



Building Community Together

**2008 - 2009
Annual Report**



A United Way® Agency

The Community Development Halton Team

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Mission Statement

Through research, community development, planning and promoting volunteerism, Community Development Halton strives to improve the quality of life for all residents of Halton.

The primary purpose of CDH is to build and strengthen the community of Halton. It focuses on the social impact of larger social, economic, political and cultural forces on individuals, families and the broad community. CDH is committed to **social development** as a desired state of community well-being and **social change** as a continual process towards achieving and sustaining social development for everyone in the community.

Values

We value: **community, voluntarism, diversity, equity and social justice.**

The principles underlying the work of Community Development Halton are: **independence, community accountability, knowledge-based action, citizen participation, inclusiveness and empowerment.**

Report of the President and the Executive Director

This year has been a time replete with much activity, of challenges and opportunities, of change and innovation. However, we could not have anticipated the ravages of economic recession and its impact on the people and social organizations of Halton. This period will be remembered as the end of an era of economic prosperity marked by global economic crisis where international financial markets have collapsed, industries based on manufacturing have failed and consumer spending has stalled.

Community Development Halton (CDH) responded focusing our work in the areas of social equity and poverty reduction. Over 2008–2009 CDH worked with community partners to convene a series of community conversations to discuss a blueprint for poverty reduction and develop the plans to put its recommendations into action. With our Social Planning Network of Ontario colleagues and other community partners, we saw the result of many years of work culminate with the Government of Ontario's adoption of a poverty reduction strategy with accompanying legislation and financial commitments. CDH will continue to work with others to create a poverty-free Halton and Ontario.

Powerful threads run through our work over time that support the social development of our

community. They are:

- i) identifying and reducing disparities in living conditions;
- ii) affirming the growing diversity of our population;
- iii) nurturing civic and healthy communities through citizen engagement; and
- iv) collaborating with non-profit organizations to document their issues as these agencies endeavour to meet the growing needs of people in the communities of Halton.

We continue to encourage community residents to become actively engaged in their community through volunteering. The number of volunteer hours contributed to make our community liveable, safe and compassionate would not exist without the unwavering work of Volunteer Halton. Volunteers are celebrated for the time and energy donated to community activities where they make a difference in the lives of people. At the same time, Volunteer Halton continues to train organizations in the 'art' of managing a volunteer force in assisting them in furthering their agency's mission.

Through our social planning program we continue to be a repository of knowledge on the changing demographics of Halton. This year two social profiles have been produced providing a snapshot of community. It

provides vital information to all levels of government for their decision making process in the provision of services to residents. Businesses use the information to plan, develop and deliver their goods and services to meet the needs and requirement of their customers. With these profiles, social service agencies are in a better position to mobilize their resources to bridge service gaps. Individuals are better informed of the needs and potentials of their community.

The Board of Directors has faced a challenging year implementing a policy governance model in order to provide vibrant and responsible governance.

The heart and soul of Community Development Halton is the skill, ability and dedication of our volunteers, staff, and Board members. Together they strive to ask why equality, equity and social justice are beyond the horizon. Together we continue to question and explore why it is this way and look to change it.

Maureen Weinberger
President

Joey Edwardh
Executive Director

Volunteer Halton

Volunteer Halton is an information and referral program with a mandate to develop a strong voluntary sector through: advocacy, leadership, education, development training, recognition of volunteers, and on-line recruitment. A key component of our work is to be responsive to the national trends and support our local agencies accordingly. Volunteer Halton advocates for volunteer rights and expectations through its membership and association with provincial and national organizations.

National Volunteer Week April 27th to May 3rd 2008

In the late 1960s, the concept to identify a week designated to honour community volunteers was implemented. Local Volunteer Centres led the introduction of celebrating this special week, and it grew in importance during the 1970s and 1980s. Volunteer Centres continue to raise the awareness and acknowledge the importance of civic engagement and the impact these activities have on the health and vitality of communities.

[Cheers to Volunteers](#) In 2008, Volunteer Halton honoured the contribution of twelve local heroes through the Cheers to Volunteer Campaign. Volunteer Halton in partnership with Cogeco Cable, Oakville Beaver, and Burlington Post celebrated the work of dedicated citizens by honouring their work and the impact of their volunteerism on our community.

[Managers' Reception](#) Managers of Volunteers are the foundation of volunteer programs which oversee the fulfilment of organizations mission and purpose. In 2008, Managers of Volunteer programs were honoured with a reception and a preview of Halton's Volunteer Awareness Campaign.



Feel the Magic Volunteer Awareness Campaign

In partnership with the Halton Region, Volunteer Halton; the Halton Association of Volunteer Administrators; and the four United Ways of Halton continued the work of the Roundtable of the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector's community plan of November 2006 through the Marketing and Awareness Campaign. It was launched to promote volunteering and build awareness of the tremendous social and economic value of Halton's non-profit and voluntary sector.

Volunteer Management Training and Consultation Services

Halton Agencies attended 8 training sessions offered throughout the Region. Topics offered include: Employer supported volunteer programs, Involving Youth, Effective Meeting Strategies, and Marketing and Promotion of Volunteer Programs. In addition to these sessions, 6 sessions of "Volunteering in Canada" were delivered throughout the region via The Centre for Skills Development. The target audience is individuals new to Canada who may not understand our culture of volunteering. We have secured our partnership with the Town of Oakville. We also worked with the Region of Halton to develop a volunteer involvement policy.

Diversity

Volunteer Halton, in partnership with Halton Multicultural Council, continues to host the Diversity Breakfast Series to support organizations on their path to become diversity competent organizations. Some topics covered were: *Inclusion, the many faces of Diversity; Site visit to Shaarei Beth-El Synagogue; and Culturally Competent Care for seniors.*

Partnerships

Our partnerships include: the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration; the Region of Halton; the Town of Halton Hills, Milton Community Policing Services and the Burlington Public Library.

Social Planning

Poverty Reduction

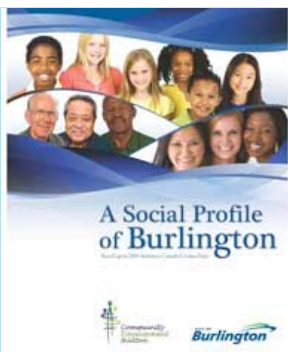
In November 2008, over one hundred members of the Halton community met to participate in the development of a Blueprint for Economic Stimulus and Poverty Reduction in Ontario. The Blueprint lays out a plan that could reduce the number of poor Ontarians by 197,420 (15%) and reduce the number of poor children in Ontario by 62,000 (19 %) within the next three years.

Poverty affects every area of peoples lives. A recent report, *Poverty is Making Us Sick*, says: “low income almost inevitably ensures poor health and significant health inequity in Canada.” The same report indicates that households in the bottom 20 percent of the income spectrum have a significantly higher incidence of a wide range of illnesses. At \$8.75 per hour, the current rate offers minimum wage earners just about the same purchasing power as their counter-parts had in 1995.

CDH remains committed to working with local and provincial governments as well as other not for profit organizations to work on reducing poverty in our community, especially in the presently difficult tough economic climate.

Mapping: A Spatial Expression of Community

CDH has been providing Census data and maps to community agencies so that they may have better understanding of the demographics they service. CDH staff is further developing their skills to provide analysis of agency data as part of this service.



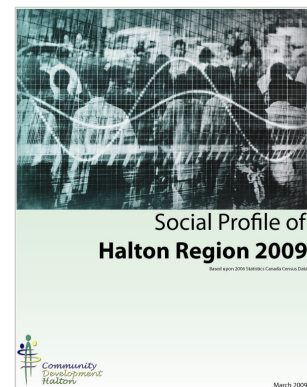
Burlington Social Profile

This report was completed in conjunction with the City of Burlington in January 2009. It provides a snapshot view of socio-demographic characteristics of Burlington's residents – the who and the where. The profile provides vital information for government decision making in planning and delivery of public services by identifying changing needs and emerging trends.

Social Profile of Halton 2009

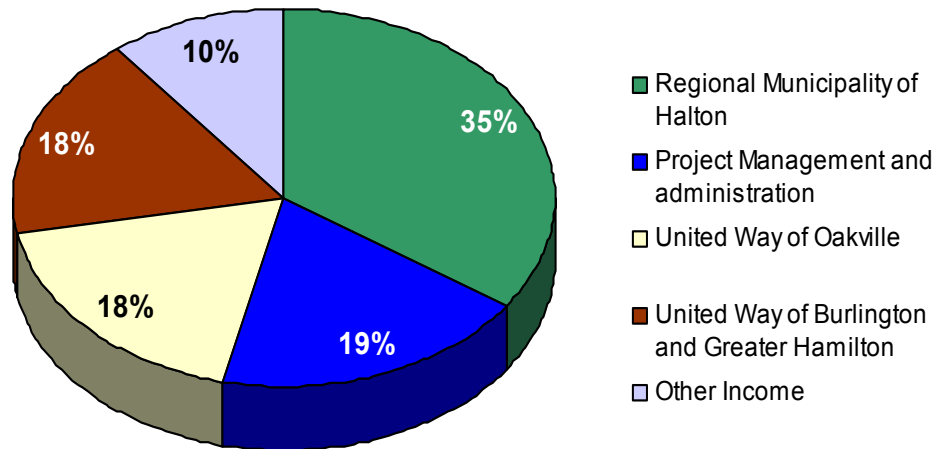
This report, based on the data from the latest Statistics Canada Census, constructs a portrait of the socio-demographic characteristics of Halton Region and its local municipalities.

It helps to answers the question: “Who are we?” as a community. Of equal importance is to know “Where are we?” Through the use of thematic maps, the geographic distribution of various socio-demographic characteristics, and the location of population sub-groups (e.g. seniors, children, low income groups, visible minority groups, etc.) are identified. Knowing the location of their customers or potential employees will enable businesses to make important business decisions. Social service agencies can better serve their clients by deploying their often limited resources more strategically.



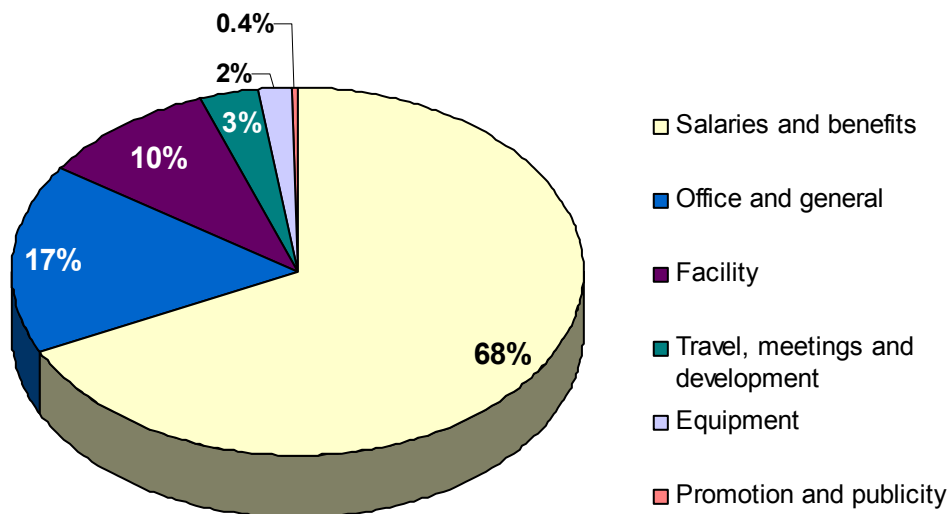
2008-2009 Financial Statement

Revenue - Core Operations (\$478,651)



Funded Projects - \$562,098

Expenses - Core Operations (\$407,835)



Funded Projects - \$562,098

Full audited financial statements prepared by Pettinelli, Mastroluisi, LLP are available by request.

Future Strategic Initiatives

- Implementation of Blueprint for Poverty Reduction
 - Do the Math – Invest in Food
 - Social Assistance Review
 - Affordable Housing
- Roundtable on Seniors issues in Burlington
- Youth Volunteering Works
- Management of Volunteer Base
- Economic Impact of Recession on Halton Social Service Agencies
- Promoting the Social Determinants of Health
- Advancing Diversity: Newcomers in Oakville and Halton
- Labour Force Challenges of the Nonprofit Social Service Sector
- Halton Nonprofit Network

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

--Mahatma Gandhi--

Financial Partners

We thank our partners for their continued financial support:



Special Project Funding Partners:

- Atkinson Charitable Foundation
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Ontario Women's Health Network
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- City of Burlington
- Regional Municipality of Halton
- Niagara North Community Legal Assistance
- Enbridge Gas
- Halton Community Legal Services

Special Donations:

- Anonymous Donation
- Burlington Post
- Cogeco
- Cogeco North Cable 14
- Georgetown Independent & Free Press
- Georgetown Market Place
- Hamilton Spectator
- Milton Canadian Champion
- Oakville Beaver
- Oakville Today

You will find as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others.

--Source Unknown--

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