

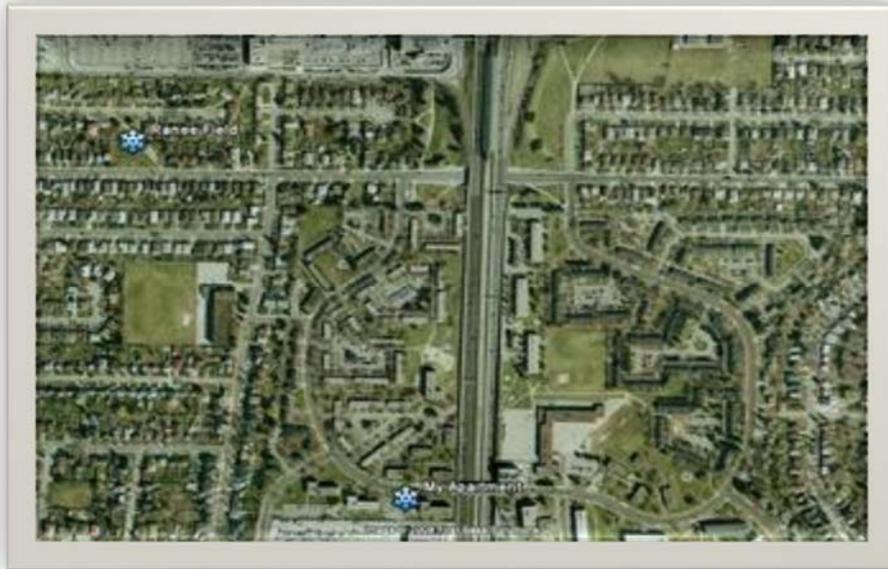
The IMMIGRANT WOMENS INTEGRATION PROGRAM at the TORONTO CENTRE OF COMMUNITY
LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

LAWRENCE HEIGHTS CIW REPORT

Measure of Safety and Security

Denise Bishop Earle

3/30/2012



Lawrence Heights is one of the 13 priority neighbourhoods in the City of Toronto that took part in a 2011-2012 CIW environmental scan and is the focus of this report. The primary goal of the scan is to measure the resident's sense of safety and security in relationship to respondents' age, gender, family household composition, education and learning, local participation, their sense of belonging to the community as well as community concerns.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....Pg. 3

Research Methodology Design.....Pg. 4

Introduction

-  **Lawrence Heights.....Pg. 4**
-  **Revitalization.....Pg. 6**
-  **Safety and Security.....Pg. 8**

Survey Research Results

-  **Methodology and Results.....Pg. 9**

Survey Conclusions.....Pg. 25

Key Informant Questionnaire

-  **Methodology and Results.....Pg. 25**

Key Informant Questionnaire Conclusions.....Pg. 31

Action Needed.....Pg 32

Theory of Change.....Pg. 33

References.....Pg. 37

Executive Summary

The Neighbourhood Index of Well-Being is a method of examining the societal progress of individuals in the 13 priority neighbourhoods of Toronto in relation to numbers historically. It measures societal progress through a number of indicators of socio-economic well-being including healthy population, living standards, community vitality, democratic engagement, time use, arts, culture, recreation, education, and environment.

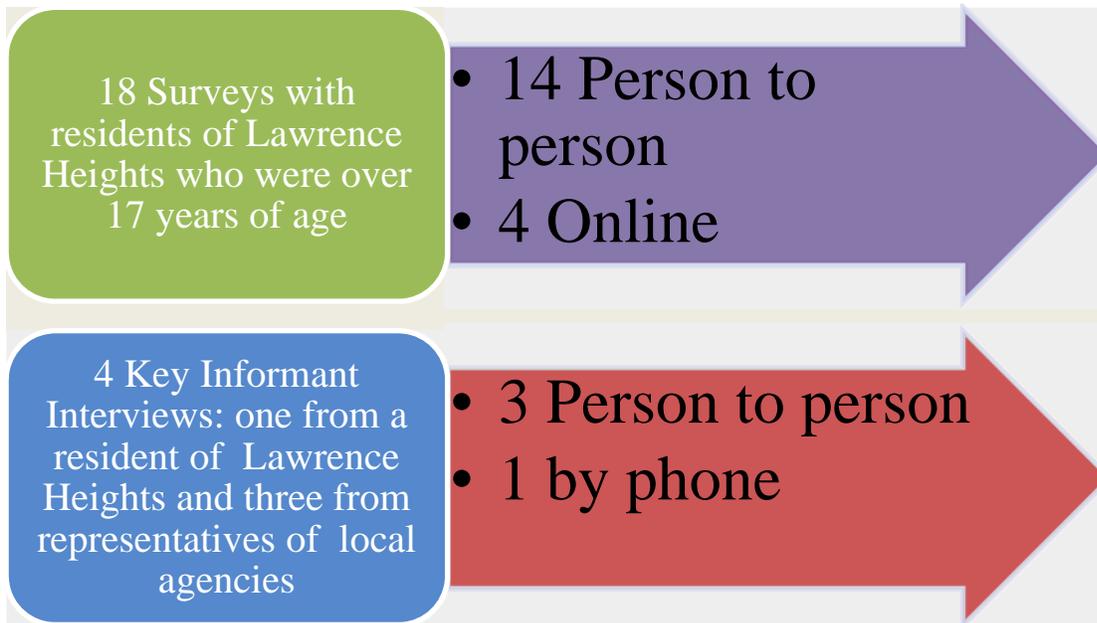
Lawrence Heights is one of the 13 priority neighbourhoods in the City of Toronto that took part in a 2011-2012 environmental scan and is the focus of this report. The primary goal of the scan is to measure the resident's sense of safety and security in relationship to respondent's age, gender, family household composition, education and learning, local participation, their sense of belonging to the community as well as community concerns.

The research design included surveys of local residents as well as key informant interviews with both residents and local community agencies by an IWIP (Immigrant Women Integration Program) trainee from the Toronto Centre of Community Learning and Development (TCCLD).

Former IWIP trainees designed the original survey and the 2011-2012 trainees made the present revision.



Research Methodology Design



Introduction

Lawrence Heights is a culturally diverse neighbourhood in the City of Toronto, north-west of the central part of the city, in the district of North York. The neighbourhood is bordered by Lawrence Avenue to the south, Highway 401 to the north, Allen Road to the east and Dufferin Street to the west. It is part of Ward 15 and is divided in half by the Allan Express Way, resulting in it being part of both Yorkdale-Glen Park and Englemount-Lawrence official Toronto neighbourhoods.

According to the 2006 Canada Census Lawrence Heights has a very large immigrant population representing over 51% of the resident total. More than 16% of those immigrants arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006. The top origins of those recent immigrants are Southeast Asia

(i.e. Philippines) (35%); Eastern Europe (17%); Western Central Asia and the Middle East (10%); South America (8%) and Africa (8%).



Maps of the Lawrence Heights area

Lawrence Heights is a “rent geared to income” public housing complex consisting mainly of row town houses set within courts and small low rise apartment buildings of less than 30 units each. Single family dwellings are divided by a chain fence from the private sub-division to the east, making it geographically isolated. It is an under-resourced community which houses over 5700 resident. Flemington Road Public School, Lawrence Heights Community Centre, Unison Health and Community Services and the CH2 Maintenance Office are the only non-residential buildings located within the community. The neighbourhood is accessible by bus lines on Dufferin and Lawrence. The nearest subway connections are the Lawrence West and Yorkdale subway stations.



Buildings located in Lawrence Heights Proper

Revitalization

In 2008, City Councillor Howard Moscoe introduced a plan to revitalize Lawrence Heights. The City of Toronto, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) proposed that over the next twenty years all 1,208 units of social housing, the neighbourhood public school and the local community centre would be demolished and replaced. The City focused on areas where there needed to be investments in response to a number of challenges such as limited community services and social infrastructure, poverty and unemployment, new immigrant settlement, and youth violence. The Lawrence/Allan revitalization would include mixed income housing, market housing, retail and commercial streets, and the northward extension of Marlee Avenue. By November of 2011, the Revitalization Plan including the Secondary Plan had been passed by both North York and City Council. The LHION Revitalization Workgroup was established in 2008 to allow residents, community groups and local agencies to share and discuss issues and concerns and plan events focusing on

Revitalization. TCHC has also hired local Revitalization Animators to inform residents about the various stages of revitalization and to make sure that the resident voice was heard.



Map of proposed Revitalization for Lawrence Heights

Safety and Security

To date, Community safety and security has been identified as one of the biggest community concerns. The Lawrence Heights Inter-organizational Network known as LHION, was developed in 2005 as a result of an alarming increase in youth and gang related violent activity that led to both injuries and death. Residents looked towards local agencies to do something and this resulted in the collaborative efforts of LHION and the designation of Lawrence Heights as a “Priority neighbourhood”. The LHION Safety Sub-committee and the Neptune Renewal Group were established to help residents and local agencies work together to identify and discuss community issues and concerns and to build strategies around safety, security and policing in the community. As a result, the community now has Friday Night Cafes, an ongoing event located at the Lawrence Height Community Centre. This event allows community groups and service providers to inform and create community awareness about the issues that impact stakeholders in

the Lawrence Heights Priority Neighbourhood. The LHION collaboration has also resulted in initiatives such as the building of a community oven, an outdoor theatre, and community gardens throughout the neighbourhood, the “One Community Festival” and a designated space for residents at 10 Old Meadow Lane to help address issues around safety and security in Lawrence Heights.



Some of the safety initiatives

Research Results

Survey Methodology

In November of 2011, a trainee of IWIP conducted a Community Resource and Needs Assessment Survey within the Lawrence Heights community. A copy of the survey was also available online at <http://capacity-builders.org/ciw/iwip2011-12.asp>. The survey asked residents about their life and their experiences, and measured the socio-economic well-being of the community using the following indicators:

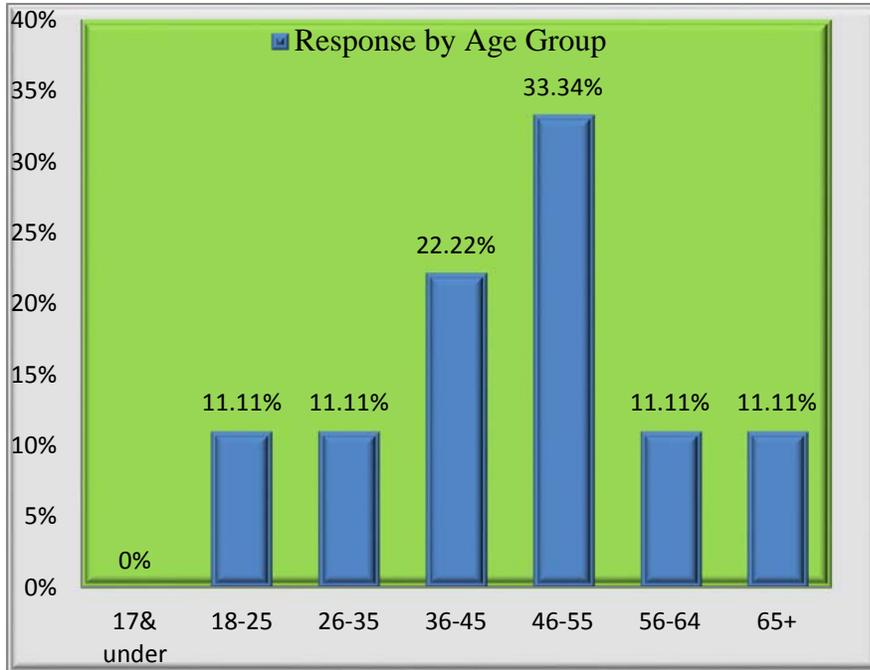
- Healthy population

- Living standards
- Community vitality
- Democratic engagement
- Time use
- Arts, culture and recreation
- Education
- Environment

A total of 25 surveys for the Neighbourhood Index of Wellbeing (NIW) were completed in Lawrence Heights, but only 18 (9.14% of total done in Toronto's 13 Priority Neighbourhoods) were usable. Four of the eleven surveys completed online were usable; fourteen of the surveys were done person to person. The surveys took 25-60 minutes to complete. Surveys were conducted at community meetings, programs and events as well as door to door. Efforts were made to ensure a proportionate number of men and women, as well as residents from all the age and cultural groups and included people who identified as Canadian born, First Nations, Caribbean, European, Hispanic, African, Mixed, Black, White and Other.

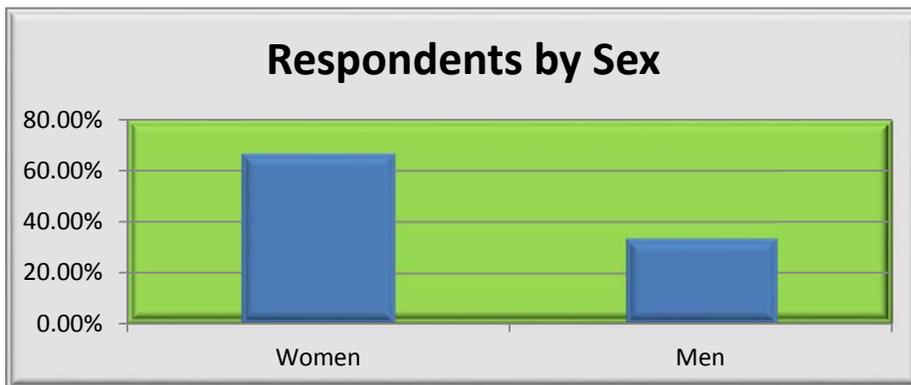
Age of Respondents

Most of the respondents in Lawrence Heights were between the ages of 46-55 with those 36-45 being the second highest group. A large proportion of the respondents were over 35 years of age. Individuals 17 years and younger were not targeted. In the NIW City average, most of the respondents were between the ages of 26-35 and 36-45 respectively.



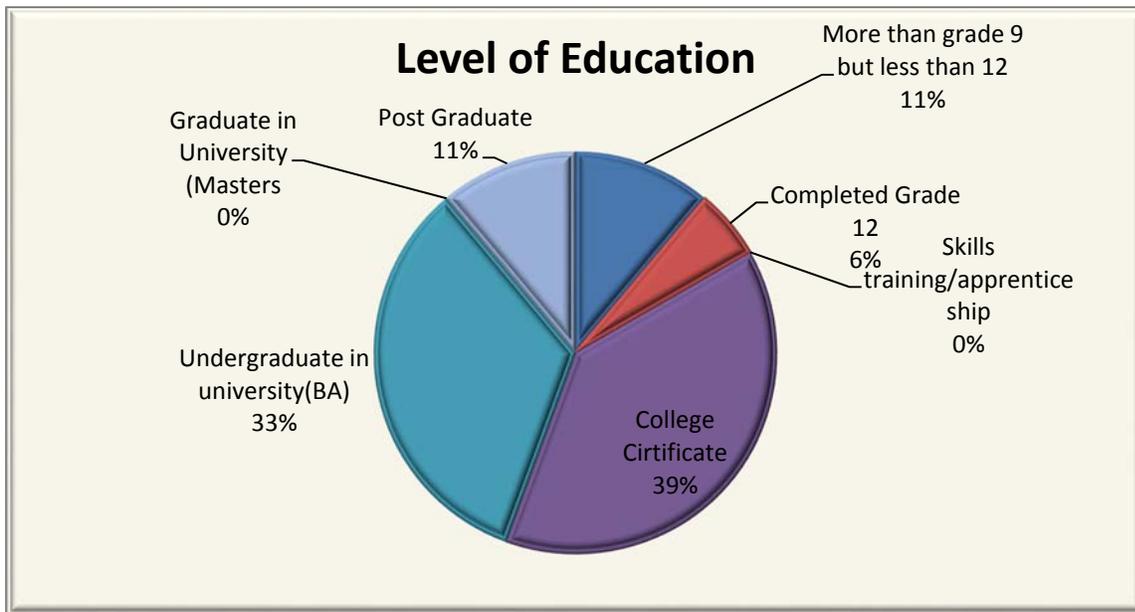
How did the respondents self-identify

There were a larger percentage of female respondents than male; about twice as many, which is reflected in the 2006 Census where women outnumber the men in Lawrence Heights. Women were also more willing to do the survey than men were. All targeted groups are represented in this survey. This may prove important when looking at safety and security as a community concern.



Highest Level of schooling

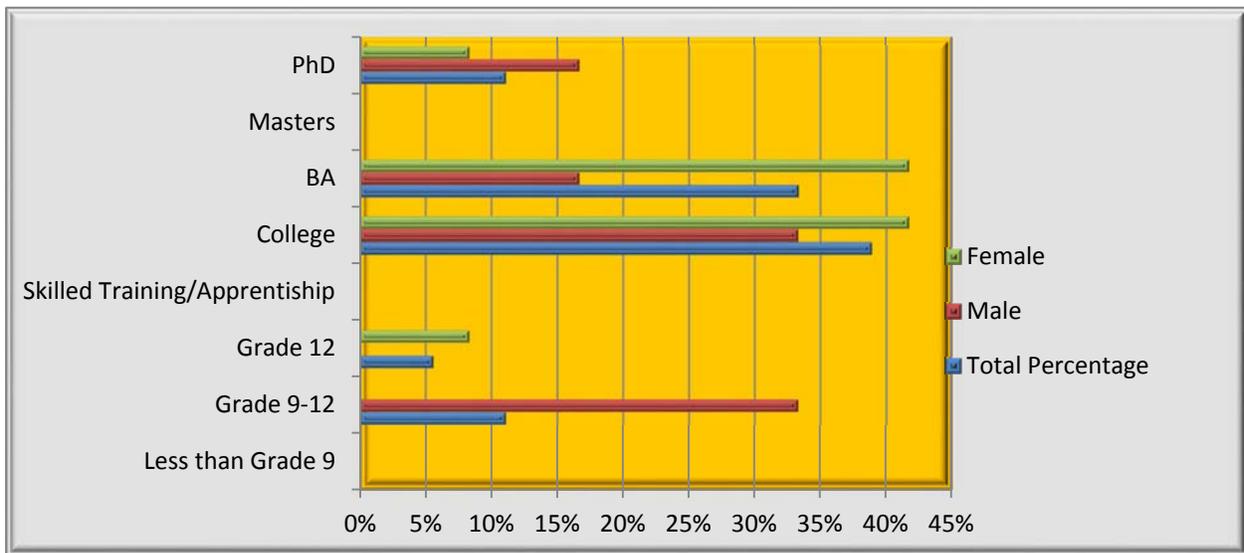
In the first section of the survey respondents were asked what the highest level of education they had completed. 39% had a college certificate, 33% had their BA or were still in high school, 11% their post graduate and 6% had completed high school. This shows that 83% of the respondents had a post-secondary education and 17% either had completed or were still in High School.



The age range of respondents who indicated that their highest level of education was between grades 9-12, were between 26-35 years and 56-64 years, each equal to 50% of the 11% total in this category; identifying at 33.3 % of the total male respondents and at both ends of the age spectrum. Those who had a grade 12 education were 65+, representing 50% of that age range and 8.3% of the total female respondents. None of the respondents indicated that they were taking skilled training or an apprentice. The majority of the respondents had a college degree, representing 33% of all male respondents and a surprising 42% of all women. They included all of the respondents between the ages of 18-25, 50% of those between 26-35, 25% of those

between 36-45 and 50% of the respondents 65+. The percentage of male respondents with a university BA was 17%, with women being more than double at 42%; including respondents between 36-55 years of age. None of the respondents indicated that they had a masters degree, but what was interesting was 17% of the total male respondents had a PhD, consisting of only 8% of female respondents. It is important to note that 92% of all female respondents have a post-secondary education compared to 67% of the males. The NIW City of Toronto average for the 13 Priority Neighbourhoods was about 74%. It is important to note that some of the respondents received their education outside Canada.

Education comparison between men and women



Desire for training

When participants were asked if they learned from a family member, friend, or colleague in the past 12 months with the intentions to improve themselves, less than 45% said yes which is similar to the City of Toronto average. 55% replied no, which is a bit higher than the average.

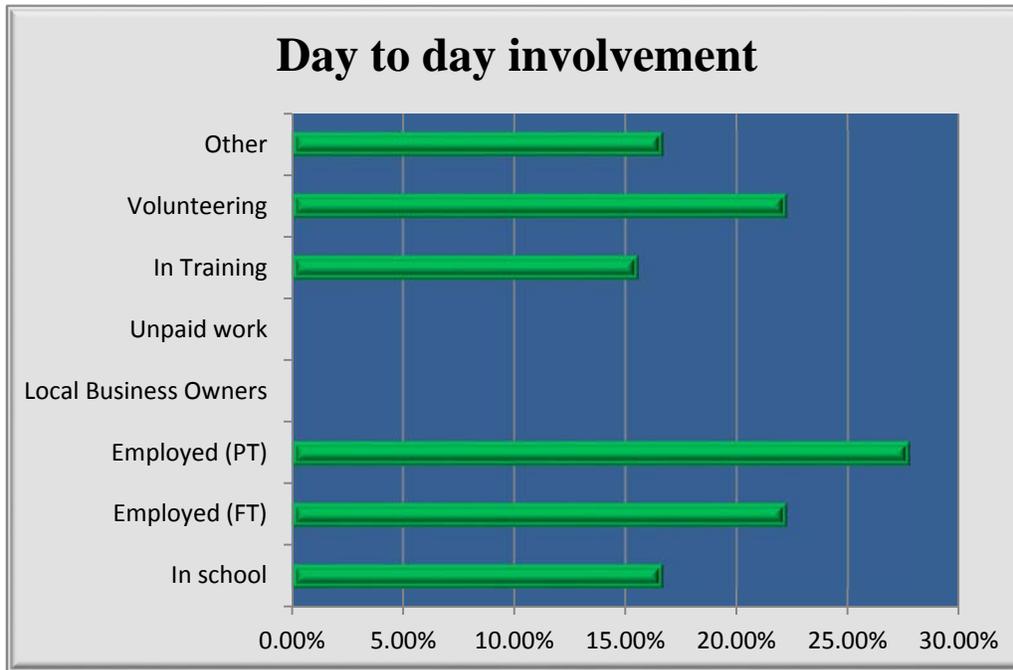
When asked if they wanted to participate in education or training, over 55% of the respondents (all but the Hispanic) said they were able to, which is 10% more than the NIW City of Toronto average. A little over 16% (First Nations, Hispanic, and African) said they were unable, which is 10% lower. Close to 28% (First Nations, Caribbean, and European) said they did not want to. These numbers seems to reflect the findings in the chart showing Day-to-day involvement.

Recent Training

Only 16.7% of the respondents indicated that they had acquired recent training. They represented men and woman equally at 16.7% of the total. 83.3% of the respondents indicated that they did not have recent training which included 100% of those in the 18-25, 46-55, 56-64 and 65+ age range and 50% of those in both the 26-35 and 36-45 age range; 83.3% of the total male and female respondents. This seems to indicate that training came from local agencies and not from a grassroots source. In the NIW City of Toronto statistical analysis, 27% indicated that they received training and 73% indicated that they did not.

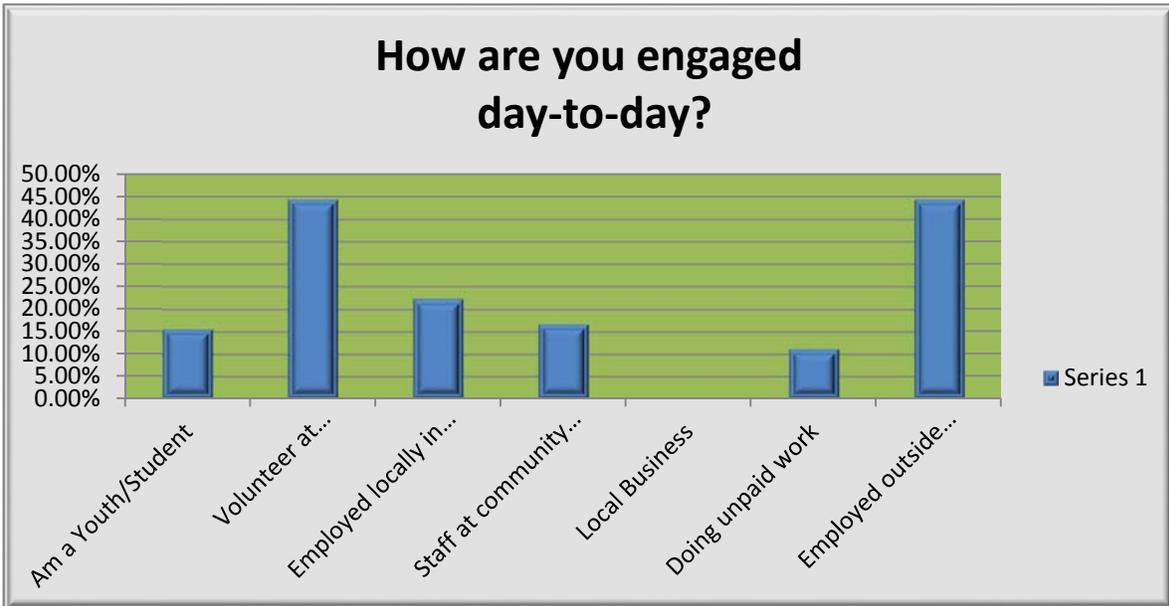
Recent Training												
		Age Range							Gender			
		17 or under	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-64	65 or older	Male	Female	Neither	Other
Column %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Yes	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
No	83.3%	0.0%	100.0%	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	83.3%	83.3%	0.0%	0.0%

Day to day involvement



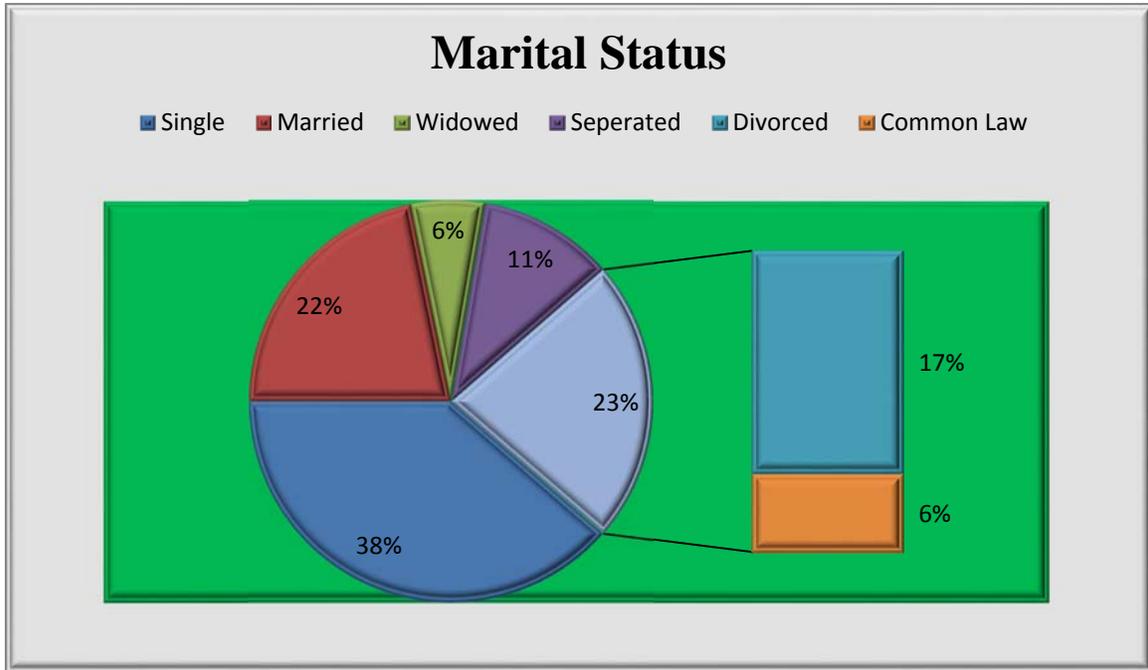
The percentage of respondents who were looking for work, those in school and those in the other category were the same at 16.67% and over 15% are in a training program. None of the respondents indicated that they did unpaid work at home on a day to day basis nor are there any local resident business owners. It is interesting to note that there are a larger percentage of people working part time rather than full time. 45% worked outside the community. It is also interesting to note that the number of people who work full time is equal to the number of people who volunteer. It is not clear looking at this data how many people working part time or volunteering are looking for full time work. The percentage of people who volunteer in Lawrence Heights is just slightly higher than that of the NIW City of Toronto average, and the percentage of people who did unpaid work at home on average is about 24% lower in terms of daily involvement. It

may be important to note that there are no retail or commercial businesses located within Lawrence Heights TCHC community.



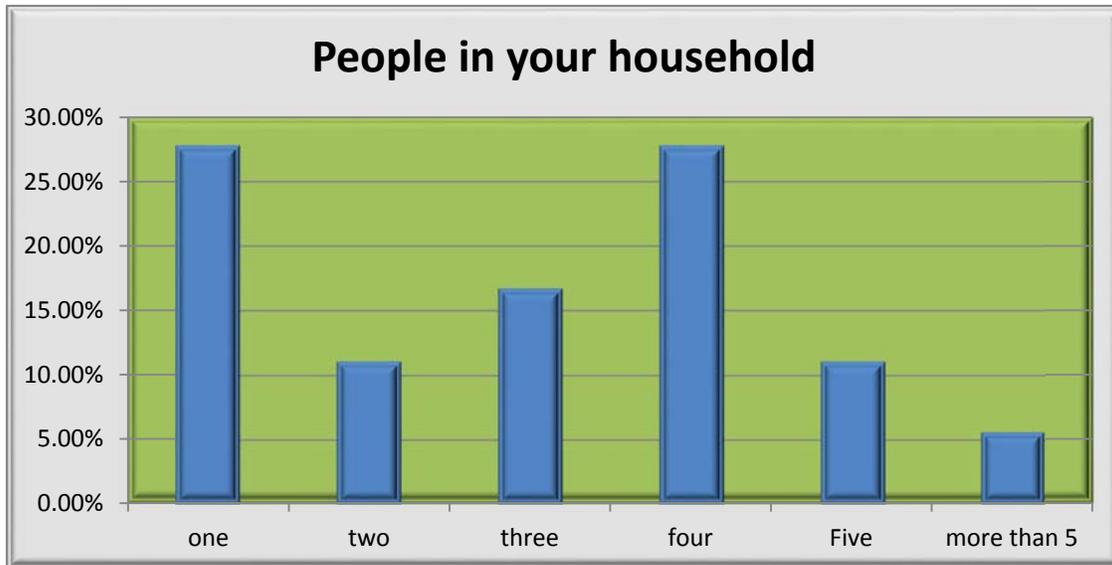
Current marital status

It is interesting to note that close to 72% on the respondents indicated that they were single, separated, divorced or widowed. Less than half of the respondents indicated that they were either married or lived common law. In the city wide survey 66% respondents indicated that they were married with only 34% either single, divorced, separated or widowed. It is important to note that about 57% (2006 Census) of the households in Lawrence Heights are a single parent household and most of them are headed by women. The average for all of Toronto is about 20% (2006 Census).



People in your household

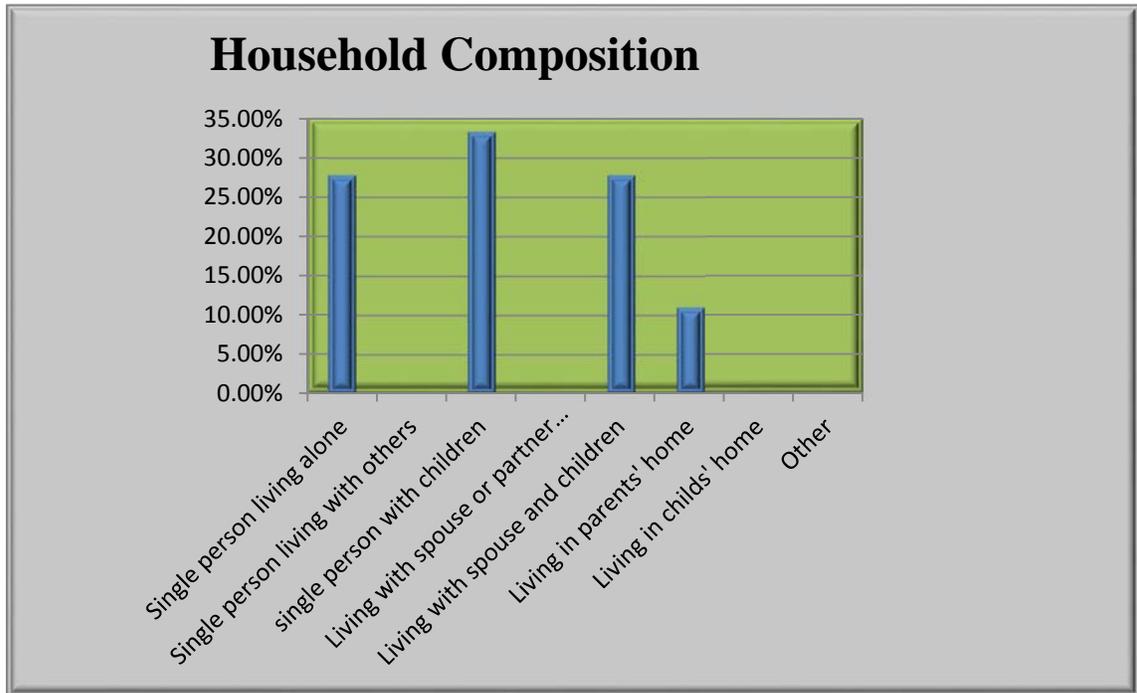
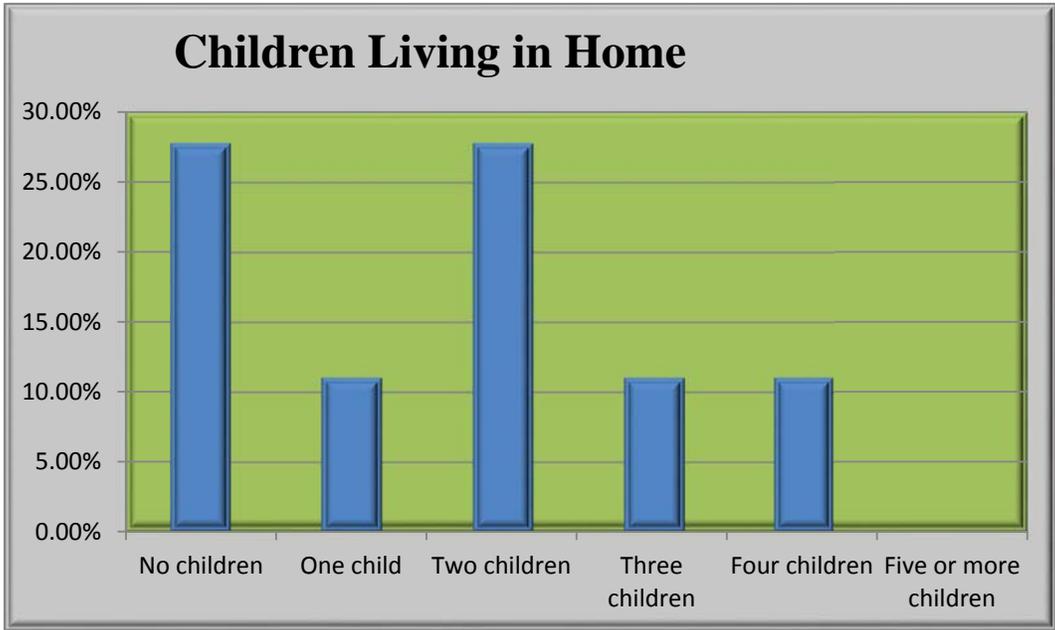
Most of the Lawrence Heights respondents who had more than five people in their household identified as Caribbean or Black and represented a little fewer than 6%. Respondents who lived alone identified as Canadian, Caribbean, European or Black at about 28% and tied with those having four members in the household (Canadian, Caribbean, African and Mixed). About 17% respondents had three members in their household (Canadian, First Nations and African) and respondents with two (Hispanic, Black, African, Other) and five (Black, African) people in their household tied at 11.1%. In the NIW for the City of Toronto, people with four people in their household had the highest percentage at 24%. Households with two and three people at a close second and the households with more than five had the lowest percentage for the city average, but were 2% lower than those in Lawrence Heights. It may be important to pay attention to the correlation between single parent households and their sense of safety and security.



Children living at home

Respondents who were single and had no children (Canadian, Caribbean, European, and Black) at home tied with those who had two children (First Nations, Black, and African) at 27.8%.

Those who had one (Hispanic, Black, African, Other), three (Canadian, Black, African) and four (Caribbean, Black, African) children living in their household tied at 11.1%. None of the respondents indicated that they had five or more children. It is important to note that respondents who were single and living with children at home represented more than one third of the total at 33.3%. All the respondents who lived with a spouse had children and represented 27.8%. Only 11.1% lived in their parents' home. Based on the chart below the single parent families had one, three and four children and those who were married had two children. In the NIW for all of Toronto there were more families with both parents and children (48%) than single parent families (10%).

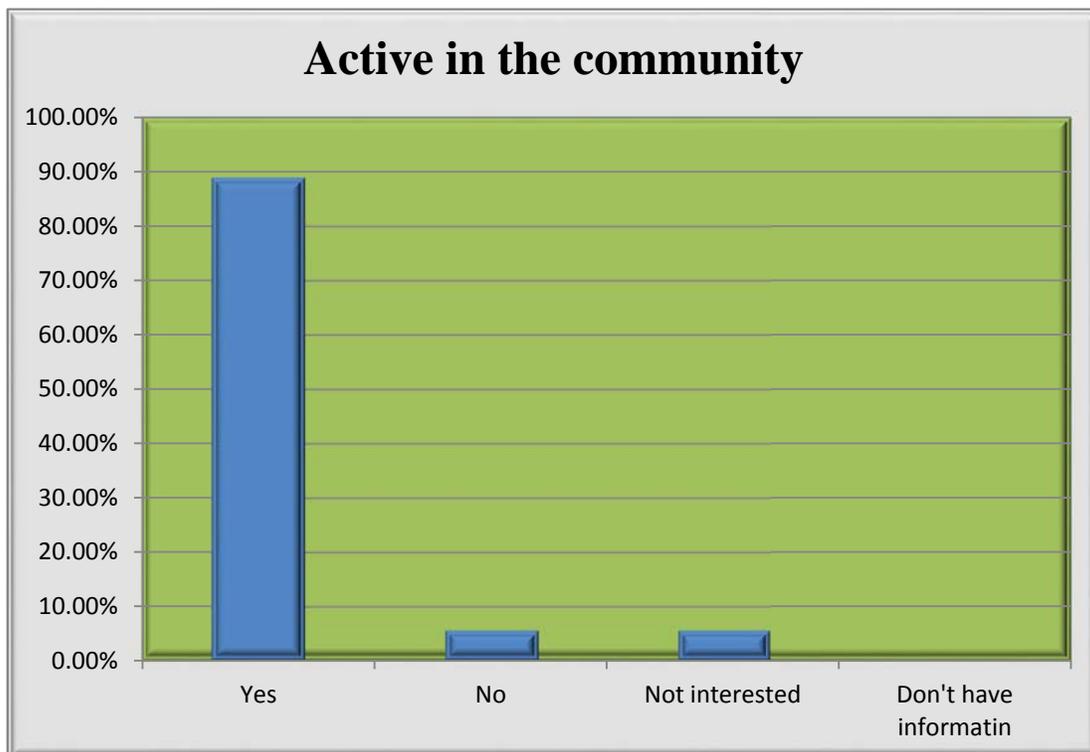


It is important to note that in Lawrence Heights there is a large percentage of the families with children, about 89% compared to 67.3% for the City of Toronto. Single parent families make up

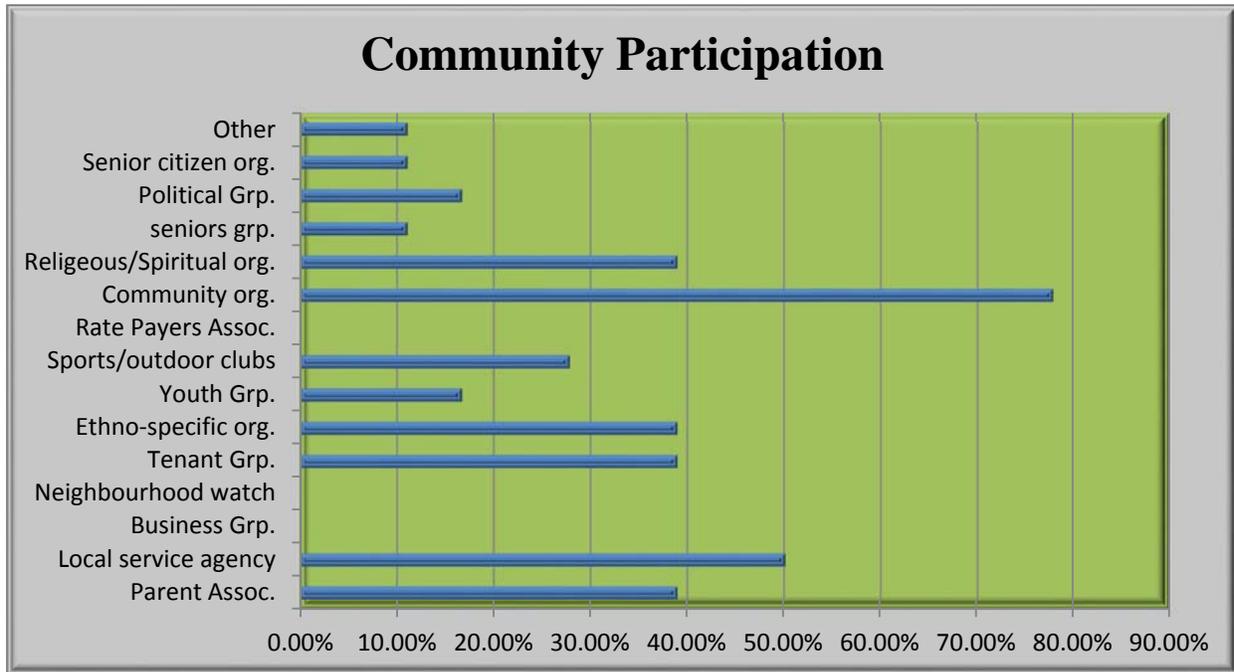
57.2% (City average 20.3%) of the total, with 30.8% with more than three children (11.1% for City) (2006 Census). It is also important to note that there are more boy children than girl children between the ages of 0-19 (2006 Census).

Active in the community

Close to 90% of the respondents indicated that they were active in the community, whereas 5.6% respondents indicated that they were not active in the community or were not interested. No one indicated that their lack of activity was due to a lack of information. The City of Toronto NIW average was 62% yes, 25% no, 6% not interested, with 7% not having information, showing that overall residents throughout Toronto are active in their communities in a number of ways.



Participation in the Community



Participation in meetings or activities

When respondents were asked if they participated in meetings or activities, 89% responded “yes”. There seems to be overwhelming evidence that women (92% of total female respondents) were more active in the community than men (83% of total male respondents). Of those who answered “yes”, most were 36+, but also included were all those in the 18-25 age range. Women in this age range seem to be more active than respondents in the 26-35 age range. About 6% of respondents answered “no” and represented 8% of total female respondents in the 26-35 age range. Most women in this age range are starting families and may have small children therefore childcare may be necessary for them to participate.

6% of the total respondents who indicated that they were “not interested” were men in the 26-35 age range, or 17% of all the males. More than half of the participants (56%) indicated that they were active at least once a week, whereas 22% indicated that they were active once a month. The length of residency and age may be a factor in how active the respondents are in the community. The NIW for City of Toronto statistical analysis also indicated that 35% of the respondents participated in meetings or activities 36% of the time, and once a month 23% of the time.

Community Participation

When respondents in Lawrence Heights were asked questions about their participation in the community, the majority responded that:

- They lived in Lawrence Heights for more than years;
- Neighbours helped neighbours;
- Their sense of belonging was somewhat strong to very strong;
- Most spoke to their neighbours every day;
- Walking after dark was usually safe;
- More than half said they had someone they could count on most of the time;
- They could get advice some or most of the time;
- People generally got along with each other; and
- People shared similar values.

In the NIW City of Toronto average, the only response different from that of Lawrence Heights, was that most of the respondents lived in their community 5 years or less. Female respondents in Lawrence Heights had a stronger sense of connection, responding 25% higher in feeling that they

had a sense of belonging to the community and 42% in feeling that they share the same values as other community members.

Community concerns

When respondents were asked what they thought about their neighbourhood in terms of community concerns, they responded that:

- Vandalism and property damage was a very big to a fairly big problem (38%);
- Drugs were a very big problem (83%);
- Faith and religious intolerance happens but was not a problem (39%-33%);
- Race and ethnic intolerance was not a problem (about 44%); and
- Teenagers' hanging around the street misbehaving is a very big problem (78%).

Male respondents indicated that vandalism and faith based problems were a much greater problem than did the females, scoring 42% higher than females.

Programs and services needed in the community

When respondents were asked to identify whether a program or service in the Lawrence Heights community were highly needed, needed, less needed or not needed, they responded as follows:

- Leadership programs/opportunity to practice, highly needed (89%);
- Skill building, highly needed (89%);
- Digital storytelling, highly needed (83%);
- Tutoring, highly needed (88%);
- Counselling services, highly needed (94%);
- Recreation, highly needed (94%);

- Job development, highly needed (89%);
- Social activities, highly needed (94%);
- Youth participation, highly needed (94%);
- Mentoring highly, needed (94%); and
- Place to play safely, highly needed (94%).

It is interesting to note that the programs and services that top the list for both the male and female respondents were counselling services, recreation, social activities, youth participation, mentoring, and a safe place to play which are issues that have been expressed by many community members at countless meetings in Lawrence Heights. They were much higher than the NIW City of Toronto average at about a 25-40% difference in terms of need.

Survey Conclusions

Lawrence Heights has a high percentage of immigrants; many who have lived in Lawrence Heights for over 5 years. More women in Lawrence Heights participated in the survey than men and are indicative of the fact that more women are active in the community. The respondents who participated in the survey on average had post-secondary education and were relatively active in their community. There was a higher than average number of single parent families headed by women. Respondents indicated that there was a high participation rate amongst them. Women respondents had a higher level of education than men. A higher percentage of the respondents worked part-time rather than full-time. Women seemed to have a better sense of belonging than men. The community is under resourced in terms of programs and services. Youth misbehaving and drug use were the biggest concerns.

Key Informant Questionnaires

Methodology

The second method of gathering information was through Key Informant Interviews. The IWIP trainee interviewed individuals who had lived or worked in the community for many years. The interview questions were to help guide a conversation and encouraged elaboration on thoughts and feelings on a number of indicators of the social-economic wellbeing.

The IWIP trainee used the following questions to guide the interviews:

1. If a family you knew wanted to move into this neighbourhood, what advice would you give them?
2. What would you say are the strongest and best qualities of this community?
3. What do you see are some of the good things about living in this community?
4. Think about the problems you see in the community. If you had the power to solve three (3) problems in this community in a short time what problems would you address?
5. What do you think are the three (3) most important needs of this community? What would you say are the main barriers (3 or 4) to dealing with these needs and issues?
6. If you were advising a group interested in improving the well-being of this community, what are the three (3) things you would recommend they focus on?
7. If you were returning to this community after 15 years in another country, what would you like to see changed, and what would you like to see remain the same?

The first question asked by the IWIP trainee had to do with the type of advice one would give to a family that wanted to move into the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood. Key

Informants indicated the following:

- Lawrence Heights is a vibrant neighbourhood where residents are actively involved in advocating on the issues that affect them.
- There are several agencies and organizations that provide services within the community, they should learn about and connect with those services.
- I would tell them about Unison and staff that would be available to them, as well as staff from North York Community House, the Community Centre, Toronto Community Housing Corporation (at 10 Old Meadow Lane), the Barbara Frum Library and how close they are to Lawrence Square and Yorkdale Mall.
- I would help them get to know the neighbourhood by walking with them through the area and mapping out the amenities and services.
- I'd give them the contact information of a few local residents so they could talk to them.

The second question asked what the Key Informants would say are the strongest and best qualities of this community. Key Informants indicated the following:

- There now is a wide range of programs and services being provided in Lawrence Heights
- Both residents and service providers are working together on a number of projects and programs in the community.
- Best quality of the community is the people and the diversity and strength of various groups and individuals.
- The resiliency of residents.

- Residents support for each other.
- Resident are actively involved and committed to the community.

The third question asked what Key Informants saw as some of the good things about living in this community. The Key Informants indicated the following:

- It's accessible to shopping, TTC, support services, programs and activities.
- There is a lot of green space in the community.
- Community events.
- Located 15 minutes away from anything in the city via the TTC.
- There is great community spirit.
- There are some good programs being offered through local agencies.
- There is a lot of talent in the community.

The fourth question asked Key Informants to think about what three problems they see in the community that they had the power to address in a short time. The Key Informants indicated the following:

- Extending the hours at the recreation centre on weekdays evenings and weekends.
- Hiring more residents to do the work in Lawrence Heights, and to take the lead when dealing with safety issues.
- Addressing the problem of community capacity building by implementing a 10 year capacity building project for local residents that involve participatory leadership and an action plan for change.

- Starting a Micro-Loan Organization to foster small business enterprise; social and for profit organizations locally.
- Creating a sports and recreation organization incubator for residents to run and support their own registered organizations.
- Fostering the great community spirit.

The fifth question asked what the Key Informants think are the three (3) most important needs of this community and what they would say are the main barriers (3 or 4) in dealing with these needs and issues. Key informants indicated the following:

Needs:

- Economic needs such as fulltime employment, the need to feel safe including youth engagement/involvement and parent involvement.
- Education; career planning and navigating the education systems.
- Employment capacity building skills and awareness.
- Food access and nutrition skills.
- Access to services.

Main Barriers:

- Building of a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of community that is developed by community stakeholders.
- Commitment from all levels of government and other stakeholders.
- Adequate youth programming and services.
- Lack of knowledge of what is being offered in the neighbourhood and what is available.
- Lack of skills

- Language barriers

The sixth question asked Key Informants what advice or three recommendations they would give to a group interested in improving the well-being of the Lawrence Heights community. Key Informants indicated the following:

- Engaging with the residents living here and empower them to lead
- Focusing on Safety, from a broad range perspective and educational/advocacy framework, and youth involvement.
- Information sharing and information translation
- Social inclusion
- Developing anti-oppression community history lenses to understand the stories of people who have come to live in the community
- Youth, employment and accessibility

The seventh question asked Key Informants if they were returning to the Lawrence Heights community after 15 years in another country, what they would like to see changed, and what would they like to see remain the same. Key Informants indicated the following:

- Would like to see a revitalized community with new housing, services, stores and roadways, parks and hubs of services and a new recreational facility, and educational facility.
- Would like to see the variety of people still involved and actively participating in community organizing or rather their young children who are now adults.

- A vibrant active community as today; a space for resident organizing and immigrant support services.
- More than 10 independently funded resident-led organization creating and developing programs and services for the community.
- Major seasonal festivals involving community partnership with local businesses.
- Crime rate lowered significantly.
- Same continued social diversity of the community.
- Many people, many languages, diverse income levels, diverse belief systems living side by side.
- Units are rebuilt, parks with more amenities in them, a new and improved community centre, easier access to the subway station.
- Most important to remain the same - the vibrancy of the residents.

Key Informant Questionnaire Conclusions

Lawrence Heights is seen as a vibrant, diverse community with strong, active residents who are actively working with local agencies and organizations. Residents are resilient, talented, and supportive of each other, are committed to their community and have great community spirit.

The local community centre needs to extend its hours during the week and on weekends to support the demand of needed services. Local agencies need to hire more residents, and they also need to support capacity building projects to support participatory leadership of residents to impact change in Lawrence Heights. There is a need for more programs and services that fit the residents' needs including fostering small business enterprises, education and career planning and food security.

It is necessary to have commitment from all levels of government. There also needs to be adequate programs and services for youth to keep them off the streets. The lack of knowledge of what is being offered in the community creates barriers. Many residents lack skills needed to enter the workforce and experience barriers due to both language and low literacy levels. Revitalization is necessary to improve the lives of the residents who live work and play in Lawrence Heights.

Actions Needed

Note: These results don't reflect the community as a whole. The residents who participated in the surveys are active in the community. Most of the women and men surveyed are either educated or in school, the women on average having a higher education than the men.

- There are a large number of single parent families headed by women in the community; more efforts are needed to provide more programs for children and youth after school and on the weekend as well as safe places to play.
- There are a low number of residents with a post secondary education and the high percentage of people working part time in Lawrence Heights; more efforts need to be taken to provide programs and services directed towards education and career planning especially for working aged women, as well hiring residents locally.
- There are a large number of residents volunteers; effort need to made for some volunteer positions to translate into part time or full time jobs (need to nurture this human resource).

- There are a number of residents who are very active in Lawrence Heights community; actions are needed to build the capacity of residents to take a leadership role in dealing with the issues and concerns in the community.
- There are high levels of concern for youth crime and drug use; actions are needed to ensure that there are adequate leadership, recreation and employment programs and health related services for youth to keep them out of the streets.

Theory of Change- Mothers Building Bridges (MBB)

Mothers Building Bridges is a community based program designed to help mothers in both the Lawrence Heights and Neptune communities work collectively on safety and security issues that affect their communities. Community safety and security have been identified as one of the greatest concerns due to an increase in drug and gang related violence amongst the youth in these communities. As a result mothers who live in the Neptune community are afraid to visit mothers in Lawrence Heights or attend programs or services there. Mothers in Lawrence Heights feel the same about Neptune. Youth from both communities stay in their own neighbourhoods for fear of being injured, robbed or killed.

The ongoing friction between youth in these communities has had a profound impact on the mental health of all who live and work in these communities especially the children. The goal of Mothers Building Bridges is to help mothers from Lawrence Heights and Neptune develop skills, increase their knowledge and to provide supports, proactively tackling safety and security issues

together with the support of local agencies through LHION (Lawrence Heights Inter-organizational Network

MBB program is based on a number of assumptions. One, mothers are willing to establish their own safety committee. Mothers in both communities are willing to meet in the same space.

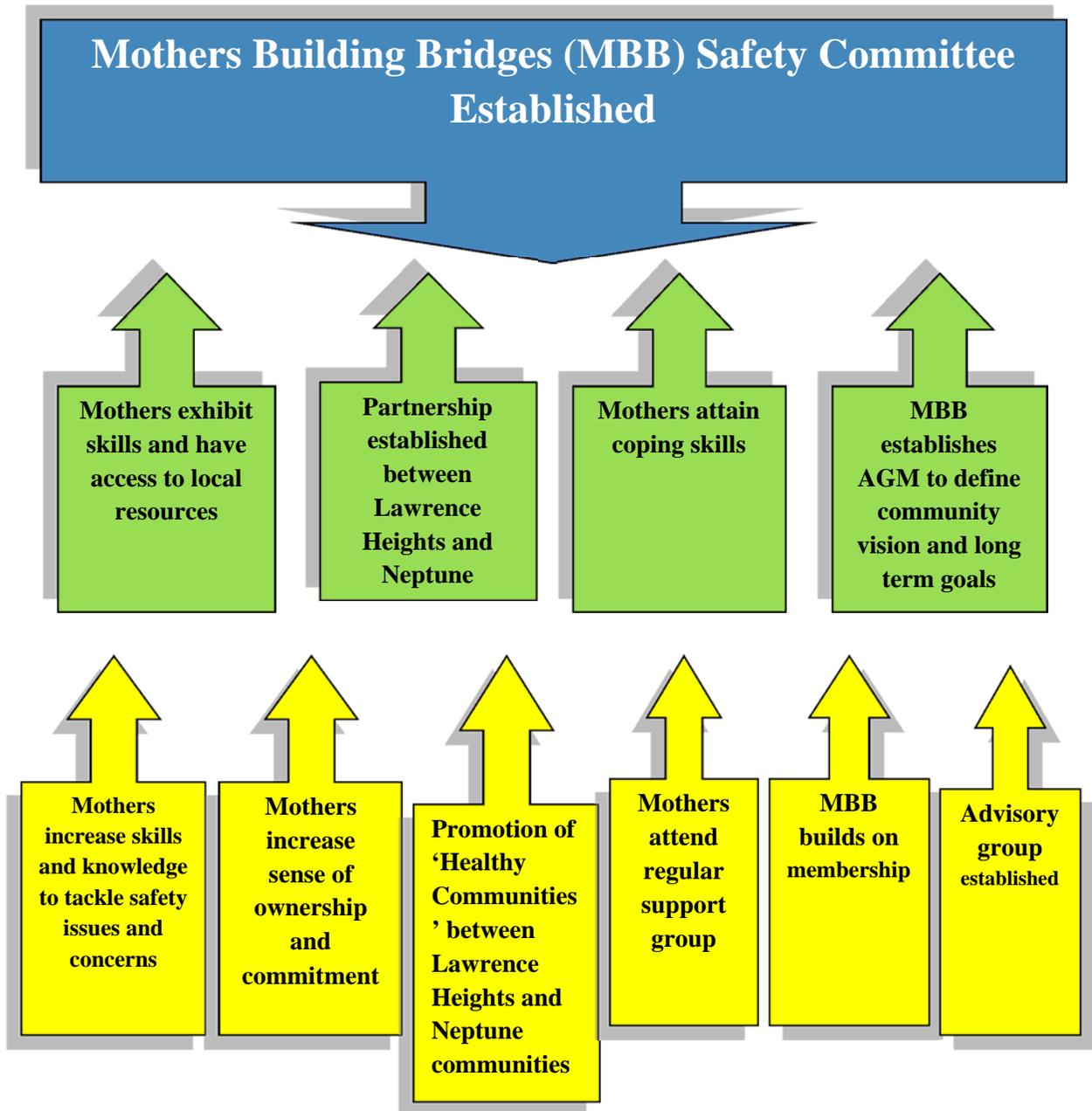
LHION will provide support in skill building, resource facilitation and practical help in solving problems and emotional support. The mothers will need crisis support during critical incidences

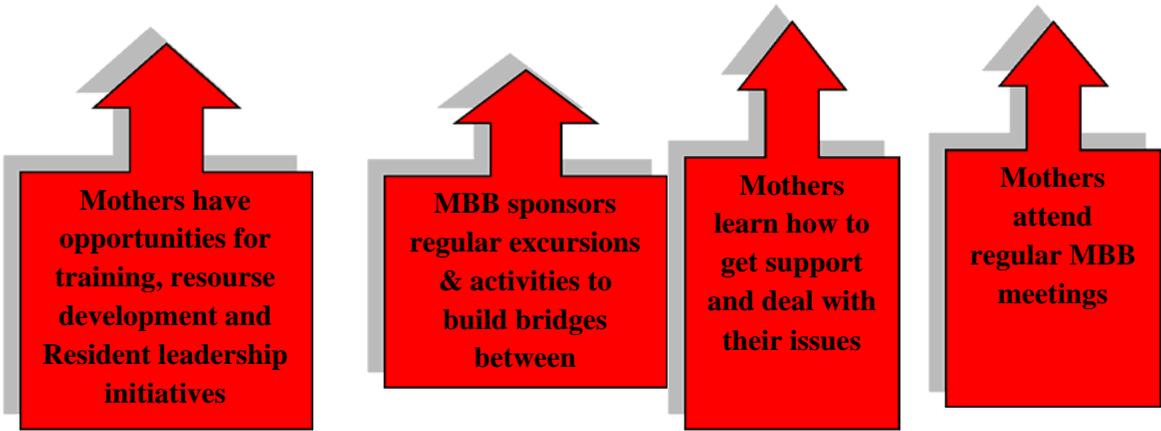
A large number of the women are single mother raising their children alone. Many are new immigrants and struggle with trying to instill their own cultural values in children influenced by the dominant western culture. The strategies that they have developed are eroding their relationships with their children; some face seeing their children go to jail and in extreme cases being evicted from their homes on TCHC property.

Interventions include:

- Hiring 2 coordinators
- Implement outreach campaign
- Set up meetings
- Provide help for short and long term crisis, like shootings, injuries, housing evictions and court appearances
- Provide one-on-one counselling
- Provide skill building training, resource development and leadership initiatives
- Provide regular activities and excursions
- Provide regular meetings
- Help mothers establish safety committee

Theory of Change





LHION and resident community leaders
Collaborate to develop a community safety committee to help mothers take a proactive approach to resolving safety and security issues and concerns in the Lawrence Heights/Neptune communities

References

- 1.) Lawrence heights Neighbourhood Index of Wellbeing Survey Results
- 2.) Census Results of Lawrence Heights Priority Neighbourhood
- 3.) IWIP 2011 Wellbeing Survey Statistical Analysis