

**Welcome to Moss Park
Neighbourhood wellbeing Survey Report**



**IWIP 2012 – 2013
Community Leadership Development
Sara Kumbi**

Table of Contents

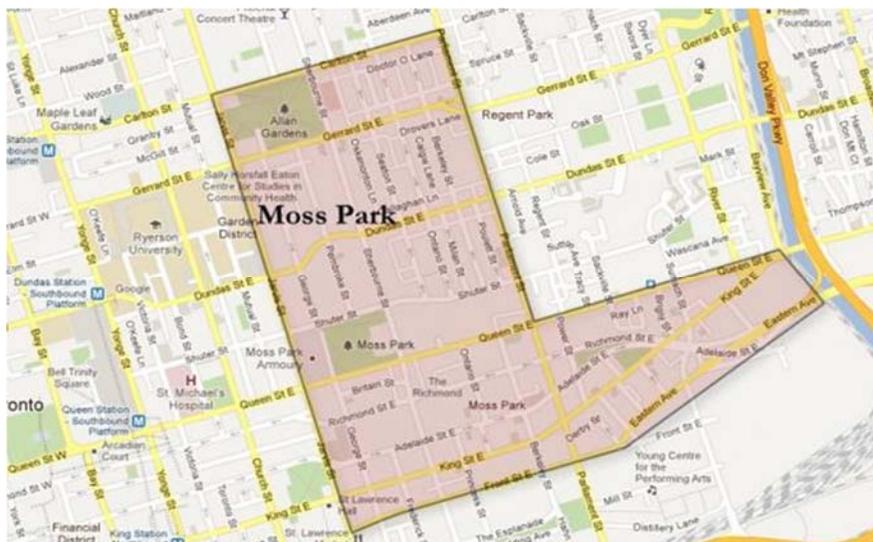
Location of Moss Park	1
History of Moss Park	
Residents of Moss Park	
• Citizens	
• Immigrants	
• New Comers	
Resources of Moss Park	
• Community Housing	
• Shelters	
• Social Services	
• Other Services	
• Education	
• Recreation/Parks	
Issues in Moss Park	
• Health	
• Income	
• Housing	
• Safety	
• Community Involvement	
Survey - Findings / Analysis	
Suggestions for Action	
References	
• Appendix I: CIW 2012 – 2013 Survey raw data of Moss Park	
• Appendix II: Statistics Canada Moss Park Profile 2001 & 2006	

Location of Moss Park

Moss Park is found in down town Toronto. It is between Jarvis Street and Parliament Street Just south of Dundas. The neighborhood is occupied by public housing. As the map of the City Toronto shows Moss Park is L-shaped. Cork town, the Garden District and a portion of Cabbage town are part of Moss Park.

The northeast area of Jarvis and Queen is owned by Moss Park Armoury. By Queen Street, the major design of building is the three to five-storey building, with retail stores on the main floor and stairway up apartments on upper floors.

The high buildings of the Moss Park housing plan rise along side Shuter Street. This is the area today, called Moss Park. This place is almost all rented out, and houses are occupied by low-income families. Moss Park is easily accessible and very convenient to get around. See the map of MP (Moss Park)



History of Moss Park

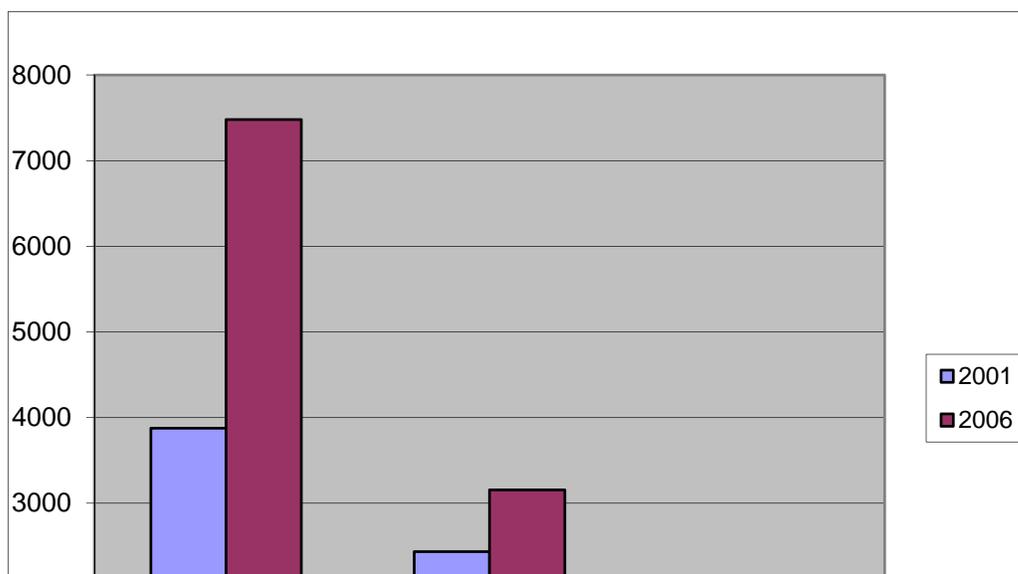
Moss Park is a small and diverse neighbourhood in Toronto. It was established in 1918. The area was a property of William Allan. The area was covered by pine forests. In 1827 William Allan began to build brick houses on the west side of Moss Park - Sherbourne Street. The residence faced orchards and gardens to the north. Allan was a wealthy man and he spent most of his wealth to improve Moss Park. During the 1830s and 1840s he continued the improvement. He installed water systems such as running hot and cold water. He built new roads and so on. Moss Park was Toronto's industrial area. It was a home to large factories. Later, during the 1960s all factory buildings were demolished to make way for a public housing project. After the deindustrialization of the 1970s almost all the factories left the area. Moss Park became the poorest neighbourhood in the city of Toronto. In recent years the area has seen rapid improvement. Former industrial buildings such as the Merchandise Building and the factories of the Distillery District have become popular lofts and fashionable shopping centres. The old houses of Corktown and Cabbagetown are also renovated and are in high demand. Today Moss Park is home to many low-income families and the homeless, and struggles with increasingly serious health and safety issues. The streets are packed with drug users and dealers.



The Residents of Moss Park

Moss Park is one of the most diverse communities in the city of Toronto. People from all different backgrounds live-in Moss Park. Many of the residents are citizens as noted by Statistics Canada in 2001 and 2006. Between 2001 and 2006 the area saw an increase in the portion of residents who are Canadian citizens (see table below) . Many of these residents have likely become citizens during their stay in Moss Park. People move to Moss Park for various reasons. Some for public housing, as the Toronto Community Housing provides housing for low-income individuals. Others move to Moss Park to stay in shelters, because they are unable to pay rent. Shelters are also available for refugees. Immigrants are attracted to the area through family sponsorship.

Statistics Canada Category	2001		2006	
	Numb	%	Number	%
Canadian Citizens	3875	75.3	7480	87.4
Immigrants	2435	47.3	3155	36.9
New Comers	845	16.4	600	7.0
No Knowledge of Either English or French	125	2.4	165	1.9
Aboriginal Origin	90	1.8	80	0.9
Visible Minority	2,700	52.5	3,400	39.7
Refugees	250	4.9	295	3.4



Resources Available in Moss Park

Community Housing

Toronto Community Housing is the largest social housing provider in Canada and the second largest in North America. In 2002 The City of Toronto brought together the Toronto Housing Company and Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority to form the Toronto Housing Corporation. It is home to many low and moderate-income tenants in many households, including families, seniors, singles, recent immigrants to Canada, refugees, and people who need special care.

The tenants come from all backgrounds, reflected in different languages, education levels, age, mental and physical disability, ethnicity, and race. This shows an increasing diversity in lifestyles and values within the community.

Moss Park has three 16-storey apartment buildings on Sherbourne and Shuter Street. The apartments are Bachelor, One, Two, Three, and Four bedrooms. The buildings have elevator service, ground parking, and balconies. These buildings are close to schools, parks, restaurants, TTC, and shopping malls. They also include on-site laundry, playgrounds, a public pool, basketball court, and recreation room. Community Housing is also available at 295 Shuter St. and 155 Sherbourne St. It provides the same services to the residents. See Moss Park housing project on Shuter St.



New design (Article)

Moss Park Rejuvenation and Natural Playground Build

Moss Park residents will soon have new outdoor green spaces where children can play, and where neighbours can sit and enjoy their natural surroundings.

The build will rejuvenate the outdoor space surrounding the three high-rise buildings that make up Moss Park (275, 285, and 295 Shuter Street). The transformation includes a new natural playground, soccer field, community vegetable garden, parkettes, built-in chess boards, amphitheatre, and fully accessible and well-lit pathways. The green space will feature natural materials like native species plants, cedar logs and granite from the Canadian Shield, based on the natural elements found in Georgian Bay Islands National Park, which is the inspiration for the playground's design



Shelters:

Salvation Army men's hostels.

The Salvation Army, an international Christian organization started its services in Canada in 1882 and is now a major non-governmental social services provider across the country. The organization gives hope and provisions to needy people. The Salvation Army provides practical aid for children and families, often providing basic needs, such as shelter for homeless people and support for people who have lost control of their lives to addiction, drugs, and health issues.

Salvation Army's Maxwell Meighen Centre at 135 Sherbourne St is a home for Homeless Men. The Center's workers serve God in meeting the necessities of humanity. The management and staff of this Centre seek to provide basic needs, including emotional, physical, social and spiritual aspects of the person. The Center also provides food, shelter, counselling, Pastoral Care, medical assistance and employment. See Salvation Army-Maxwell Meighen Centre-Men'S Hostel



416 Community Support for Women

416 Community Support for Women is non-profit Organization located at 416 Dundas St. E.. It is a daytime drop in service for women who are in need. The Center provides breakfast, lunch daily and a weekly food bank. The women who come to the center are often homeless, live on streets, sick, mentally challenged, addicted, or isolated. Still others come to the Center to get free food because they are on welfare with a fixed income and cannot afford to buy enough food. The Center also provides social

programs, skill training programs, medical clinics and mental health, and addiction case management services.

The Toronto Friendship Centre

The aim of the Toronto Friendship Centre is to feed the hungry and assist the homeless. It is located at 323 Dundas St E, at the Corner of Dundas and Sherbourne St. The Toronto Friendship Centre works tirelessly to bring changes to the City of Toronto. The number of homeless and disadvantaged people living on the streets of Toronto is increasing every day. Many are victims of abuse, new immigrants, and people with mental health problems. Many are seniors who cannot afford to live on a small fixed income, and cannot afford housing. The Toronto Friendship Centre offers a host of programs that include everything from access to Health Care to a Community Kitchen. The division also provides meals for the hungry. Programs are available for Men, Women, Seniors and Youth. The centre also provides health related programs, such as foot care and personal hygiene. The centre partners with Toronto Housing and offers assistance in finding temporary shelter and permanent residence.



The Followers Mission

The Followers Mission is a homeless church. It is located at 129 Sherbourn Street beside the Salvation Army's Men's Hostel. The Church provides Spiritual and Natural needs for the homeless and drug addicted. Sunday service is at 10:30 am and every Tuesday the mission engages in outreach to feed the poor. The Church also provides clothing and food for those need.

Open Door Drop-in

Open Door Drop-in All Saints Church also provides those in need with food, clothes and shelter to sick and homeless people.

The community faces several challenges. Homeless are increasingly gathering in the Moss Park and they sometimes bother the people walking by making resident feel unsafe. This is made worse by the lack of security in the area.

Social Services:

YSM – Yonge Street Mission

YSM is a Charity Organization, established 1896. The Organization has served the people of Toronto with care and honesty, helping those in need to change their lives around. YMS has experience with issues such as child poverty, street-involved youth, refugee families, immigration, single parents, seniors and the hard-to-house. The Organization is growing and has adapted to changes. Today YMS offers many programs and services. It helps street-involved youth, seniors, families, and new immigrants who are facing difficulties. Yonge Street Mission is committed to supporting and bringing change to communities. In addition, Yonge Street Mission provides for the spiritual need for the Community.

Central Neighbourhood House

Central Neighbourhood House provides a wide range of excellent programs for children and youth, new Canadians, families, women and seniors for the past 100 years. It is located on Ontario Street. It is the second oldest settlement house in Toronto. Their programs include aid with Computer access, Family Support program, Women's Club, Child care, In-Home Support Services, Children & Youth, Seniors Program and Community Development. It creates a space where members of the community can engage issues that affect them. A free computer access site is also available at the reception area of 349 Ontario St.

Central Neighbourhood House



Other Services

In Moss Park there are two community health centres, a TD Canada Trust Bank, lots of restaurants, Coffee Shops, groceries and shops, plenty of service agencies, and recreation places. Moss Park is a good location. Public transit is available to help resident to go anywhere in Toronto, Government offices, Companies, Banks, Churches, shopping Malls, plenty of hospitals, universities, parks and markets are not far. For shopping, residents of Moss Park homes are close to Toronto Eaton Centre, and within walking distance of St.Lawrence Market. Lots of groceries are located in this neighbourhood, such as Metro, No-frills, Sobeys, RABBA ,Dollarama, Shoppers Drug Mart and so on.

Education

Moss Park has plenty of education resources. The area has several schools, Lord Dufferin public school (Junior and Senior), Ecole Gabrielle Roy (French elementary school), St Paul catholic school, and George Brown College's St. James Campus. In addition, there are three daycare facilities in the area that are helpful for working and studying parents. After school programs are also available for elementary school students including arts, music, sports, study tutor, and camping programs. Moss Park also has two public libraries, the Parliament branch and the St. Lawrence branch. In Moss Park there is also a unique "Children's Book Bank" in downtown Toronto. It focuses on the literacy needs of children aged two to twelve and works to help support each child succeed at reading and writing. See Lord Dufferin School – 1946/47 Cabbagetown



Recreation in Moss Park

Many Apartment buildings in Moss Park have their own recreation centre. They also have children's playgrounds, outdoor basketball court and tennis court. John Innes Community Recreation Centre is found in Moss Park. The Center has an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, a running track, a weight room, a cardio training room, a games room, a woodworking shop, and a craft room. The Moss Park Arena is just beside the Center.

Ice skating



The Center has something for everyone. Arenas and outdoor rinks across the city offer many leisure and instructional skating opportunities

Historic photos from around Moss Park, Toronto



Allan Gardens/Moss Park

Allan Gardens is at the corner of Gerrard Street East and Jarvis, it is one of the largest and oldest Parks in Toronto. The Garden has six greenhouses where you can find banana trees, orchids, jasmine, bromeliads, the Mediterranean palms, cacti and exotic plants. It's free to enter and they're open 7 days a week, 10am- 5pm.

Green House Banana Tree



When I arrived in Canada, I went to Allan Gardens Conservatory, but I didn't know it was a park because we do not have a park back home. I walked around and I enjoyed the plants, especially the bananas trees, and followed a narrow walking path through all six greenhouses. I liked them so much and I had to go back again. The Allan Garden, in Moss Park, make Toronto an attractive place for visitors

Issues in Moss Park

Health

One of the biggest problem in Moss Park is health. It comes from poor living standards and poverty in the community. The people who live on the streets, do not have proper nutrition, don't take showers for days, and do not wash their cloths. They often suffer from mental illness, sickness, and addictions, and as such suffer everyday.

Another problem is the lack of privacy in public shelters. The stress of living with others, who suffer from mental illness, results in stress for residents and contributes to the prevalence of mental illness in the community. Moss Park Shelters are in high demand and are overcrowded.

People become homeless for many reasons. Most are suffering from mental illness and sickness, and are new immigrants. This is notable as people who immigrate to Canada, must pass a medical exam in their home country and receive a follow up exam upon arrival in Canada. However many of the people of those suffering from mental illness are immigrants. Many feel hopeless, useless, and depressed which causes them to become mentally ill.

Seniors make up another vulnerable portion of the population in the community. Lack of access or information about health services affects the quality of life of many seniors. The Community is affected by these health challenges and finding solution to it is the key.

Sherbourne Health Centre was established in 2003. It is a community based health centre providing healthcare, programs, and services to support physical and emotional wellbeing.

333 Sherbourne St. Health Centre



Low-Income:

Moss Park is home to many low-income individuals. The rising cost of living and low, fixed income is a challenge for many Moss Park residents. Many of the residents are seniors and new comers. Some of the residents are on welfare and others work at minimum wage jobs. Residents with fixed incomes, such as seniors, face rising costs for goods, services, and rents. Many low-income residents go to food bank and drop in shelters to get enough food to eat.

New immigrants also face barriers due to lack of access to job training, employment services, and language training programs that are not available in Moss Park. They can not find jobs because of language barriers and lack of Canadian job experience. This is made more difficult due to lack of access to information. Many immigrants take on low paying jobs, but cannot afford to buy food. The rising cost of food and energy force some low-income residents to cut back on basic necessities. Some rely on Meals on Wheels, community centres, or food banks for nourishing meals. Others find it too expensive to heat their homes properly in the winter. Some seniors spend the day in local malls to stay warm.

Housing:

Moss Park has not seen an increase in the supply of rental housing or affordable housing in the neighbourhood. Safe, affordable and suitable apartments are not easy to find in Moss Park. The high demand for housing has also resulted in significant rental price increases not only in Moss Park also in the GTA. Newly built affordable housing units were entirely occupied before building had even finished. The same time it can take years to get in subsidized housing. As a result, many residents move from the home of one family member to another for short periods, or move to shelters. However the Public housing and homeless shelters are also over crowded with people.

Safety:

Moss Park is one of the most violent neighbourhoods in the city. Drug dealers, prostitutes and crime are increasing. The residents of Moss Park are very concerned about their safety. Of course there are still many good people in Moss Park. The Toronto Star marks Moss Park, Sherbourne and Dundas number one for crime.

Community Involvement:

Many Moss Park residents do not get involve in their community, because they do not know what services are available to them. Seniors and new immigrants in particular do not know where to get information on community involvement. Access to education regarding community involvement needs to be continual as people arrive in the community all the time. Involvement in the community can bring positive results. Such as unity, friendship, and involvement in proposing the right decisions for the community's future. This will make new immigrants feel more welcome in the community.

Community Engagement



There is some thing good for every body!

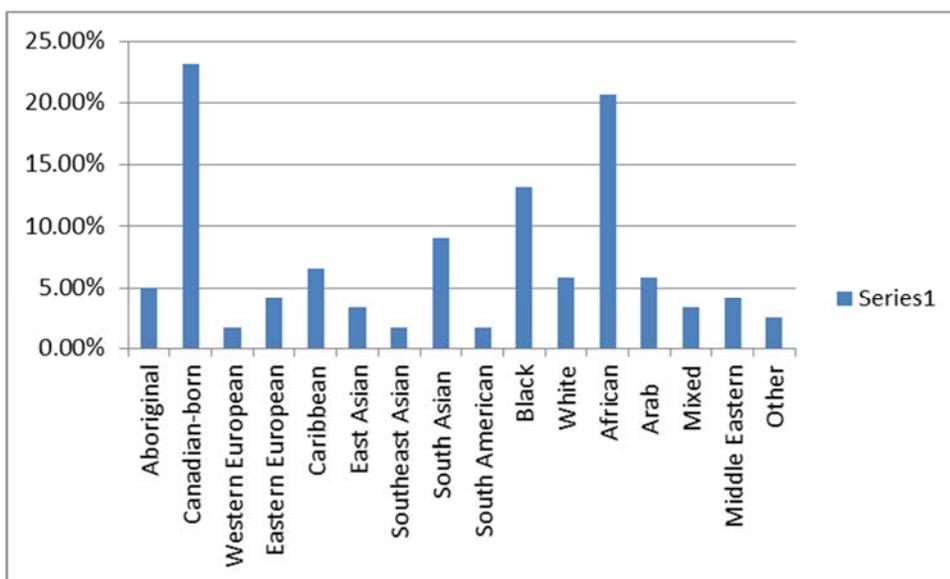
2012-2013 Moss Park survey - Findings - Analysis

The Moss Park wellbeing survey was conducted from December 2012 to January 2013. The main purpose of the survey was to identify the challenges that the community is facing and to find solutions. This allows the comparison of the community standard of living with the Canadian Index Wellbeing and connects residents to services and opportunities to work together to build healthy community.

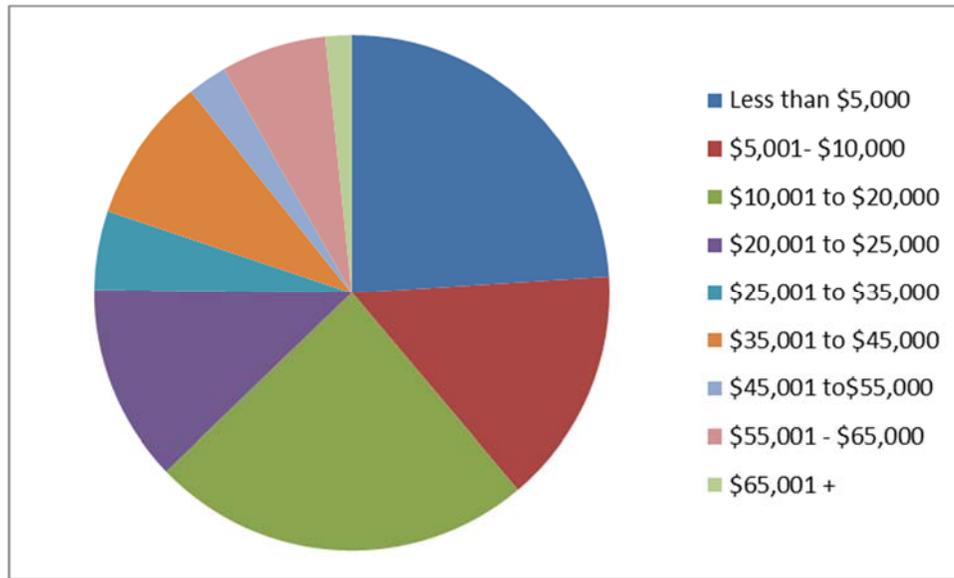
Ten neighbourhoods participated in the survey of the GTA. These neighbourhoods have common issues, such as low-income residents, language barriers, unemployment, safety, homelessness and health issues. The survey is used for the planning purposes of Toronto Center for Community Learning and development (TCCL & D). We hope the survey results and the analysis findings will give a clearer picture of how the community is doing compared to the Canadian Index wellbeing (CIW), and to propose recommendations for the community.

The Survey - Dec. 2012 to Jan. 2013 focused on Demographic Information, Marital Status, Household, Children, Income, Living, General Health, Community Vitality, Changes in Services, and Recycling Services. Over 600 individuals participated in the survey, in the GTA area.

The survey was conducted from Carlton Street to Parliament to Queen Street and Don River, and from Jarvis Street to Front Street. In total 121 Participants were surveyed from the neighbourhood of Moss Park. **Survey Participants**



House hold Income according to the Survey



According to the Survey

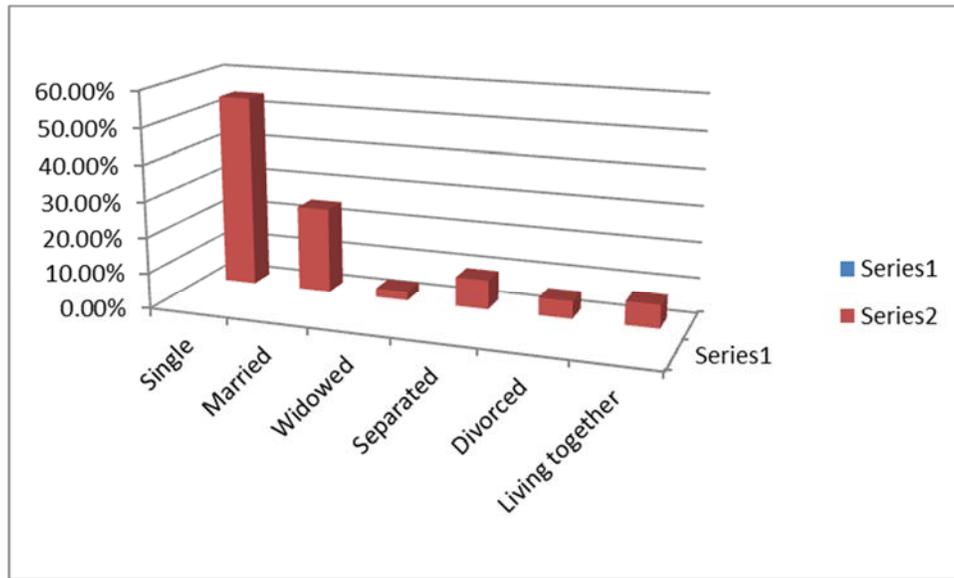
Comparing annual income:

about 29% less than \$20,000.00

about 12.40% between \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00

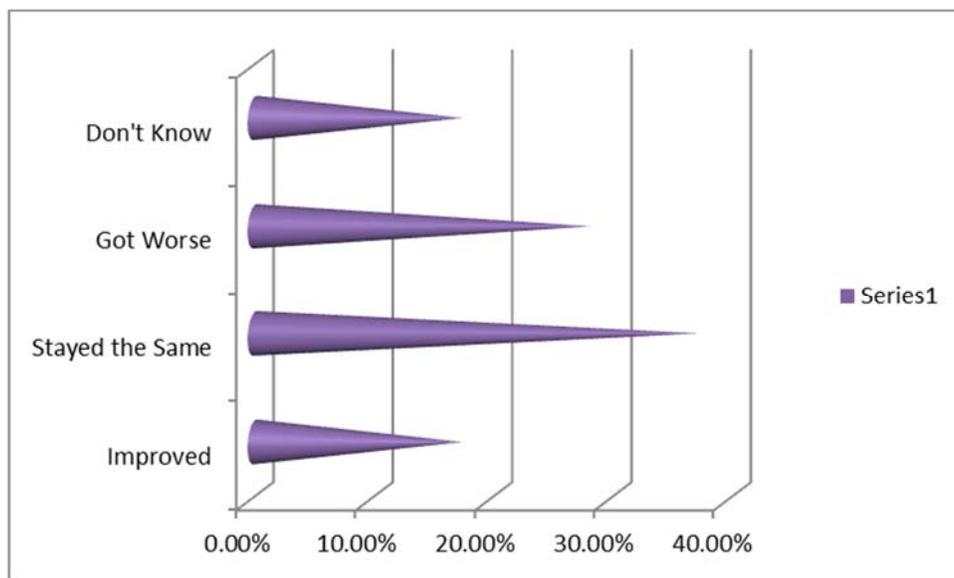
about 1.65% above \$65,000.00

Marital Status – Survey results



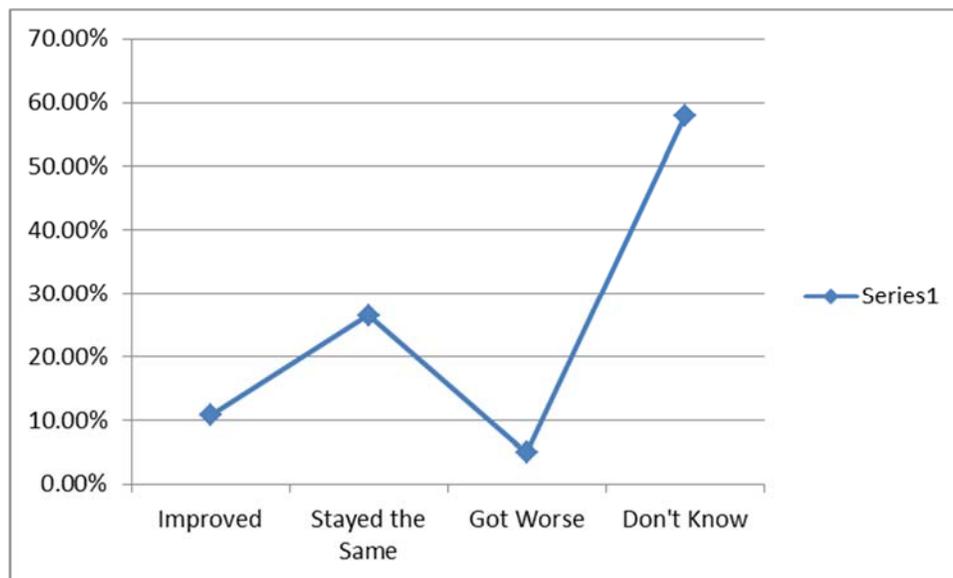
According to the Survey most of the residents are singles. Almost 50% are singles comparing to 20% are married. This may affect the Community's population.

Change in Services – survey results For Housing



About 37% says services for house is stayed the same while about 17% says don't know.

Change in services – Survey results For Seniors



Services for seniors : almost 60% of the survey says don't know while about 10% claim improved.

In Conclusion:

Survey questions were related to ongoing issues in the community and recorded for analysis. As the Survey analysis shows the majority of survey participants are Canadian born and they are desperate to see change in their community. The majority of residents are aware of the problems in the Moss Park. The key challenges in Moss Park today is Low standard of living, mental illness, drugs and safety.

To bring changes to this Community time, resources, and effort are vital. Finding out new ways, Setting short and long term goals, investigating the resources that the community has, increasing the available resources for housing, improving shelter life, health care, employment training, recreation for youth and seniors will help the community to overcome the challenges it is facing.

Suggestions for Action

- Create an employment Resource Center – in Moss Park
- Provide employment Training Programs
- Build new houses
- Provide English Classes for new immigrants
- Inform seniors of programs and services
- Ensure shelters work together
- Respond to the high concentration of shelters by moving some to other Communities
- Open a healing room
- Increase community involvement
- Stop drug dealers

References

211Toronto.ca	Call 211
Out of the Cold. Overnight Shelter	www.ootcca/site_php
416 Community Support for Women	416 Dundas Street East Toronto
Good Shepherd Ministries	www.goodshepherd.ca
Fred Victor	www.fredvictor.org
The Followers Mission	http://www.followersmission.org/
Out of the Cold. Meal Programs	Call 211
The Salvation Army	www.salvationarmy.ca/
Sherbourne Health Centre	www.sherbourne.on.ca/
Yonge Street Mission	www.ysm.ca
Moss Park	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moss_Park
Children's Book Bank	www.childrensbookbank.com
Toronto Friendship Centre http:	www.thetorontofriendshipcentre.com/