

Metcalf Foundation: Working Poor

Date:	February 22, 2012
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Metcalf Foundation's report "The Working Poor in the Toronto Region: Who they are, where they live, and how trends are changing" outlines the increasing number of people in Toronto who are working and living in poverty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration recommends that the Community Development and Recreation Committee consider this report with CD10.2, "The Social Impact of Lower Wage Jobs" at its meeting of February 22, 2012.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 21, 2012, the Economic Development Committee requested the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, to forward a copy of the report from the Metcalf Foundation on "Working Poverty in the Toronto Region" to the Community and Recreation Committee for consideration with Item CD10.2.

COMMENTS

The Metcalf report found that most working poor in Toronto were clustered in the inner suburbs and the southwest corner of the city. Working poverty is more prevalent east of Yonge Street. The key features of the working poor include:

- Concentration in sales and service occupations;

- Working a similar number of weeks and hours as the average working-age person;
- More likely to be single;
- More likely to be an immigrant;
- Having a comparable level of education to an average working-age person;
- Less likely to own their home; and
- Over-representation among the younger age population.

The Metcalf Foundation also identified areas requiring further research such as working poverty and the income security system; labour market and working poverty; education and working poverty and identifying other groups likely to be working poor.

CONTACT

Chris Brillinger
Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Telephone: (416) 392-5207
Email: cbrillin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Chris Brillinger
Executive Director
Social Development, Finance & Administration