Card on Homelessness 2001 reports on the city of Toronto as a whole, and we will use this report to outline some general city-wide trends. For the area covered by the Deanery, there is data available on income and poverty. City of Toronto Ward profiles, based on the 2001 census provide a wealth of information, as do census returns gathered by postal code. The trends that we have unearthed from these sources are confirmed by the 20 or so community organizations in Parkdale that we contacted as part of this research.

Poverty is a chronic struggle in the Parkdale area. Looking at low-income rates by postal code within the immediate area of each of the Parkdale Deanery Churches (this does not include all postal codes within each parish), certain trends emerge. For quick reference, the data is summarized in the table below but will be referenced frequently throughout the body of the text as each at -risk group is discussed.

Table 10 Low income* rates by neighbourhood and in Canada, 2002.

Postal Code	M6K	M6J	M6G	M5T	M5S	Canada
Church	Epiphany & St. Mark	St. Anne St. Matthias	St. Mary Magdalene	St. Stephen St. George	St. Thomas	
% of total population in low income	37.1%	25.6%	21.3%	42.6%	23.1%	18.7%
% of couple families in low income	26.2%	19.5%	14.4%	32.7%	21.7%	10.0%
% of lone parent families in low income	49.2%	36.2%	29.1%	48.4%	29.6%	34.2%
% of all children (0-17) in low income	44.6%	32.4%	25.5%	52.4%	28.6%	25.1%
% of seniors (65+) in low income	29.9%	17.5%	15.6%	39.6%	13.0%	13.6%

Source: Prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development using Statistics Canada's Small Area and Administrative Division 2002 Family Data, Table 17.

*Low-income rates are reportedly calculated using Statistics Canada's Low-Income Measure (LIM). LIMs are a fixed percentage (50% of adjusted median family income).

The low-income rate, which generally translates to an estimate of the number of people drawing on social assistance, is significantly higher around the churches of Epiphany and St. Mark, St. Stephen In-The-Fields and St. George-The-Martyr. Unfortunately, data for the latter two cannot be separated out because of their common postal code. Examining the two parishes together is, however, appropriate as their at-risk groups and community needs are remarkably similar. The percentage of two-parent families, single-parent households, children, and seniors living on low income are substantially higher around these three parishes compared to the Deanery's other parishes.

➤ Families

➤ Couples with children

The fastest growing group of Toronto emergency shelter users are two-parent families and couples. Families with children are staying in shelters for longer, reflecting a lack of affordable housing to move into. The percentage of two-parent families in low income is significant. This is especially true in the most immediate surroundings of Epiphany and St. Mark (26.2%) and St. Stephen In-The-Fields and St. George-The-Martyr (32.7%). This should be compared to the Canadian national average of 10%. Only the area around St. Mary Magdalene comes close to this at 14.4%.

➤ Single-parent families

Looking at the ward 14, 18, 19 and 20 profiles, about 20% of families are lone parent families (ranges from 17.6% to 20.3%). Women are usually the primary parent and include those fleeing with their children from abusive homes. The percentage of lone parent families in low

income is higher than the national average of 34.4% for St. Stephen In-The-Fields and St. George-The-Martyr (48.4%) and around Epiphany and St. Mark (49.2%). Of note, the low income rate is lower than the national average around St. Mary Magdalene (29.1%) and St. Thomas (29.6%) with St. Anne and St. Matthias falling close to it (36.2%).

➤ **Children**

More children, especially the young, are in Toronto shelters. From 1988 to 1999, there was a 130% rise in the number of shelter admissions for children (from 2,700 to 6,200 children). Of these, a third were between ages 0-4 years and half between ages 4-15 years. This raises concern about the impact on child development, social and psychological growth, health, nutrition and academic learning.

As an aside, the greatest predictor of child literacy is literacy of parents. Organizations such as Parkdale Project Read have seen some significant demographic changes in recent years. In the past, their primary client population was made up of individuals whose first language was English and were primarily from the Caribbean or Canadian-born, often from Eastern Canada. More recently, they are seeing more people who have survived the psychiatric system, women and newcomers who are seeking status or struggling with various settlement issues. They are also seeing more youth, young people who have been excluded from or forced out of the school system and struggling with literacy or trying to complete their high school equivalency. The primary challenges faced by their students include issues of poverty, housing, lack of employment or underemployment, childcare issues and other systemic issues of discrimination around race, religion, class, and so on.

Childhood poverty is a major problem in the Deanery. The percentage of children (less than age 17) in low-income households is closest to the national average of 25.5% around St. Mary Magdalene and St. Thomas, at 25.5% and 28.6% respectively. It is highest around Epiphany and St. Mark (44.6%) with St. Stephen In-The-Fields and St. George-The Martyr being twice the national average (52.4%). Despite this staggering number, other at-risk groups such as immigrants, aboriginal peoples, and the homeless in general are more visible when one walks through the streets in these neighbourhoods. This makes it all the more important to recognize the trend in child poverty so that children at risk may not be overlooked and forgotten.

➤ **Youth**

Although there has been an overall decline in the number of youth (age 0-24) living in the areas covered by our parishes from 1996 to 2001, they still represent a significant number of area residents (ranging from 23.5%

to 31% from ward data), and they are a potentially vulnerable group in our community. It is estimated nationally that approximately 1/3 of the homeless are youth. Youth (age 15-24) are still a large group among Toronto shelter users. Between 1998 and 2000, the number of youth admissions has gradually increased from 20% to 23%. Translating this into actual numbers, in 1999 there were 6,000 youth admissions to Toronto shelters.

We already know much about why youth are homeless: their frequent struggles with issues of substance abuse, mental health, teen pregnancy (Parkdale having one of the highest in the city of Toronto as reported by the Parkdale Community Health Centre) together with their need for affordable housing, their lack of education, and the shortage of jobs that pay a living wage. Less is known about how best to help them. Youthworks is a multicentre initiative (including one agency, Eva's Phoenix, which is in Trinity-Spadina) that is trying to address this question. Interestingly, 70% of homeless youth report a lack of stable housing during their childhood, adolescence and teen years. This highlights the inter-generational cycle of homelessness. 68% reported difficult family relationships and estrangement from family, with 34% reporting family conflict and 32% reporting being victims of violence or abuse as contributing factors for homelessness. Among homeless youth, 76% reported dropping out of school, and 30% recognized they lacked essential life skills to move forward. Clearly this is a group that requires a much higher level of support than is the case among homeless adults.

➤ **Seniors**

There is no question that the number of seniors is rising in Parkdale and that we are living in an aging society. Organizations in Parkdale are beginning to recognize that seniors represent a significant non-visible at-risk group. As people age and become less mobile, they are at-risk of becoming shut in. They are also living on pensions that may not meet their rising costs of living.

The percentage of people age 65+ in low-income households is high for Epiphany and St. Mark (29.9%) but higher still for St. Stephen In-The-Fields and St. George-The-Martyr where it attains 39.6%. For St. Thomas, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Anne and St. Matthias, the numbers approximate the Canadian average of 13.6%. The number of homeless older adults is expected to increase with the aging of the baby boomers.

Housing is a critical determinant of health and housing is associated with improved health outcomes. The aging homeless pose unique challenges for programming, policy and service provision

➤ **Immigrants & refugees**

There are a number of refugee reception centres in the Parkdale area. Though issues of homelessness and low income prevail among these two groups, the causes of these problems are different for them than for other at-risk groups. Immigrants and refugees face the unique challenge of living in a completely new social environment: acquiring a new language, adopting new customs, and learning to negotiate new systems of education, social welfare, and so on. They also lack the opportunities and supports from both society and government that the Canadian-born can usually take for granted.

Refugees face additional challenges as they cope with the trauma of the circumstances from which they are fleeing. This group is particularly fluid in our community, with the ethnic and linguistic backgrounds changing depending on the world political situation. Some of the refugee reception centres in Parkdale have commented on the recent large influx of people from North and Central Africa (Ethiopia, Congo and Eritrea) who are devoutly Christian and eager to build linkages of faith. There is also a large influx of people from China and Tibet.

➤ **Aboriginal peoples**

There is a greater presence of aboriginal peoples in the Trinity-Spadina area, which includes the parishes of St. Stephen In-The-Fields, St. Thomas and St. George-The-Martyr. Native Canadians are over-represented among Toronto's homeless population. They bring unique historical and cultural perspectives to their community.

➤ **Mental health & addiction**

The Queen Street Mental Health Centre/Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) on Queen St. is located in the Deanery, and there is a disproportionate number of people living in the area with addictions and mental illness. Their illness tends to be chronic in nature, and it is typically associated with social isolation. This chronicity leads to further instability in their social circumstances. They are more likely to be on disability, welfare, living on low-incomes, in shelters or homeless. There is a higher incidence of criminal behaviour.

One of the challenges faced by the Parkdale Community Health Centre, and one expressed by many of the organizations working in the field, is the growing complexity of each individual's case. Rarely is the Health Centre faced with a client seeking their services for one problem. Rather, they come with a number of problems, which are typically interrelated, with one issue feeding into another – for example it is not uncommon to hear of the scenarios in which people face mental illness, social isolation, addiction, crime, poverty, and homelessness or in which youth experience unstable or abusive homes, teen pregnancy, dropping

out of school, inadequate employment preparedness, life on the streets, and prostitution.

AGENCIES:

Many agencies try to meet the needs of the various groups living-at-risk in Parkdale. We contacted several agencies to explore what they do, what their goals are, whether they had a prior connection with faith-based groups - in particular- with the churches in the Parkdale Deanery, and, finally, whether they would consider partnerships with Parkdale's Anglican parishes and what these partnerships might look like.

Given the time constraints under which this study was conducted, it was not possible to contact every agency active in the Deanery. Although other agencies could be approached in the future, and we may still hear from others whom we have contacted but who have not yet responded to our inquiries (this report should be viewed as a working document), we believe that those agencies who have responded so far are representative of the agencies active in the community at large.

Overall there is a tremendous openness to fostering connections and developing partnerships with the Anglican parishes in the Deanery, particularly those in the area of Parkdale-High Park. Agencies such as Matthew House (refugee reception), Eva's Phoenix (youth services), LOFT, St. Christopher House, the Parkdale Community Health Centre, Parkdale Project Read and St. Stephen's Community House are interested in further discussions with parishes and the Deanery about such partnerships. There were also offers to provide educational material or sessions with congregations about their community members living-at-risk and how people may become more involved.

The agencies we contacted perceive faith groups as being intent upon finding solutions to the problems at-risk people face by working with local agencies and reaching out to those who are isolated or at-risk. Several groups (listed above and outlined in further detail in the appendix list of agencies) have ideas for partnership opportunities which vary considerably in their level of commitment on the part of churches and their congregations. These could include provision of:

- Support through mentorship of youth or refugees, assisting with transitioning into communities, and hosting social events. Those with a common faith have expressed a desire to create more formal "links of friendship".
- Volunteers for community programmes, such as Meals-on-Wheels, home visiting.
- Donations such as food, furniture, and welcome and exit kits for refugees.

- Social housing, e.g. for refugees. A congregation may wish to take primary responsibility of a refugee family as part of their outreach programme. Parishioners might be able to provide a room to a refugee for a short time while awaiting entry into a refugee reception centre that is temporarily full. Some parishioners may be in a position to establish a more formal landlord role and rent an apartment to a refugee family after discharge from a reception centre.
- Space for agency programmes. Length of proposed partnerships could be variable in duration. Space is needed for occasional meetings and short-term (4-6 weeks) temporary programmes meeting once a week as well as for more permanent programmes, youth meeting centres or organization offices.
- Property for youth or refugee reception housing.
- One organization (St. Christopher House) is forming a Parkdale Neighbourhood Council and they felt that there was a place/role on the Council for churches in the area.

In addition to partnerships with community organizations, there is also an opportunity to develop partnership between Christian churches in Parkdale. World Vision Canada has developed a NeighbourLink programme that assists churches to establish local NeighbourLink networks. “NeighbourLink Downtown Toronto” services the area from Pape to Bathurst (South of Bloor St.), but it does not encompass the portion of the Parkdale Deanery west of Bathurst. NeighbourLink Downtown Toronto has established itself as a Christian, non-denominational, charitable organization supported by 5 local churches. Through NeighbourLink, these local churches develop a centralized database and telephone resource centre to assess people's needs, referring them to church volunteers and social service providers. The World Vision website walks people through the steps required to establish a local programme.

Agencies were also asked if they had any advice for parishes as they try to build partnerships and become more involved in these issues. Although many embraced the idea of partnering, they cautioned that it takes time to build relationships and trust. We need to remember that Parkdale has had a history of difficult relationships between various groups with different agendas. As a result, some long-time residents and agencies in Parkdale experience fatigue when they encounter new ideas and new networks.

There are a considerable number agencies working in Parkdale, but funding and resources are scarce. The agencies we contacted therefore strongly recommended that we consult and collaborate with established groups in the area. These agencies also emphasized that once we enter into a project, commitment is critical, especially when working with youth and other groups who already feel abandoned.

PART IV - HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

INTRODUCTION

The complex issue of chronic homelessness together with the lack of adequate housing begins with ordinary people like you and me. Any one of us could become homeless under the wrong circumstances. What are these circumstances? Job loss, family breakdown, breakdown of ordinary social support systems, mental illness, catastrophic illness, street drugs – all of these, in various combinations, can cause a person or a family to fall through the social safety net and to land in substandard or inadequate housing, or to land on the street itself and become completely homeless.

An obituary in the *Globe & Mail* in June 2005 illustrates this scenario. Robert Burns was a very famous and gifted graphic designer, regularly called by his peers a “virtuoso” and a “genius.” Robert had his own prestigious design firm, Burns Cooper Hynes, and he worked with some of the most talented people in Canada, doing outstanding design work for Northern Telecom, Alcan, Imperial Oil, Cadillac Fairview, Canadian Pacific Airlines, Roots, and CITY-TV. As was quite common in creative circles a few decades ago, he snorted cocaine but soon moved on to injecting it. Burns Cooper Hynes collapsed in the early 1980s. Robert found other jobs but eventually lost those too. His family relationships also broke down. He ended up living on the street, where he suffered from two types of hepatitis and acquired terminal liver damage. The end of his obituary says this about the final months of his life:

Although he had been living on and off the street for years, lately he was living in a group home run by the Homes First Society and had connected with outreach and religious workers at St. James Cathedral in Toronto and a neighbourhood centre called 6 St. Joseph Street. Two weeks ago, he spent the day working on a renovation project, went home to have some soup with a friend and collapsed.

Robert Burns was 63. His funeral was held on May 25, 2005, at St. James Cathedral, with a reception to follow. He had asked that donations be made to the Creative Spirit Art Centre, an art centre for people with disabilities.

This report is an attempt to understand some of the larger factors that contribute to the problems of inadequate housing and homelessness. In addition, this report seeks to present a picture about what is currently being done and what still needs to be done to redress these issues.

Our research proceeds along three avenues: researching a limited range of academic articles on homelessness and cultural trends in Parkdale; compiling available statistics on the extent of homelessness in Parkdale; and gathering

direct information on homelessness from interviews with current service providers.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

The academic research that we have looked at focuses on the developments that have had an impact on homelessness in Parkdale, and at the cultural phenomenon of “gentrification,” which many researchers see as a key part of the larger cultural context for all of these historical events.

In his book entitled *City Form and Everyday Life: Toronto’s Gentrification and Cultural Social Practice* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994), Toronto scholar Jon Caulfield described gentrification as a reorientation of development from the suburbs back to urban areas. This process was driven by an influx of young, highly educated artists and political and cultural activists. Influenced by Jane Jacobs, these artists and activists sought to overcome the pathological “slum” image of inner-city neighbourhoods through a new appreciation of craft-based Victorian architecture and neighbourhood structure. Caulfield described this development as an “emancipation” of these urban neighbourhoods from prolonged urban blight and ghettoization. Gentrification, he argued, produced more diverse neighbourhoods with a healthier tax base, which in turn provided better support for basic amenities like schools and shopping areas. It also produced vibrant arts districts like Queen Street West, which is full of galleries, studios, and cafes.

However, later researchers have begun to articulate the darker side of gentrification. Tom Slater, in his article entitled “Municipally Managed Gentrification in South Parkdale, Toronto: (*Canadian Geographer*, Vol. 48, No. 3, 2004, pp. 303-325), chronicles the story of South Parkdale, once an affluent, desirable neighbourhood on the shore of Lake Ontario. In the 1960s, a large swathe of South Parkdale was razed to make room for the Gardiner Expressway. Then in 1979 the Lakeshore Provincial Psychiatric Hospital was closed, followed by the closure in the 1980s of the Queen Street Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

These closures were part of a provincial government decision to de-institutionalize mental patients. However, the anticipated community care services never really materialized. By 1981, this failure resulted in 1200 mentally-ill persons being discharged into South Parkdale, all trying to find spaces in the 39 official group homes. As a result, 30 people could find themselves in homes designed for between 3 and 10 residents. Many of these people ended up in unofficial, illegal, and substandard boarding houses, rooming houses, and bachelorettes. The large number of illegal conversions during this period created one of the highest concentrations of such dwellings in the city of Toronto. The people who lived in these dwellings or who lived on the street itself were regularly

characterized as vagrants, drunks, crazies and, generically, as “undesirables.” Not only were they stigmatized, but they were also blamed for the decline of Parkdale.

In subsequent years, the city began a process of municipally managed gentrification, in an attempt to decrease the volume of single-occupancy housing and replace it with housing for middle-class families. The Tenant Protection Act in 1998 eliminated rent controls and enabled landlords to evict many low-income tenants in order to make room for wealthier occupants.

In a recent article, Tom Slater has challenged the dominant myth that Parkdale was an exclusively affluent neighbourhood before the 1960s and attacked the notion that gentrification was simply restoring the neighbourhood to its original identity . In “Village Ghetto Land Myth, Social Conditions, and Housing Policy in Parkdale, Toronto, 1879-200” (*Urban Affairs Review*, Vol 41, No 5, May 2006, pp. 673-696), Slater has demonstrated, through close attention to rent rolls and other property information, that Parkdale was always a mixed neighbourhood, and that this has been a part of its vitality and appeal.

Still other scholars have described the process of gentrification as a search by well-off middle-class people, who are uprooted or alienated from their own histories, for an idyllic or idealized “history,” “community,” and “neighbourhood.” Quite often the “history” such people think they are getting is a selective history, one that requires the erasure of the actual histories of the immigrants and the urban poor, such as rooming-house dwellers and sex-trade workers, who have also traditionally belonged to that neighbourhood.

Quite often, the middle-class people who gentrify these dwellings and neighbourhoods seek to clean up these neighbourhoods by expelling those whose presence disturbs the idyllic vision of genteel “history,” “community,” and “neighbourhood.” The rationale that is given is often one of “beautification,” of preserving “heritage,” or advancing urban “renewal.” Either way, the urban poor are displaced into the outer suburbs, if they have the money to do so, or onto the streets, if they do not.

STATISTICS ON HOMELESSNESS

Our second avenue of research is directed to gathering statistics about the extent of homelessness in Parkdale. In April 2006, Toronto conducted its first city-wide Street Needs Assessment to better understand the service needs and number of homeless individuals living outdoors. The study showed that there were 818 people living outdoors city-wide. Some other findings: 9 out of 10 people surveyed want housing; Aboriginal people are disproportionately represented in the outdoor homeless population (26% of all people surveyed outdoors); drop-ins are the most used service; most people were not on a waiting list for housing;

people need assistance finding an affordable place, more money, transportation to see apartments, help completing housing applications and help getting identification.

Unfortunately, the report did not provide numbers on a geographic basis. Word has it that currently 122,000 people are on the City's centralized waiting list for affordable and/or supportive housing. This number is also not broken down geographically. Reliable statistics on homelessness are difficult to come by because the criteria are always contested, and both the process for gathering data and the numbers themselves are politically contentious.

AGENCY SURVEY

Because of the difficulty in gathering reliable and targeted statistics, we decided to contact those agencies in Parkdale that either deal directly with the homeless or have some other connection to the issue. The actual number of agencies active in Parkdale is hard to determine because agencies with head offices elsewhere in the city may in fact be active in the Parkdale area. At the same time it can be difficult to determine just what work an agency may be doing in Parkdale since a single agency may run several different kinds of programs in several different locations. We began with the list of agencies in the "Blue Book" and added other agencies as we became aware of them.

We contacted as many agencies as possible by phone. It became apparent very early that the smaller agencies, and those serving the Chinese community, did not have the resources to speak with us or to complete our small survey. Hence we focused on the larger agencies, which did have such resources and which were better placed to view and assess some of the larger trends and changes which are having an impact on their work.

The survey consisted of the following questions:

1. What is the focus of your agency? What is the bulk of the work that you do?
2. What demographic changes are you seeing in the context of your work? What are the main challenges that lie ahead for your agency, and for your clients?
3. Are you aware of any particularly helpful research that has been done on social issues (including homelessness), demographic changes, and so on in the Parkdale area? Would you be willing to share that with me?
4. More specifically on issues of homelessness and affordable housing, what are you seeing from your vantage point? Any significant demographic changes, or issues, or anything else you can think of?
5. Are you aware of any of the Anglican parishes with Parkdale? (parishes and locations listed)

6. Do you currently have any linkages with any of the above parishes? Could you describe those linkages? Do you have linkages with any other churches in the area?
7. Would you like to have any linkages with any of these seven parishes listed above? Which ones, and what might the linkages look like?
8. These seven parishes are considering partnering with each other to see how they can leverage their resources to help meet some of the serious social needs in Parkdale. In general terms, can you envision a useful role that these parishes might play?
9. More specifically, is there anything distinctive that you think these churches could contribute to the issue of homelessness and affordable housing?
10. Do you have any advice for these parishes as they try to build partnerships and get more involved in finding solutions to these social issues?
11. Do you have any further comments that you'd like to make?

WHAT WE HEARD

1. Focus of Agency
 - a. *St. Stephen's Community House*: a multi-service agency which runs a drop-in centre with showers, laundry, and food; offers counselors to help with addictions, housing, and mental-health issues; provides housing workers to help people move into rooming houses; runs housing residence with 13 permanent tenants; does street outreach in Chinatown and between Yonge and Bathurst; liaises with local hospital to arrange health and psychiatric care for homeless people.
 - b. *Streets to Homes*: a unit of the Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division of the City of Toronto; purpose is to fulfill Toronto City Council's commitment to end street homelessness by working to help homeless people move from living outdoors directly into housing, bypassing the shelter system; focused outreach to people outdoors and follow-up supports to people once housed to ensure that they do not lose their housing; coordinates work of non-profit street outreach providers.
 - c. *Street Health*: a community-based agency providing health services to homeless people and the under-housed; services provided on the street, in the alleys, along the lakeshore, in parks, ravines and in homeless and drop-in shelters; staff offer support and advocacy, and run peer-focused support and educational training groups.
 - d. *Parkdale Community Legal Services*: a community legal clinic serving a diverse low-income community in Parkdale; services include summary legal advice and legal representation, public legal education, community development work, and law reform projects; partner with Osgoode Law School's Intensive Program in Poverty

- Law; balances the case-by-case approach of individual service delivery with the more systemic approach of community development, law reform projects and test case litigation.
- e. *Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre (PARC)*: multi-service agency serving psychiatric survivors, who are socially isolated and homeless; runs a daily drop-in, an outreach program offering case management services for people with major mental illness or serious primary health issues; food support program; primary health support; 10 units of supportive housing; 370 core volunteers plus an additional 3100 volunteer contacts; small group activities in art, music, literacy, crafts, recreation, and yoga.
 - f. *Homes First Society*: operates two shelters (both in Parkdale) for direct intake of people who live on the street or are banned from other shelters; owns and/or manages thirteen buildings (one in Parkdale) as permanent housing for people with few housing options; supports people with a history of homelessness and varying ability levels, many of whom have mental health and/or addiction issues in their attempts to access and maintain stable housing; runs a Meal Club and helps clients access health care, banking services, identification, and other supports.
 - g. *Houselink Community Homes*: provides permanent supportive housing to adults living with mental illness and poverty; also provides individual support and service through community kitchen programs, member employment and community development endeavours.
 - h. *Seaton House (Fort York)*: has 74 dorm beds in dorms of 8, 4, and 2-person size, and 24 small bachelor-type “rehabilitation units” that are rented to clients wishing to make the transition to independent housing; intensive case management to assist clients in finding and maintaining work; employment assessment program; partnership with George Brown College for apprenticeship programs.
 - i. *Toronto Disaster Relief Committee*: advocacy group, working to implement the One Percent Solution, which would see one percent of the federal budget go to affordable housing on an annual basis; works in the City of Toronto to stop shelter closures, prevent the criminalization of homeless people and organize for safe conditions during cold and heat alerts.
 - j. *Bellwoods House*: a transitional shelter for women, age fifty and older; an adjunct to the Women’s Residence, which is a City-run shelter; goal is to facilitate the transition from dependence to independence; case management (links to community partners, health supports, referrals to housing and financial resources) within a communal setting which provides the opportunity to reawaken dormant skills and regain independence.
 - k. *St. Christopher House*: a multi-service agency which integrates a community development approach with direct service delivery;

operates youth programs focusing on social/recreational, life skills and job readiness; works with the Parkdale Youth Service-Providers Network to coordinate services; operates a multilingual immigrant and refugee services program; operates drop-ins serving homeless persons with longstanding severe mental health issues; engaged in advocacy and policy development; partners with University of Toronto to research social issues.

- I. *LOFT Community Services*: an integrated provider of permanent and long-term housing and support services to youth, adults, and older persons/seniors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and who have mental health issues and addictions; manage 800 supportive housing units, providing support to those residents but also 600 people in the community at large; street outreach programs to make contact with people on the street; in the Parkdale area, run two homes for youth, one for adults, and three for seniors. Loft began as an Anglican organization, but its association with the church is now an informal one. Several Anglicans serving on the board of directors, and it receives an annual grant from Faithworks.
 - m. *Sistering*: offers drop-in services to women who are homeless or near homeless and to older women living in rooming houses who lack social interaction, nutritious meals, and services like health care; drop-in provides showers, laundry, hair cuts, hygiene products, clothing, phone and mail access, light breakfast and hot lunch; also organizes social and recreational events, language and literacy services, health education, housing support and advocacy, accompaniment to appointments with doctors, lawyers etc, support groups and individual transitional counseling, pre-employment supports, tax clinics.
 - n. *Davenport-Perth Community Ministry*: an organization of the United Church of Canada, funded by the Mission and Service Fund and the Toronto West Presbytery; connected to Davenport-Perth United Church, and situated in the Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Centre; assists residents and agencies in the community to identify issues that they want to work on together and then draw on the resources within the neighbourhood to achieve those goals.
2. General Demographic Change and the Challenges to Agencies Working in Parkdale (numerals indicate number of agencies who made the comment)
- a. Insecure and/or insufficient funding
 - i. Difficulty in maintaining consistent government funding for programs (4)
 - ii. Decline in private donations (1)

- iii. United Way's "Poverty by Postal Code" study has turned attention away from neighbourhoods like Parkdale, to the large unmet needs in the suburbs (1)
 - b. Increasing numbers of people who are at-risk and in need of support outstrips available infrastructure
 - i. Increase in hunger/income/poverty/housing insecurity issues in west-end Toronto (2)
 - ii. Ongoing waves of immigration, with the Caribbean countries, Tibet, and China heavily represented in the latest wave
 - iii. Lack of mental-health resources to meet the unique needs of large increase in ethno-cultural communities (1)
 - iv. More aboriginal women, Latin American women (many single mothers), more hard-to-serve women living at hostels
 - v. New Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) health care service structure may complicate client access to community health services.
 - vi. Responding to language and cultural needs of new immigrants requires languages and cultural knowledge that agencies may not have
 - c. Supporting people with multiple needs is extremely labour-intensive and strains agency resources (3)
 - d. Complex demographic changes require agencies to keep changing programming and manage tensions in client groups
 - i. Computer literacy has become a requirement for many types of work for which it formerly wasn't required, e.g., warehousing (1)
 - ii. Younger street women who want drugs/alcohol, food, a couch to sleep on, and clothing, but who are not interested in the programs that are offered.
 - iii. Challenge for agency will be: integrating emerging populations with existing population; tensions between younger and older clients; revise referral system and change programming to take account of changes
 - iv. Clients are getting older, mentally and physically, and this will require service changes
 - e. At-risk people are largely invisible, as is the work done by agencies to support them; hence there is insufficient funding for this sort of preventive work (2)
- 3. Research on Social Issues and Homelessness
 - a. Bob Rose at PARC
 - b. Toronto Disaster Relief website
 - c. LOFT website
 - d. Scott Mission website
 - e. Daily Bread Food Bank does ongoing research linked to income support and hunger

- f. Older “Street Health” report which gives a good overview of homelessness in the downtown area
 - g. Some doctors from St Michael’s Hospital published some reports on homelessness (available on the internet)
 - h. St. Christopher House research on neighbourhood change in the downtown west end (gentrification, displacement of lower-income people and other related social issues) done in conjunction with the Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto; see www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/cura
 - i. Research done by Wellesley Institute
 - j. Street Health is currently conducting a survey across the city to document the health status of homeless people and their barriers to accessing health care; results will be ready in May 2007. Some surveys were conducted in drop-ins and shelters in Parkdale.
 - k. Street Health is currently conducting a study which looks at the trends, use, and needs among the drug-using population; results will be released in the spring of 2007.
 - l. Some Ryerson students have done a study of gentrification in Parkdale on behalf of the Parkdale Liberty Economic Development Corporation (PLEDC). See <http://www.parkdaleliberty.com>
4. Demographic Changes Among the Homeless
- a. New groups are showing up in the homeless population or at risk of becoming homeless, putting pressure on existing resources and infrastructure and requiring change to programs. Some of the key changes in the homeless population are:
 - i. More families, women and children are becoming homeless (2)
 - ii. Increase in middle European women and younger women; increase in older males
 - iii. Many older women who are having mobility problems but who are not yet seniors (less than 55) and cannot apply for seniors subsidized housing
 - iv. Vulnerable low-income women who are 55-64 and not yet able to access CPP/OAS
 - v. Increase in the number of mid-life women who have lost jobs and do not have safety net, living in abusive situations, cannot find full-time work, have health issues and are at risk
 - b. Forces working against the development or preservation of affordable and supportive housing
 - i. Affordable housing is being eroded by gentrification and new upscale condos; not enough is being built to replace what is being lost (4)
 - ii. Criminalization of homelessness; “beautification” and “targeted policing” in Parkdale can lead to “social cleansing,” ridding the neighbourhood of undesirables, including the

- homeless and panhandlers, along with drug dealers and sex trade workers (2)
 - iii. Parkdale will need to fight to remain inclusive and diverse, to remain a neighbourhood in which low-income people can continue to live without being condemned to living in substandard housing, which is one small step away from the gentrification/demolition wrecking ball (2)
 - iv. NIMBY forces in Parkdale that are supported by political processes (e.g., OMB); at the same time, many citizens who would like to maintain its diversity are working to improve the quality of life for its many long-term/low-income citizens (2)
 - v. Homelessness is not a priority for any level of government (1)
 - c. Difficulty supporting clients with multiple complex issues
 - i. Difficulty of supporting individuals with active major addictions to retain the housing they are in (rent payment, aggressive behaviour in neighbourhood, illegal acts, especially involvement with dealing/dealers)
 - ii. Increase in homeless among those with mental health and addiction issues
 - iii. Increasing numbers of street youth who are homeless and are struggling with addictions, poverty and other problems
 - iv. Challenge of housing the aging who are chronically homeless
 - 1. Chronically homeless are aging, and they have high needs because problems of aging are exacerbated by long-term malnutrition, exposure, street illnesses, and street drugs; few nursing homes and other facilities will accept the chronically homeless elderly
 - 2. Not enough supportive housing designed specifically for the chronically homeless elderly
 - d. Unstable or insufficient funding for client programming and support
 - i. Lots of competition for scarce funding dollars
 - ii. Dwindling resources to deal with practical issues (loss of some of the Street Vans, difficulty in accessing transportation for clients to and from appointments, shopping)
 - iii. There is less food in the shelter system (1)
 - iv. Possibility of new federal program to provide funding for rent for those who qualify (1)
5. Agencies' Awareness of the Seven Anglican Parishes in Parkdale
- a. 12 agencies responded to this question
 - b. 3 out of 12 agencies said that they had no awareness of any of the seven Parkdale parishes
 - c. 2 agencies said they were aware of the seven Parkdale parishes

- d. 2 said that they were aware of one parish
 - i. St Matthias
 - ii. Epiphany & St Mark
 - e. 2 said that they were aware of two parishes
 - i. Marginal knowledge of St Stephen's and Epiphany & St Mark
 - ii. Some knowledge of St Stephen's and St Thomas's
 - f. 2 said they were aware of several parishes
 - i. Epiphany & St Mark, St Anne's and St Stephen's-in-the-Fields
 - ii. St Matthias, St Anne's, and St Mary Magdalene, and St Stephen's
 - g. 1 agency said they were aware of all seven parishes
6. Current linkages
- a. 13 agencies responded to this question
 - b. 9 out of 13 agencies indicated no current linkages
 - c. 4 indicated current linkages with one or more parishes
 - i. City has partnered with St Matthias for the past 8 years; St Matthias owns the building used by Bellwoods House
 - ii. Sistering refers women to Epiphany & St Mark for the food bank and for spiritual guidance; church provides clothing donations
 - iii. LOFT took over St. Anne's Place and turned it into supportive apartments for seniors
 - iv. Clergy from St Anne's, St Matthias, and St George the Martyr have led services in LOFT buildings
 - v. St. Christopher House used space at St Matthias as temporary home for drop-in and parishioners volunteered for Meals on Wheels
 - vi. St. Christopher House had a fundraising concert at St Mary Magdalene
 - vii. St Christopher House looked at potential space at St Anne's
7. Desired linkages
- a. 9 agencies responded to this question
 - b. 3 out of 9 agencies indicated general interest in having contact with and support from neighbours, especially in efforts that promote and enhance the quality of life of clients
 - c. 4 agencies indicated general interest in formal linkages, but would need to meet with prospective partners to determine how a linkage might work (linkages would require mutual compatibility in the purpose, intent and actual operation of the linkage)
 - d. 2 agencies indicated desire for linkage with specific parishes
 - i. Bellwoods House indicated interest in linkage with St Stephen's

- ii. PARC would like to have linkages with St Anne's and Epiphany & St Mark
 - e. 5 agencies indicated strong desire to enhance existing linkages and indicated great interest in exploring possibilities with the other Parkdale parishes
- 8. Useful role for seven partnered parishes
 - a. 8 agencies responded to this question
 - b. Work on political advocacy for affordable housing and income security (6)
 - i. See St Christopher House policy document entitled "Time for a Fair Deal: Modernizing Income Security for Working Age Adults"
 - ii. Help with the Drop the Fee campaign for immigrants
 - iii. Help with project to make sure that children of undocumented immigrants are able to attend school and receive medical care through OHIP
 - c. Organize community-building social activities for clients, to reduce social isolation; befriending clients (6)
 - d. Provide local neighbourhood support for agencies and program initiatives (4)
 - i. Attend neighbourhood association meetings regularly and speak in favour of local initiatives; develop a neighbour-based strategy to deal with local NIMBY attitudes (2)
 - ii. Provide opportunities for public education or hosting community meetings
 - iii. Facilitate community education on social justice and social support issues confronted by local agencies
 - iv. Consider joining efforts to form a Parkdale Neighbourhood Council
 - e. Partner with other key groups to build affordable housing, and consider donating buildings or property (4)
 - f. Fundraising for specific initiatives (4)
 - g. Facilitate donations of goods and services
 - i. Leveraging professional services among congregation members that may be of benefit to clients (e.g., translation services for clients) (3)
 - ii. Coordinating specific donated goods, e.g. clothing for mature aged women and gifts for grandchildren (3)
 - iii. Transportation and storage of useful donations; many agencies do not have regular access to vehicles and often do not have the capacity to store goods, and so cannot capitalize on donations of goods that would help clients (2)
 - h. Other suggestions (see caveats below under Advice to parishes)
 - i. Organize a drop-in, food bank or meal program (2)
 - ii. Provide an Out of the Cold program (1)

- iii. Recognize people who are at risk and arranging connections with a variety of city services and private agencies, so that supports could be arranged fairly quickly (1)
- iv. Churches could function as ID “banks” for the homeless so there is somewhere they can go to find help with getting copies of their important papers

9. Possible distinctive contribution

- a. 4 agencies responded to this question
- b. Championing the cause of the homeless and the organizations that service them, particularly by attending neighbourhood associations, contacting councilors, and so on; these actions can be especially useful if church members are also local rate-payers (3)
- c. Group of parishes could adopt a specific housing site to support its operating costs, by organizing special events and projects and general fundraising; to form a “circle of support” for a new housing venture and support clients before, during, and after development (2)
- d. A faith perspective can be very useful when doing political lobbying and in making public statements. Sometimes this perspective helps to convince political leaders and the wider population of the need for change. (1)
- e. Parishes have a base of people who can reflect on issues of poverty and mobilize themselves to take action (1)
- f. Pooling resources would give you a larger voice in municipal decisions that would affect individual parishes (1)
- g. Provide spiritual support to clients, particularly women; often this is the only solace that keeps them going (1)

10. Advice for the parishes

- a. 8 agencies responded to this question
- b. Don’t reinvent the wheel!
 - i. Partner with agencies that are already doing this work. They have spent a lot of time doing this and can advise you about what’s needed. (2)
 - ii. There’s a lot of work going on in Parkdale and it’s often not well coordinated. It’s a competitive funding environment, which often hinders cooperative service planning. Please don’t start something new without consulting!
- c. Start small and focused, and grow from there
 - i. Don’t try to do everything at once. Use a “small-wins” strategy, focusing on a few smaller initiatives that can be nurtured to success and then look for opportunities to expand; start small and focused, perhaps by approaching one local organization/project and asking if there is a clearly defined project or service that you can provide. (3)

- ii. Build on the relationships that already exist between the parishes and various agencies, and look at strengthening and enhancing those relationships.
 - iii. Build in some measures of evaluation before you even get started so you can see if you are achieving what you want to achieve.
 - iv. Focus on working with initiatives that are solving the issue, not just managing the issue.
 - d. Build formal linkages carefully, and be clear about your contribution
 - i. Find agencies whose mission statement, values and principles, and history of services are compatible with the Deanery parishes.
 - ii. Formalize the linkages, clearly articulating expectations of all parties, ensuring everyone is aware of their role and boundaries, establishing communication mechanisms and centralizing operational components can make linkages work.
 - iii. Build linkages with other community agencies, especially with multi-service agencies with broad relationships, as opposed to “one-off” organizations (3)
 - e. Be patient in building trust and finding out where the needs are
 - i. It takes time to build relationships and trust, and Parkdale in particular has an extraordinary history of difficult relationships between different groups. It takes time to sort out the different agendas and histories. Here’s also some fatigue by some long-time residents (and agencies) about new ideas and new networks. Be patient, consult, and build trusting relationships.
 - ii. Get out into the community to visit agencies and identify yourselves. Engage in direct dialogue with agencies.
 - iii. Join the Parkdale Roundtable, which meets at the Parkdale library every few month to exchange information and discuss solutions for social issues. (3)
 - iv. Don’t be dismayed if you contact an organization, and they can’t accept a specific item or volunteer service that you have to offer. Some offers can actually end up costing the organization more than they can afford. Ask if there is some way to make the donation more useful or whether they know anyone else who might need it. Ask whether they need something else.
 - v. Survey the actual residents in Parkdale (i.e., homeless and at-risk people) to see what they think the solutions might be.
11. Other comments
- a. Please let us know the results of your decision-making process. (1)

- b. Parkdale Deanery actually includes a number of neighbourhoods in addition to Parkdale; we might want to change the Deanery's name in order to better reflect who we are

Reflections on the Research

Other research done for the Parkdale Ministerial Development Council has shown that the members of Parkdale's parishes largely live outside the parish they belong to. Each parish has developed a distinct identity, form of worship, and mission. Our parishes have become "destination" churches for their members, and as "boutique" churches they offer their members a readily identifiable way of worship and of community. Research on gentrification raises some challenging questions about the functioning of a "destination" or "boutique" church. To what degree are these churches attempts to create and maintain an idealized past that is cut off from the parish's actual neighbourhood, its diverse communities, and its real human needs?

How adequate is it for such churches to say, "Our parish is the GTA," or "Our parish is the world," or "Our parish is virtual"? How adequate are those claims as a description of being the body of Christ in the world? And what does this imply for actual ministry in the real world to real people? Is the notion of a "virtual" parish compatible (or not) with our historic Anglican commitment to incarnational presence and ministry? In the long run, how sustainable is our attempt to protect the beauty of our liturgies and other prized traditions from being pressured and challenged by the realities of our neighbourhoods and of their inhabitants?

Agencies tell us that work on homelessness is difficult and requires a long-term commitment. They tell us that we need to be willing to start small, listen to the needs out there, and gradually grow our involvement in ways that are sustainable. So what would it take for such ministries to be sustainable? Our sense is that we may need to look carefully at rebalancing our activities. Rather than focusing on maintaining an inward-looking liturgy and worship, with a variety of relatively peripheral ministries, we might need to learn to think of ourselves primarily as the body of Christ in the world, with our liturgy and worship nurturing us for our core ministries in the world.

This reorientation will require us to think in new ways. Can we learn to "theologize" these difficult social issues? That is, can we learn to view them from the perspective of the kingdom of God, within the framework of God's concern for the least of us? What might "home," "homelessness," and "living-at-risk" mean when looked at from this perspective?

Such theologizing should be the work of the whole people of God, rather than something that is done by our clergy on behalf of the people. It is something that all of us should struggle with for ourselves, and within our community of faith.

Finally, in our specific Deanery context, it would seem that sustainability would require that such issues find a meaningful place in our liturgical lives, so that the essential connection is made within the liturgy. In this way, the liturgy could again acquire its direction toward sending us out into the world to act as Christ's body in that world. And if we truly get to know the people whom we serve, which is essential in this sort of endeavour, it would be appropriate that these people be welcomed into our communities - even into our liturgies - and that the gifts they bring be celebrated in our midst.

If we are to engage authentically with these very difficult human and social issues of homelessness and living-at-risk, changes to our cherished church lives are inevitable. It would be both prudent and pastoral, to prepare ourselves and our communities to take risks in answering God's call to service. In every area of our lives, change can give rise to anxiety, even when that change is voluntarily embraced. But it is important for us to remember that people in every age have taken risks and entered into the unknown as they respond to God's call. Abram left his homeland to respond to God's call for an unknown and faraway promised land, and a journey full of unknowns.

The early church chose to leave behind the safe haven of Jewish traditions to embrace the gentiles, with very little idea of the magnitude of changes that might result when they chose to sing the "new song" of redemption in Christ. In our own time, it is essential that we prepare ourselves and our communities for the anxiety attendant on entering a journey with many unknowns, but with a faith that the promised land will be worth the risk.

Jim Marshall, Program Coordinator for Economic Justice & Social Well-Being at the United Church of Canada, forwarded us this quote:

Mission, after all, is not a truth affair, but a love affair. – Dr. Christopher Duraisingh

Jim's own gloss on this saying is:

Are we ready to have our passions stirred by a fresh love affair with the community around us and with the God who loves us and calls us new into mission?

Appendix A

Parkdale agencies contacted regarding homelessness

- Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons (City of Toronto)
- Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
- Street Health
- United Church (Jim Marshall, Program Coordinator, Economic Justice and Social Well-Being)
- St. Christopher House
- Homes First Society
- LOFT Community Services
- King-Dunn Community Ministry (United Church)
- Ecuhome Corporation
- Houselink Community Homes
- Davenport-Perth Community Ministry (United Church)
- Streets to Homes (City of Toronto)
- Parkdale Community Legal Services
- Parkdale Tenants Association
- Scott Mission
- Seaton House/Fort York (City of Toronto)
- Bellwoods House (women's shelter)
- St. Stephen's Community House
- Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre
- Sistering (women's drop-in)

Appendix B

Parkdale Agencies contacted regarding at-risk groups

- Matthew House Refugee Reception
- World Vision Refugee Reception
- Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA)
- World Vision Canada
- Neighbourlink Downtown Toronto (World Vision)
- St. Christopher House
- LOFT Community Services
- St. Stephen's Community House
- Raising the Roof (Youth housing project)
- Eva's Phoenix (Youth housing & training)
- Parkdale Activity & Recreation Centre (PARC)
- Parkdale Community Health Centre
- Parkdale Residents' Association
- Parkdale Golden Age Foundation
- Parkdale Project Read (Literacy)
- Toronto District School Board
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Native Child & Family Youth Shelter
- Regeneration Housing & Support Services (Mental health support)

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- Native Child & Family Youth Shelter
- Regeneration Housing & Support Services (Mental health support)

Parkdale Ministry Development Group
Social needs and context for ministry

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Website	Status
REFUGEES	Matthew House	Anne Wolger-Bell (executive director)	(416)364-8287 tbrs@istar.ca	www.matthewhouse.ca	VM & email Jan 12 - Email back Jan 16 to call next day. Jan 17 discussed questionnaire
REFUGEES	World Vision Reception Centre (43 Christie St)	Linda Moorcroft (executive director) & Shelley Stiller (worker)	(416) 588-9277 refugee_centre@worldvision.ca shelley_stiller@worldvision.ca	www.vision.ca/home/programs-and-projects/canadian-programs/refugee-centre/	VM & email Jan 12 - Email back Jan 18 to call Jan 19. Missed her Jan 19 but spoke with Linda Moorcroft Jan 26 - Discussed questionnaire Email from Hugh Brewster Jan 25 suggesting e-mailing Shelley Stiller - questionnaire emaild to her Jan 26 - No response yet
REFUGEES	Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA) (1257 Queen St. W.)	Marek (manager)	(416) 536-4420	www.piaparkdale.com/	Discussed questionnaire - Jan 30
MINORITY GROUPS STUDY	Research Project on Visible Minority Communities in Canada	Chandra Budhu - Voluntary Sector Initiative Report - November 2001			

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Website	Status
YOUTH, SENIORS & OTHERS	St. Stephen's community house (91 Bellevue Ave. - Admin)	Liane Regendanz (executive director) Eillen Shannon (Programme Director) Bill Sinclair (Ass. Exec. Director)	(416) 925-2103	www.ststephenshouse.com	Emailed Feb. 3 & questionnaire Feb. 18- Already in communication with Carroll Guen-Hart
YOUTH	August Centre	Bill Sinclair (Ass. Exec. Director)	(416) 964-8747x268		
YOUTH & OTHERS	St. Christopher House	Maureen Fair	(416) 504-3535x233 maureenfa@stchrishouse.org	www.stchrishouse.org/	VM & email sent Jan 26 Received VM & completed questionnaire-Feb 1
YOUTH, SENIORS & MENTAL HEALTH	LOFT Community Services	Heather MacDonald Jerry McCallum	(416) 979-1994x226 (416) 979-1994X234	www.loftcs.org www.mentalhealthandjustice.org/support.htm	VM & emailed Jan 26, VM from Heather Feb 1-very eager pursue partnership-VM left Feb 2 with many thanks but that Jim McMinn is in discussion with C.Guen-Hart

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Website	Status
YOUTH	Raising the Roof	Richard Barry	(416) 489-3538	www.raisingtheroof.org	VM & emailed Jan 26 Discussed questionnaire Jan 30
YOUTH	Eva's Phoenix	Clovis Grant (General Manager)	(416) 364-4716x228 cgrant@evas.ca	www.evasinitiatives.com/home.htm	Emailed questionnaire-Jan 30 - wants to talk Feb 2 - Spoke with Clovis Grant Feb 2
GENERAL	World Vision Canada		1-800-268-1650x2747	www.worldvision.ca/home/programs-and-projects/canadian-programs/	Phone & email Jan 12 - Suggested looking at website for details of programmes
GENERAL	Neighbourlink Downtown Toronto (Pape to Bathurst South of Bloor)	Jeannette	(416) 921-7214	www.worldvision.ca/wvn/live/index.cfm	VM Jan 12 - No response yet
GENERAL	Parkdale Activity & Recreation Centre (1499 Queen St. W.)	Victor Willif	(416) 537-2262x242 vwillif@parc.on.ca	No website	VM back Jan 19 - suggest email - no response (?incorrect address) VM left - no response yet
GENERAL	Parkdale Community Health Centre (1229 Queen St. W.)	Sofia Ahmed (clinical director)	(41) 537-2455	www.parkdalehealth.ca	Discussed questionnaire - Jan 30
GENERAL	Parkdale Residents Association		(416)533-0044 info@parkdale.to	http://66.49.157.126/?q=taxonomy/term/6	Message left VM - Jan 30 - Emailed -No response yet

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Website	Status
MENTAL HEALTH	Regeneration Housing & Support Services (168 Bathurst St.)	Diana Anderson (Exec. Director)	(416) 703-9645 rhss@regenerationhouse.com	www.regenerationhouse.com	Emailed Feb. 3 - waiting to hear back
NATIVE	Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (16 Spadina Rd.)	Larry Frost (Exec. Director)	(416) 964-9087 Larry.Frost@ncct.on.ca	www.ncct.on.ca/index.html	Emailed Jan 30 - No response yet
NATIVE	Native Child & Family Youth Shelter (558 Bathurst St)		(416) 323-1840 (416) 969-8510 rcrognale@nativechild.org	www.nativechild.org	Emailed Jan 30 - No response yet
LITERACY	Parkdale Project Read	Nadine Sookermany (Community Literacy Worker)	(416) 531-6308 projectread2@bellnet.ca	http://www.nald.ca/ppr/	Email contact-Feb 16 Emailed questionnaire Feb 19 - Questionnaire completed
LITERACY	Toronto District School Board		(416) 397-3000 & (416) 397-3220 communications@tdsb.on.ca	http://www.tdsb.on.ca/	Emailed Feb 18 - No response yet
SENIORS	In From the Streets: The Health and Well-being of Formerly Homeless Older Adults	University of Toronto: Institute for Life Course & Aging			

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Website	Status
SENIORS	Formerly Homeless Older Adults, 2005- 2006		(416) 536-6077 pgaf45@hotmail.com	www.pgaf.ca/	Emailed Feb. 3 & Feb. 18- waiting to hear back



Information gathered

Christian, non-profit, small shelters, assisting newly arrived refugee claimants. Mathew House in Trinity-Bellwoods opened 1998, accomodates 12 people for 6-8 wks. (more than 600 people/yr from 72 nations), possible acquisition of adjacent house. Expanding breadth of services with planned 2nd house opening Feb 5 for long term support (up to 1 yr) for more vulnerable (eg 16-17 yo mothers). Not listed in the Blue Book but still turning away many. Changes in

demographics: Depends of world political situation. 10 years ago, most from Middle East, now increasing Chinese but largest grp from North & Central Africa (Ethiopia, Congo & Eritria) which are devoutly Christian. Also seeing increasing # from Nepal & Tibet. **Church partnerships are particularly welcomed on many levels incl. donations (financial, furniture, welcome & exit kits), drop ins, volunteers. Huge need for mentoring with many guests being devout Christians. Use Baptist Church at Yonge&St. Clair for monthly meetings. Some discussion with St. Matthias regarding use of building space.**

AREAS TO PARTNER: -1- Mentoring - link of friendship -2- Affordable housing - ? any available unused space in Parish to establish a shelter -3- Parishioner landlords -4- Parishioners willing to accept refugee short term as initial shelter while waiting to enter Matthew House -5- Ms. Wolger-Bell very interested in providing education to parishes about refugee issues.

They are city funded and receive referrals from the City of Toronto. Housing for 25 families for 6-12 wks in the house part of initial settlement (est. 1989 on Christie). 3-4 yrs ago, largest clients were Columbian, now from Zimbabwe & Haiti. Generally transitioning people out of downtown Toronto into suburbs (North York, Mississauga & Hamilton) due to lack of affordable housing. They have 2 outreach workers as part of 2nd stage of project involving outreach to refugee families in their 1st year in Toronto (ie in transitional housing & trying to link them with community services). They provide a service further reaching than Parkdale area and **do not see any immediate need for partnerships with Faith based communities in the area.**

Non-profit, charitable, community based organization providing a diversity of settlement programmes & services to refugees & new immigrants. Receives funding support from all levels of governement. No affiliation with any faith based gps. Changes in demographics over last 10 years from largely (60-70%) Vietnamese & Polish to largely Chinese with some from Tibet, Sri Lanka, India & lesser extent Poland. **He does not see need for immediate partnerships with Faith based communities in the area. They have adequate space for programmes.**

Study outlines numerous organizations within the visible minority community dealing with a wide spectrum of issues - from settlement for newcomers, social justice, to business, religions & sports, many locally based. There are also many organizations from outside the minority communities. There are no comprehensive, easily accessible directory of minority organizations at national, provincial or municipal levels. Many cities, incl. Toronto, are developing lists. Those interviewed expressed need for minority communities & organizations to become familiar with each other through alliances & collaborations. Also highlights demographic changes in minority groups.

Information gathered

Non-profit, charitable, community-based social service agency serving Kensington Market & surrounding neighbourhoods in downtown West Toronto since 1962. Includes youth & senior services, job & language training as well as other support services. Programmes vary by location all scattered within the Parkdale deanery from Spadina to Ossington (most S. of Bloor). Strong links with St. Stephen's in the Fields historically.

Multi-service agency serving all ages. Community development approach integrated with direct service delivery. Programmes for youth, refugees & people with mental health issues. Also programmes & community activities that affect them & many others. Some programmes are located in Parkdale but many not include people from Parkdale. YOUTH: Many services (social/recreations/leadership), Youth Advisory Committee, part of a new Parkdale Youth Service-Providers Network, Toronto Youth Job Corps programme, REFUGEES: Immigrant & Refugee Services Program (248 Ossington but much work with Parkdadians), Community Parents Outreach Project (CPOP) in Parkdale. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES: Meeting Place Drop-in at Queen & Bathurst, New Hope Drop-in (runs from Parkdale Community Health Centre) & looking to partner with CAMH. Past Parish Partnerships: St. Matthias (temporary home to Meeting Place Drop-In for homeless 8 years ago, volunteers for Meals-on-Wheels), St. Mary Magdalene (staff/ex-staff connections & at least 1 fundraising concert), St. Anne (met rector about space).

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS: Extremely positive about building partnerships with the Parkdale Deanery. -1- Social housing -2- promoting welcoming activities & events for immigrants -3- opening space to community activities -4- group sponsorship of refugee -5- St. Chris is seeking office & programme space in Parkdale -6- St. Chris is forming a Parkdale Neighbourhood Council & suggests Church communities be part of this -7-St. Chris is looking for Church volunteers. Very insightfully recommendations on how to proceed with establishing successful new projects in the area.

Provides supportive housing, outreach & community support services to homeless people with mental health, addiction & physical health challenges (incl. youth, adults, & seniors with special needs) at more than 60 sites in the GTA & York region. Goal of youth programmes to provide skills to allow youth to function as independent members of society. YOUTH: Beverley Lodge (boys), Ingles House (girls with addiction-high support), Etobicoke girls' residence (girls who continue school), Street Outreach Service (SOS) MENTAL HEALTH: St. George House (high support boarding home for 26 adults with serious mental illness), Mental Health & Justice Support Services SENIORS: Dunn Avenue Supportive Housing Services (24-hour on-site supportive housing services for seniors in Parkdale over 698 tenants from a diversity of cultures & family situations), St. Anne's Place (Sr. residence in Dufferin & Dundas area). **Very emphatic, positive feedback & energy to build collaboratively with the Parkdale Deanery.**

Information gathered

Small 5-6 person organization. They do not provide service, but coordinate community groups, schools, businesses and people who want to get involved in solutions to homelessness nationally and in their own community. They are looking for funding partners for the projects. Youthworks, one of their programmes, is providing 3-year funding support to 3 agencies relating to Youth homeless including Eva's Phoenix in Trinity Spadina (Jan. 2006-2009). Their hope is to track at least 700 youth to identify best practices and to establish a national strategy on youth homelessness. They are involved in public education & advocacy. 3 areas to build -1- Housing -2- Employment training -3- Mentorship relationships. **They are really not in a position to establish partnerships. They suggested contacting Eva's Phoenix directly.**

Reviewed 6 month interim report on contributing factors to youth homelessness - 68% estranged from family, 70% report lack of stable housing growing up, 76% school drop outs, 32% victims of violence or abuse, 30% identify lack of essential life skills.

Established as a transitional housing & training facility for youth in June 2000. Town house type housing in the Trinity-Spadina area. Provides housing for 50 youth (16-24 yo) for up to a full year. ~160 youth/yr (16-29 yo) in employment & pre-apprenticeship programmes. They have not had linkages with any Anglican churches in the area. Some linkage with other churches, eg providing meal at X-mas.

Very interested in partnership development with churches for mentorship, volunteers (food much in need), space for programmes (eg once a week space for 4-6 week duration for education programme) or youth meeting place.

Advice to us: don't start something you cannot commit to, especially with youth who already feel abandoned, work with community partners before establishing programmes as they will inevitably fail.

Potential for non-denominational church partnership: WV neighbour programme assists churches to establish Neighbourlink networks. NeighbourLink Downtown Toronto is a Christian, non-denominational, charitable organization supported by 5 local churches. Through NeighbourLink these local churches develop a centralized database & telephone resource centre to assess people's needs, referring them to church volunteers & social service providers. The website walks people through the steps required to establish the local programme. There may be some financial obligations.

Resource for residents with disabilities. Many programmes in Parkdale are partnered with PARC. Although unable to speak with Mr. Willif prior to this report, this has been because of schedule conflicts rather than disinterest. **This connection could be pursued in future.**

Spoke at length with clinical director. Many diverse programmes focusing on all at-risk populations in the Parkdale area. Main issues: inadequate housing, increasing visible homelessness, poverty (a chronic struggle), mental health/addiction/rooming houses, increasing complexity of individual cases, no health insurance. New trends: new communities moving in (growing Tibetan population) but Portuguese remains a large group, youth homelessness (emerging as a major issue) along with one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in Toronto, safety (feeling safe on the streets and in the home), rising # of seniors (non-visible at-risk population). **Interested in speaking more about potential for church partnerships. Identified needs: Space is a limiting factor for programmes, would like to hear more about what we might be able to offer.**

Information gathered

Offers housing, supportive counseling and assistance to adults recovering from mental health issues

Delivers programs and service to urban Native people (since 1962)

Youth programme provides many services to all Native youth, particularly to those at risk. Emphasis on employment, education & housing. Drop-ins, meals & youth issues.

A non-profit, community literacy program that operates an adult learning centre in Parkdale. they provide free literacy services in a supportive community, working with English-speaking adults who want to learn to read, write, or use basic math or computer skills.

Demographic changes: Years ago, primary client population consisted of people whose first language was English primarily from the Caribbean or Canadian-born (often from Eastern Canada). Now, seeing more students who have survived the psychiatric system, women and newcomers who are seeking status or struggling with various settlement issues. They are seeing more youth who have been excluded from or forced out of the school system and struggling with literacy or trying to complete their high school equivalency.

Challenges for students: issues of poverty, housing, lack of or underemployment, childcare issues and other systemic issues of discrimination around race, religion and class, etc.

Challenges for PPR: Sustainability of program due to lack of financial resources, challenges to meet changing demographic and cost of Parkdale.

Potential for Partnerships: PPR is aware of our Parkdale deanery churches, however have no current linkages. Proposed possible partnerships could include a space for meetings & programmes, volunteers & financial.

Recommendations when building community partnerships: Provide safe places for individuals to come, ensuring accessibility of services to everyone is key. Learning from community agencies about how their service could better meet the needs of the changing demographic of Parkdale would be useful

Despite the increased focus on the homeless population in Canada, there is little known about the characteristics, circumstances, health, housing and service needs of older homeless adults, especially after being housed. As the number of homeless older adults is expected to increase with the aging of the baby boomers, improving service delivery to reach this population is important. This is a two city study, Toronto and Calgary, aimed at investigating the health & housing outcomes of formerly homeless older adults.

Findings suggest that housing is a critical determinant of health & that health care utilization post housing is associated with improved health outcomes & more effective & cost efficient use of health care services. Further, housing outcomes evidence that this population can be appropriately & stably housed within a number of variants of the housing support matrix. Evidence based recommendations for policy, programming & practice in the area of housing & health services suggest that investment in age-appropriate, affordable, housing & supports is key to formerly homeless older adults finding their way "in from the streets".

Information gathered

Charitable organization (since 1974), improving the quality of life for seniors, people with disabilities, as well as adults, families & youth. Serve Dufferin to Parkside (S. of Bloor).

Parkdale Ministry Development Group
Social needs and context for ministry

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	Diocese of Toronto	Simon Bell		"On Being Anglican in a Changing Context" (working draft, May 2005)	Urban areas are changing rapidly, with young professionals and upscale empty-nesters who desire to live in attractive "historical" areas, though the notion of "history" in this context is highly selective, favouring the privileged and erasing the histories of the old urban poor. This fuels the process of gentrification, and fosters an idyllic notion of "history" and "community" which displaces and silences an important part of the community. In addition, the older English (and Anglican) character of the urban area is being eroded by a post-Christian attitude. The challenge is to remain local without becoming tribal (a "boutique" church), and to engage in authentic mission within the complexities of urban community. The largest challenge is to re-imagine a life of discipleship and nurture that is authentically rooted in our urban context and that will nurture genuine mission to the real needs in our contemporary setting.
	Centre for Urban Studies (Bristol)	Tom Slater		"Municipally managed gentrification in South Parkdale, Toronto," The Canadian Geographer 48, No. 3 (2004): 303-325	This article describes the dark side of gentrification in South Parkdale. Once a desirable upper-middle-class neighbourhood, large portions of South Parkdale were razed for construction of the Gardiner Expressway in the 960s. In the 1980s, large numbers of psychiatric patients were discharged into the community with inadequate community care services and inadequate housing. Many ended up in a vast number of illegal, substandard, and dangerous rooming houses and bachelorettes. These people have long been stigmatized as "undesirables" responsible for the decline of Parkdale. The City closed many rooming houses to make room for middle-class resettlement, and the Province instituted the Tenant Protection Act (1998) to allow landlords to replace low-income tenants with more affluent ones.
	Centre for Urban Studies (Bristol)	Tom Slater and Carolyn Whitzman		"Village Ghetto Land: Myth, Social Conditions, and Housing Policy in Parkdale, Toronto, 1879-2000," Urban Affairs Review, Vol. 41, No. 5 (May 2006) 673-696	This article argues that myths and images of the past shape current planning practice. In the case of Parkdale, the dominant myth has been that Parkdale was always an upper-middle-class neighbourhood until social planning changes in the 60s, and that current gentrification is simply restoring the neighbourhood to its own identity. However, research of property information, rent rolls etc reveals that Parkdale was always a mixed neighbourhood, and demonstrates that current gentrification is successfully displacing long-time residents in its attempt to become more upscale.

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	City of Toronto	Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons	Andrea Austen (416) 392-5397 aausten@toronto.ca	Committee currently in limbo; forwarded to Ian de Jonge at Streets to Homes	
	Toronto Disaster Relief Committee	Helen Armstrong	(416) 599-8372 tdrc@tdrc.net	Completed questionnaire	Advocacy to government to implement the One Percent Solution; work with the City to stop shelter closures, prevent the criminalization of homeless people and organize for safe conditions during cold and heat alerts. More families are becoming homeless; there is not enough food in the shelter system and the shelters are overcrowded. A great concern is the increasing criminalization of the homeless as people are forced not to sleep in Nathan Phillips Square or under the Gardiner Expressway, and we are discouraged from handing out blankets and food. Currently working with Anglicans to present possible closure of All Saints Church day shelter/drop in. Would like faith communities to engage in advocacy and, when they want to get involved, don't reinvent the wheel but talk to groups who have found things that work.
Agencies dealing with Homelessness	Street Health	Zoe Dodd	(416) 921-8668 zoe@streethealth.ca	Completed questionnaire	Street Health provides physical and mental programs to homeless and under-housed people in the southeast core of Toronto. They provide services on the street, in the alleys, along the lakeshore, in parks, ravines, and in homeless and drop-in shelters. They are finding that the homeless are aging, and that this exacerbates their existing health problems and adds new ones. Funding and services are being cut. They are doing a survey to document the health status of street people and barriers to accessing health care; results should be available in May. Their linkage is with All Saints Church, and Parkdale parishes are not in their catchment area. They see a need for more affordable housing, as well as for meal programs. But the biggest problem their clients face is social isolation; they need ways of building community and relationships.

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	United Church	Jim Marshall (Program Coordinator, Economic Justice and Social Well-Being)	(416) 231-5931 (416) 358-8556 (cell) jmarshal@united-church.ca	Had a long, substantial conversation; forwarded two pieces on models of social ministry; promised to send more.	Jim Marshall did a six-month research project in the US, focusing on parishes which had made significant changes in the way they operate. As an example, Church of the Saviour in Washington DC runs 48 different ministries (including a health clinic, a transient medical facility, addiction recovery, and social housing) with 130 members. Members are required to commit themselves to bible study, worship, tithing, self-reflection, and hands-on involvement with the local community. Marshall pointed to Davenport-Perth Community Ministry and King-Dunn Community Ministry in Parkdale as United Church models. He also works with various congregations as they struggle to take risks for the sake of being true to God's call.
	St. Christopher House	Rick Eagan	(416) 532-4828 rickea@stchrishouse.org	Agreed to complete questionnaire; have some information but awaiting more	St. Christopher House is a multi-service agency which integrates a community development approach with direct service delivery; operates youth programs focusing on social/recreational, life skills and job readiness and involved in the Parkdale Youth Service-Providers Network to coordinate services; operates a multilingual immigrant and refugee services program; operates drop-ins serving homeless persons with longstanding severe mental health issues; engaged in advocacy and policy development; partners with University of Toronto to research social issues.
	Homes First Society	Patricia Mueller	(416) 395-0903 patricia.mueller@homesfirst.on.ca	Completed questionnaire	HFS houses people with limited housing options, and provides support to them in their attempts to access and maintain stable housing. As the homeless population ages, they need help getting to medical appointments, friendly visits, regular phone contact, help with shopping and banking. Agency needs help with transportation and storage of useful donations, to be able to take advantage of donated items for tenants. Translation services would be helpful for tenants with limited English. Churches (particular local rate-payers) could also help with advocacy at the local level of neighbourhood associations and contact with local councillors. They advise us to start small and focused, and don't be discouraged if an agency can't immediately use the particular thing you want to do or the item you want to contribute. Persevere and get a real sense of what's needed. It's not always obvious.

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	LOFT Community Services	Jim McMinn	(416) 536-8825 jmcminn@loftcs.org	Completed questionnaire; forwarded a significant amount of research commissioned by LOFT	LOFT provides permant and long-term housing and support services to youth, adults, and older persons/seniors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and who have mental health issues and addictions. LOFT is seeing a widening of the gap between rich an poor, an increase in older women trapped in the hostel system, increasing number of homeless with mentalhealth and iddiction issues, increasing number of street yoth, and increasing sultural diversity in the homeless communiity (one building services Portuguese people, and another is 1/3 Chinese tenants. A huge challenge is the dearth of affordable housing for the estimated 552,525 people in Toronto living below the poverty line. Also, access to rent supplements/rent-geared-to-income subsidies and services delivery/program support funding is a major challenge for low-income people. LOFT currently partners in various ways with St. Matthias and St. Anne's. A critical need is land or buildings which could be made available for new affordable/supportive housing. Another option could involve a group of parishes coming together to adopt a specific housing site
	King-Dunn Community Ministry	Rev. Sue Fleming	(416) 538-3461 king_dunnministry@bellnet.ca	Agreed to complete questionnaire, but did not respond	
	Ecuhome Corporation		(416) 698-5454	Left multiple messages; no response	
	Houselink Community Homes	Carlos Aedo Tina Hjorngaard	(416) 516-1422 ext 241 carlosae@ouselink.on.ca tinahj@ouselink.on.ca	Completed questionnaire	Houselink Community Homes provides permanent supportive housing to adults living with mental illness and poverty. Houselink provides individual support and service through community kitchen programs, member employment, and community development endeavours. Clients are aging mentally and physically, and service needs change. Impact of LHINs health care service structure may limit access to community health services. NIMBYism impacts commiemtn and funding for more housing. No current linkages with Parkdale parishes; however, Houselink would welcome support and contact with neighbours, esepcially to promote and enhance quality of life for clients. In particular, parishes might contribute meaningful paid jobs and community-building social activities for residents. As we try to get more involved, it would be helpful to survey the actual residents in Parkdale to see what they think the solutions might look like.

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	Davenport-Perth Community Ministry	Rev. Irene Ty	(416) 657-1558 dpcm@on.aibn.com	Completed questionnaire	Davenport-Perth Community Ministry is connected to the Davenport-Perth United Church, and is located in the Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Centre. Rev. Ty works half-time for the congregation and half-time for the Community ministry. The Community Ministry works with residents and agencies in the community to identify issues that they want to work on together, and then using resources and capacity in the community to work on achieving the goals. For example, they support parents at a local housing project to run a weekly readint circle for elementary age children; they are developing an affordable housing building on Ossington Avenue; they have worked with local agencies on a leadership training program called "Vision into Action" to give local residents skills in civic engagement. They currently partner with two other Community Ministries but also with St Mark and Calvary (Anglican) on Blackthorn Avenue. They see parishes as having a base of people who can educate themselves about issues and mobilize themselves to act. All three Community Ministries would be happy to meet with us to share their experiences with us.
	Streets to Homes	Ian de Jonge	(416) 397-5142 idejong@toronto.ca	Completed questionnaire	A City agency focusing on helping homeless people move from living on the street directly into housing, bypassing the shelter system. Not enough affordable housing, and keeping people housed is a labour-intensive process that requires lots of coordination. City-wide Street Needs Assessment (April 2006) found disproportionate number of homeless aborinals; drop-ins are most used service; most people not on waiting list for housing; people need lots of assistance finding affordable housing. Linkages would be welcome: leveraging professional services, coordinating specific donated goods, assisting with home furnishings, befriending people, educating the public, fundraising for specific initiatives. Encourage churches to work with initiatives that solve rather than managing the issue. Partner with multi-service agencies. Begin in a small way and grow from there. Enhance existing practices instead of replicating services. Don't reinvent the wheel.

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	Parkdale Community Legal Services	Kevin Smith (CEO)	(416) 531-2411 smithk@lao.on.ca	Completed questionnaire	PCLS provides "poverty law" services to the low-income residents of Parkdale. These include legal advice and representation, public legal education, community development work, and law reform projects. They participate in the Osgoode Hall Law School's Intensive Program in Poverty Law, which develops a critical analysis of lawyering, poverty, and the limited utility of traditional lawyering techniques. They are seeing successive waves of immigration into Parkdale, most recently a large influx from Tibet and China. They continue to see significant gentrification, now called "beautification". One major problem is that funders have prioritized the suburbs, based on the "Poverty by Postal Code" study. They have no formal linkages with Parkdale churches, but are aware of Epiphany & St. Mark, St. Anne, and St. Stephen's. They would welcome support for their Drop The Fee campaign for immigrants, and for making sure that the children of undocumented immigrants can get schoolin and health care. Churches could function as ID banks for the homeless so they can get important documents.
	Parkdale Tenants Association		(416) 760-2149 info@goldencockroach.org	E-mailed questionnaire; no response	
	Toronto Community Hostel (191 Spadina Road)		(416) 925-4431		
	World Vision Reception Centre (43 Christie Street)		(416) 588-9277		
	Christie-Ossington Neighbourhood Centre (973 Lansdowne Avenue)		(416) 516-8642		
	Scott Mission (502 Spadina Avenue)	Christine Bonadonna	(416) 923-8872 ext 233 cbonadonna@scottmission.com	Agreed to complete questionnaire, but did not respond to several reminders	

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	Seaton House/Fort York (38 Bathurst Street)	Paul Schell	(416) 338-8800 pschell@toronto.ca	Agreed to complete questionnaire	Seaton House (Fort York) is a branch of Seaton House in downtown Toronto. It provides supports and housing for homeless men who are either working or re-entering the workforce. The agency has 74 dorm beds and 24 small "rehabilitation units" for those wanting to transition to independent housing. They provide intensive case management for looking for and maintaining work; they also have an employment assessment program and have partnered with George Brown College for apprenticeship programs. The main challenge for the agency is keeping steady government funding; the main challenge for the clients is upgrading education and training, particular computer literacy. In addition, drug treatment programs focus only on recovery; they need to partner with programs which provide employment preparation. Churches could help by recognizing people who are at risk and arranging connections with a variety of City services and private agencies so that supports can be put in place fairly quickly.
	Treasure House Ministries (184 Spadina Avenue)		(416) 603-4187		
	Christie-Ossington Neighbourhood Centre (854 Bloor Street West)		(416) 534-8941		
	Salvation Army - Florence Booth (723 Queen Street West)		(416) 603-9800		
	University Settlement House (23 Grange Road, McCaul north of Queen)		(416) 598-3444		
	Women's Residence - Main Site (674 Dundas Street West)		(416) 392-5791	Referred to Bellwoods House	

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	Women's Residence - Bellwoods House (63 Bellwoods Avenue)	Jervet Levene	(416) 392-5791 jlevene@toronto.ca	Completed questionnaire	Bellwoods House is a transitional shelter for women, aged fifty and over. It is an adjunct to the Women's Residence, which is a City-operated shelter. The goal is to facilitate the transition from dependence to independence, through a transitional communal setting and case management services. St. Matthias Bellwoods owns the buildings, and has partnered with the City for the past eight years. They would like to develop a linkage with St. Stephen's-in-the-Fields. They think parishes could help organize leisure and community activities, and help women get to them safely. Also need more affordable housing for older low-income seniors who don't meet the eligibility criteria for long-term housing.
	Native Child & Family Youth Shelter (558 Bathurst Street)		(416) 323-1840	No response	
	YMCA House (youth 485 Queen Street West)		(416) 504-9700		
	Out of the Cold @ Bloor St. United (Bloor and Spadina)		(416) 924-7439		
	Out of the Cold @ Knox Presbyterian (Spadina and Harbord)		(416) 921-8993		
	Out of the Cold @ Chinese Gospel (450 Dundas Street West)		(416) 977-2530		
	St. Stephen's Community House (260 Augusta Avenue)	Bill Sinclair	(416) 925-2108 sbill@ststephenshouse.com	Completed questionnaire	Focus is daily drop-in centre for basic needs and counsellors. Moves people into rooming houses, and runs a housing residence with 13 units. Does street outreach on foot in Chinatown and surrounding areas. Mostly middle-aged men, especially aboriginals and Asians. Finding willing landlords is the top priority. Need more affordable housing, and need church and other groups to offer donations, volunteer hours, goodwill and social activities. Long-time connection with St Stephen's-in-the-Fields. Need more space for adult English classes. Would welcome other groups to advocate for new housing and to provide "circles of support" to new housing projects. Need breakfast or dinner programs, or social activities like movies, sports teams, high school or English classes, or clubs based on arts, crafts or hobbies, or homework clubs.

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (1499 Queen Street West)	Bob Rose	(416) 537-2591 brose@parc.opn.ca robert797@sympatico.ca	Completed questionnaire	PARC is a multi-service agency serving a community of psychiatric survivors, socially isolated and homeless persons, and other people in west-end Toronto struggling with poverty, disability and trauma. PARC runs a drop-in, an outreach program to people with mental illness, a food support program, a variety of art and literacy groups, and primary health support. It has 10 units of supportive housing, and mobilizes 370 core volunteers who also use PARC supports. PARC has noticed a large increase in people from Caribbean and Tibetan communities; in general, there is a lack of mental-health resources to meet the unique needs of ethno-cultural communities. Churches could help to facilitate outreach into the community to provide community education on social support issues; provide fundraising support; provide links to volunteers with needed skill sets.
	Sistering (11 St. Anne's Road)	Susan Clancy	(416) 926-9762 ext 234 sclancy@sistering.org	Completed questionnaire	Offers drop-in services to older homeless or near-homeless women in Parkdale, often living in rooming houses or apartment buildings who need social interaction and food. It is located at Bloor and Dovercourt, with an outreach site at Masaryk-Cowman Community Centre. Sistering offers showers, laundry, haircuts, clothing, phone access, mailing address, breakfasts and lunches seven days a week; also some donated clothing, social and recreational events and programs, individual support and advocacy, counselling, pre-employment supports, and limited health services. They are seeing mid-life women who have been downsized with no safety net, and in danger of becoming homeless. They are seeing more aboriginal, latina, and african women, more hard-to-serve women living in hostels, an aging homeless population. They are working to adjust programming accordingly. Needs they identify are: help for older women; clothing donations; items for December seasonal event; neighbourhood support at public forums; involvement in advocacy and education; welcome for women seeking spiritual solace; afford
	Bloor-Bathurst Interchurch Gathering Spot (188 Lowther Avenue)		(416) 924-5883		
	SKETCH: Working Arts for Street Involved and Homeless Youth (580 King Street West, 2nd floor)		(416) 516-5428		

Topic	Group	Contact	Contact info	Status	Information gathered
	St. Felix Community Centre (25 Augusta Avenue)		(416) 203-1624		