



## Diversity

Toronto is heralded as one of the most multicultural cities in the world and is ranked as the safest large metropolitan area in North America by Places Rated Almanac. Over 140 languages and dialects are spoken here, and just over 30 per cent of Toronto residents speak a language other than English or French at home.

- Between 2001 and 2006, Canada received 1,109,980 international immigrants. Toronto welcomed about one quarter of all immigrants, 267,855, to Canada during this period of about 55,000 annually.
- Half of Toronto's population (1,237,720) was born outside of Canada, up from 48 per cent in 1996.
- In 2006, half of all immigrants to Toronto have lived in Canada for less than 15 years.
- In 2006, more than half of all immigrants living in Toronto were age 25 and over; 7 per cent were pre-school age 5 and under; 16 per cent were school age 6 to 14; and 22 per cent were youth 15 to 24.
- In 2006 the City of Toronto had 45 per cent of the GTA's population in 2006, and was home to:
  - 52.4 per cent of all GTA immigrants;
  - 36 per cent of all immigrants living in Ontario;
  - 20 per cent of all immigrants living in Canada;
  - 42.4 per cent of all visible minorities in Ontario;
  - 22.9 per cent of all visible minorities in Canada.
- 47 per cent of Toronto's population, 1,162,635 people, reported themselves as being part of a visible minority, up from 42.8 per cent, 1,051,125, in 2001.
- Toronto's visible minority population increased by 10.6 per cent since 2001, and by 31.8 per cent since 1996.
- The top five visible minority groups in Toronto were:
  - South Asian at 298,372 or 12.0 per cent of our population;
  - Chinese at 283,075 or 11.4 per cent;
  - Black at 208,555 or 8.4 per cent;
  - Filipino at 102,555 or 4.1 per cent;
  - Latin American at 64,860 or 2.6 per cent.

### Queen's Quay Terminal at Harbourfront

207 Queens Quay West, Suite 405, Toronto, ON, CANADA M5J 1A7

Tel: 416-203-2600 • Fax: 416-203-6753

Visitor Info: 416-203-2500 • Toll-Free Visitor Info: 1-800-363-1990

Website: [www.seetorontonow.com](http://www.seetorontonow.com)



### **Visible Minorities**

- Across Canada there has been a four-fold increase since 1981 in people who identify themselves as visible minorities – up from 1.1 million in 1981 to almost 5 million in 2006.
- Nationally, 96 per cent of the visible minority population live in a metropolitan area compared with 68 per cent of the total population.

### **Ethnic Origin**

- Toronto's rich multi-cultural diversity is expressed by the more than 200 distinct ethnic origins residents identified in their response to the 2006 Census.
- In 2006, 28% of all ethnic origin responses in Toronto were European; 19 per cent identified themselves with the British Isles (including England, Scotland, and Ireland); 16 per cent as East or Southeast Asian; and 10 per cent as South Asian in origin.
- Toronto is home to the largest Italian population in the world, outside of Italy.
- Toronto has dozens of ethnic neighbourhoods: 5 Chinatowns, 2 Little Italys, Greektown, Little India, Koreatown and Kensington Market (which has a cross-section of various ethnicities)
- One in five Toronto residents arrived in this country during the 1990s.

### **Language**

- Toronto remains a mosaic of many languages. In 2006, forty-seven percent of the population had a mother tongue in a language other than English or French.
- The top 5 mother tongue languages in 2006 were:
  - Chinese (420,000);
  - Italian (195,000);
  - Punjabi (138,000);
  - Tagalog/Pilipino (114,000);
  - Portuguese (113,000).
- Thirty-one percent of Torontonians had a home language other than English or French. The top non-official home languages were: Chinese, Tamil, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

#### **Queen's Quay Terminal at Harbourfront**

207 Queens Quay West, Suite 405, Toronto, ON, CANADA M5J 1A7

Tel: 416-203-2600 • Fax: 416-203-6753

Visitor Info: 416-203-2500 • Toll-Free Visitor Info: 1-800-363-1990

Website: [www.seetorontonow.com](http://www.seetorontonow.com)



- Among Chinese speakers who identified a specific dialect, two-thirds spoke Cantonese and one-third spoke Mandarin.
- Since 1996, the number of persons with Tamil as a home language has surpassed those who speak Italian while Spanish as a home language has overtaken Portuguese.
- Five percent of the population has no knowledge of either official language, a slight decline from 6 per cent in 1996.
- Two percent of Torontonians indicated multiple mother tongues other than French and English.

### **Queen's Quay Terminal at Harbourfront**

207 Queens Quay West, Suite 405, Toronto, ON, CANADA M5J 1A7

Tel: 416-203-2600 • Fax: 416-203-6753

Visitor Info: 416-203-2500 • Toll-Free Visitor Info: 1-800-363-1990

Website: [www.seetorontonow.com](http://www.seetorontonow.com)