



Sent via fax
416-326-2807

March 13, 2009

Hon. John Milloy
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
900 Bay Street
3rd Floor, Mowat Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Milloy:

I am writing to you to bring to your attention, a number of issues regarding the current implementation of Employment Ontario Services in communities across the province. We are aware that the government is currently engaged in re-designing employment supports as part of the federal-provincial Labour Market Development Agreement, and is vesting a leadership role with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities through Employment Ontario.

As you know, municipalities in Ontario have a vested interest in labour force development, as a key economic strategy, as well as for community health and well being. Municipalities are leaders and key players in local labour force development through the delivery and funding of Ontario Works Employment Assistance activities and through economic development. Currently, municipalities plan and facilitate community access to training programs for approximately 200,000 Ontarians.

We have recently learnt that growing confusion exists surrounding the roles of Training Boards, the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, municipal service managers and the ongoing role of Service Canada in employment system redesign.

Many questions also exist regarding how to connect the system of the future to business development issues and local labour market needs. And, local employers report increasing uncertainty regarding who they should be dealing with.

AMO and municipalities share the government's commitment to sustainable labour markets with a commitment to employment.

It therefore seems prudent that more consistent and collaborative dialogue across the province between municipal service managers and MTCU during the policy and program development stages would enhance our shared objectives.

As you know, municipalities are also responsible for the funding and service delivery of affordable housing, child care and a number of other social and health services. Given the current economic situation, re-entry to the job market will often be simultaneously connected to housing, child care and other coordinated community supports in order for employment to be successful and sustained.

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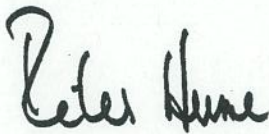
Integration of employment, housing and child care can best be achieved at the local level through connecting the planning of labour market needs to local economic development initiatives. A high degree of collaboration will allow for integration and alignment with provincial goals in economic recovery and poverty reduction. It is clear that municipalities need to have a direct and active role in the planning and service delivery processes under Employment Ontario.

Precedent has been set on productive and collaborative relationship between the government, AMO and municipalities. Municipalities currently have a well established working relationship with the Ministry of Community and Social Services through planning and implementing policies and projects for Ontario Works and previously, the Ontario Disability Support Program.

The Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review committed to the integrated planning of employment programs at the local level. This will include the participation of numerous provincial ministries including MTCU, MCSS, MED, MOL as well as AMO and the City of Toronto. While work has not yet commenced on this initiative, we would encourage that in the interim, municipalities be engaged in your ministry's local employment service redesign efforts. It should be noted, that AMO has been advocating for collaboration between AMO, municipalities and MTCU on this initiative for a number of years.

I look forward to your response and to working with the Ministry to achieve our mutual objectives.

Sincerely,



Peter Hume
President

- cc. Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Dana Richardson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government and Planning Policy, MMAH
Janet Hope, Director, Ministry of Community and Social Services
Marcelle Crouse, Director, Employment and Labour Policy, MMAH
Erin Hannah, Director, Ontario Works Branch, MCSS
Kira Heineck, Executive Director, OMSSA
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), c/o Region of Waterloo
AMO Social Policy Task Force

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services and Housing Committee Members

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: April 15, 2009

RE: **Service Indicators for Social Assistance and Housing**

At the March 11, 2009 Community Services and Housing Committee meeting, members discussed the value of receiving monthly indicators, particularly those of service demand and delivery in our Ontario Works and Social Housing programs.

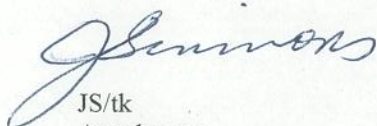
I am pleased to provide Committee with data that I believe will inform members of service pressures on key program areas which reflect the changing needs of some of our residents as they experience the effects of the current economic situation.

For March, 2009:

- The Ontario Works caseload continues to increase, with a 4.0% increase in March over the previous month and a 15.9% increase since November 2008.
- Net Ontario Works Allowance and Benefit expenditures are above the average monthly 2009 budget. This will be closely monitored as the year progresses. March expenditures will be available later this month.
- The number of cases coming on Ontario Works is trending upward, while the number of cases leaving is declining.
- The number of households on the rent-geared-to-income waiting list has increased in March by 3.3% over February and by 6.1% since September 2008.

I have also asked staff to review our quarterly Program Activity Report submissions to Committee with respect to a variety of monthly indicators, and to revise its content and submission timetable to best inform Committee of the Department's program and service activities. I expect these reports to be a work in progress and welcome input from Councillors.

Thank you.



JS/tk
Attachment

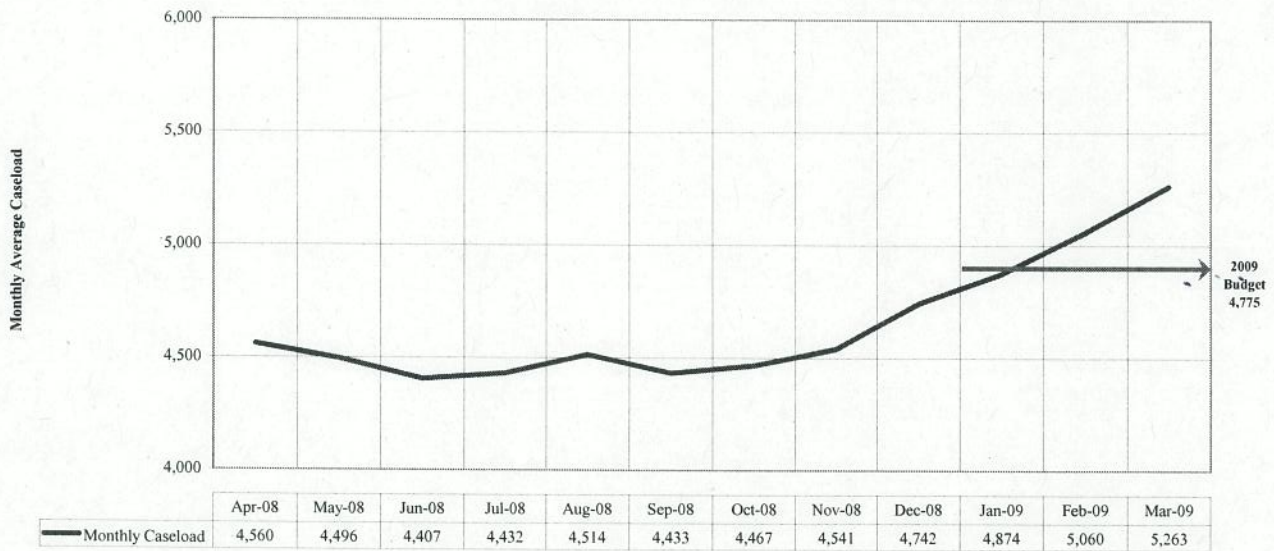
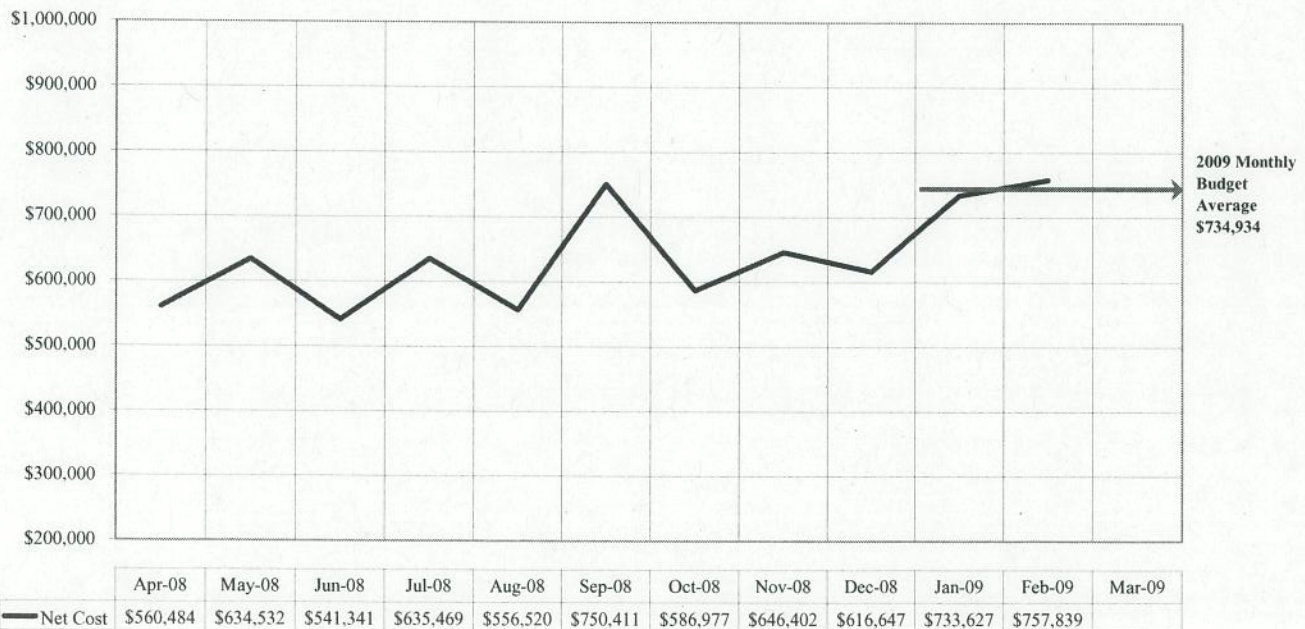
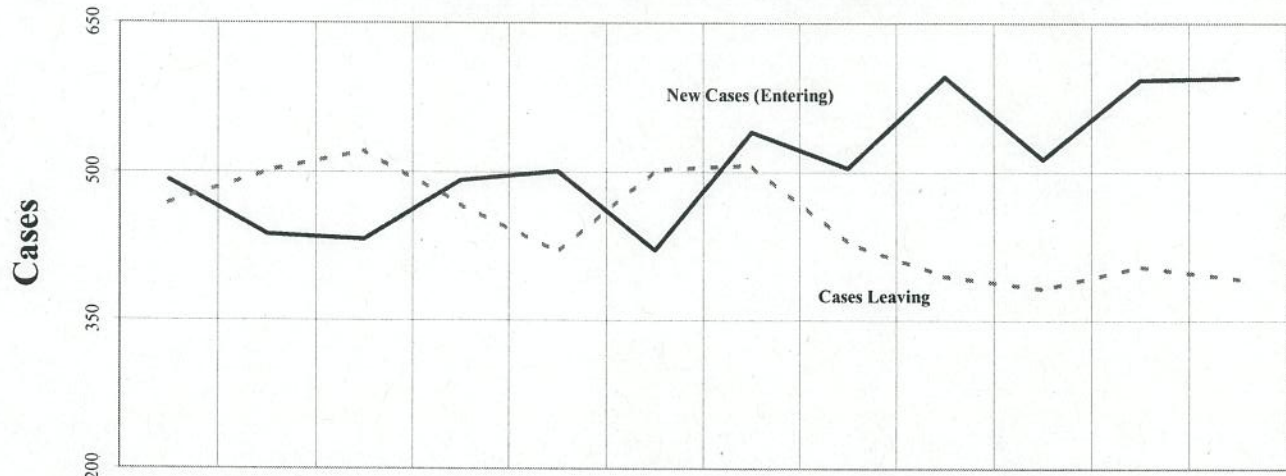
Chart 1**Ontario Works Monthly Average Caseload****Chart 2****Net Monthly Cost - Ontario Works Allowances and Benefits**

Chart 3

Cases Entering and Leaving Ontario Works

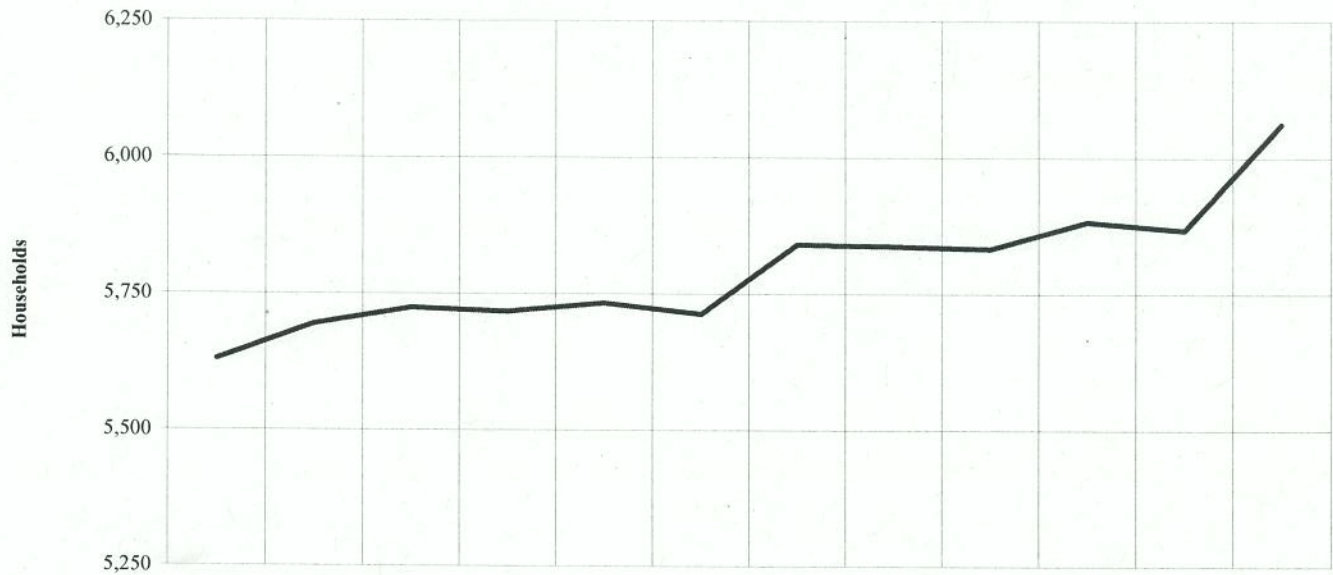


	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09
— New Cases	492	437	432	492	501	421	540	504	596	513	593	595
- - Leaving	468	501	521	467	419	502	507	429	395	382	405	392

Chart 4

**Ontario Works Caseload
Monthly and Year-over-Year Comparisons**

	2008/2009			2007		
	Caseload	Change over previous month	% change over previous month	Caseload	Change over previous month	% change over previous month
January	4,651	180	4.0%	4,693	160	3.5%
February	4,639	(12)	(0.3%)	4,683	(10)	(0.2%)
March	4,536	(103)	(2.2%)	4,691	8	0.2%
April	4,560	24	0.5%	4,616	(75)	(1.6%)
May	4,496	(64)	(1.4%)	4,582	(34)	(0.7%)
June	4,407	(89)	(2.0%)	4,482	(100)	(2.2%)
July	4,432	25	0.6%	4,472	(10)	(0.2%)
August	4,514	82	1.9%	4,475	3	0.1%
September	4,433	(81)	(1.8%)	4,454	(21)	(0.5%)
October	4,467	34	0.8%	4,409	(45)	(1.0%)
November	4,541	74	1.7%	4,461	52	1.2%
December	4,742	201	4.4%	4,471	10	0.2%
2008 Average Monthly Caseload	4,535			4,541		
January	4,874	132	2.8%			
February	5,060	186	3.8%			
March	5,263	203	4.0%			
2009 Average Monthly Caseload	5,066	Budget Variance Over/(Under)				
2009 Monthly Budget Caseload	4,775	291	6.1%			

Chart 5**Total Eligible Households on Housing Services Waiting List**

	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09
Wait List	5,630	5,694	5,724	5,717	5,733	5,713	5,841	5,838	5,833	5,883	5,868	6,062

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services and Housing Committee Members

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: April 15, 2009

RE: **2009 Funders' Forum Update**

This memorandum provides information on the 2009 Funders' Forum that was hosted by the York Region Funders' Alliance.

The York Region Funders' Alliance has established itself as a semi-formal network of funding organizations representing provincial and regional funding bodies. The group's mandate is to work together in a variety of ways to promote the sustainability of York Region's non-profit sector to help maintain quality of life for York Region's residents.

The York Region Funders' Alliance brings together independent, funding organizations that have broad and varied funding mandates, priorities, and programs in human and social services, arts, culture, heritage, sports and recreation, and the environment.

The York Region Funders' Alliance has collaborated to provide educational and networking opportunities to non-profit agencies through sessions that occur once or twice a year.

Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Managing Director, Strategic Service Integration and Policy in the Community and Health Services Department represents the Region as a member of the York Region Funders' Alliance.

The Funders' Forum

The most recent event hosted by the York Region Funders' Alliance was The Funders' Forum which was held on March 9, 2009 at the Region's Administrative Centre. The event targeted non-profit community agencies in York Region. It was well attended with over 90 participants representing 70 agencies from senior levels of the social services, employment services, newcomer, environmental, sports and recreation, arts, and culture and heritage sectors.

Forum Highlights

The Funders' Forum provided presentations and interactive sessions such as:

- Pre-forum workshop on Successful Proposal Writing by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
- Presentation on the latest demographics and socio-economic trends in York Region with a focus on the population that will have the most impact on the future make-up of the Region.
- Presentations from nine York Region Funders' including representatives from the federal, provincial and non profit sectors - each highlighting their respective mandates and funding programs.
- Opportunity for participants to speak informally with funders, explore funding options and requirements, ask questions and gather information.

The York Region Funders' Alliance's role has become increasingly important as the Region continues to experience rapid growth and changing demographics. As York Region's residents needs increase and gaps in community services mount, funding remains limited. The focus of the York Region Funders' Alliance is to work collaboratively to fill gaps and build organizational strength of the non-profit sector to increase their ability to serve the community.

The Funders' Forum provided an opportunity for community agencies to network with each other and meet with various funders in one location. Attached, for your information, is a brochure on the York Region Funders' Alliance which outlines its mandate and membership as well as a copy of the agenda from The Funders' Forum.

For further information, please contact Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Managing Director, Strategic Service and Integration at 905-830-4444, extension 2150.



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Attachments - 2

Investing in Communities

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE
AND HEALTHY NON-PROFIT
SECTOR IN YORK REGION

York Region
Fundrers' Alliance

HOW TO CONTACT US

Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General

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Ontario Ministry of Culture

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, Sport and Recreation Branch

Catherine Campbell
Phone: (705) 737-3010
E-mail: Catherine.Campbell@ontario.ca
Website: www.culture.gov.on.ca
www.citizenship.gov.on.ca,
www.mhp.gov.on.ca

Ontario Trillium Foundation

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The Regional Municipality of York

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Monica Bryce

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United Way of York Region

Dianne Kokesh
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Toll-Free: 1-877-241-4516
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Website: www.uwyr.on.ca

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Ed Segalowitz
Phone: (416) 631-5702
E-mail: esegalowitz@ujatfed.org
Website: www.jewishtoronto.com

For more information about the Funders' Alliance

To find out more about the Alliance or any upcoming events, contact Lisa Gonsalves at lisa.gonsalves@york.ca or (905) 830-4444, ext. 2090 or Lesley Rahman at Lesley.rahman@york.ca, ext. 2114.

What's our purpose?

The York Region Funders' Alliance is a network of federal, provincial and regional funding bodies operating in York Region. The overall mandate of the Alliance is to work collaboratively to increase York Region based non-profit organizations and charities' access to funding opportunities, make sense of which funder, or combination of funders, is the best match for their particular program or service, and to provide support in their search for funding.

The Alliance also works with these organizations to help strengthen and sustain their capacity to deliver programs and services to residents of York Region. We do this in several ways:

- Networking and information sharing among Alliance members and other funders on funding priorities, socio-economic and demographic trends, and, on request, evaluating projects and proposals for funding.
- Providing opportunities to York Region based non-profit organizations and charities to increase their knowledge of and access to funding opportunities.
- Assisting York Region based non-profit agencies in strengthening and building their capacity and sustainability by offering educational supports, such as proposal writing and other workshops.

What sectors do we support?

We provide funding and educational supports to a variety of groups including:

- Social services agencies and organizations
- Ethno-specific and ethno-cultural organizations
- Newcomer service agencies and organizations
- Environmental organizations
- Recreation, sports and leisure organizations
- Arts, culture and heritage organizations

What types of projects do we fund?

Members of the Alliance have broad and varied funding mandates, priorities and programs. Typically, funding is available to both established and emerging non-profit organizations to strengthen existing programs or launch new ones that fill a gap in the community. Types of funding activities may include project, operating and capital. We're also interested in exploring and developing partnerships and collaboratives amongst non-profit organizations.

Who are we?

The current members of the York Region Funders' Alliance include:

- Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General
- Ontario Ministry of Culture
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, Sport and Recreation Branch
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- The Regional Municipality of York
- United Way of York Region
- UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Other Funders & Resources

- Canada Council for the Arts - www.canadacouncil.ca
- Canada Volunteerism Initiative, Ontario Network - www.volunteer.ca
- Canadian Centre for Philanthropy - www.imaginecanada.ca
- Canadian Women's Foundation - www.cdnwomen.org
- Charity Channel - www.charitychannel.com
- Charity Village - www.charityvillage.com
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada - www.cic.gc.ca
- Eco-Action (Environment Canada) - www.greenontario.org
- Grantcraft - www.grantcraft.org
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - www.hrsdc.gc.ca
- Imperial Tobacco Canada Arts Council - www.imperialtobaccocanada.com
- Industry Canada - www.ic.gc.ca
- Laidlaw Foundation - www.laidlawfdn.org
- Metcalf Foundation - www.metcalfoundation.com
- Ministry of the Attorney General - www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca
- National Crime Prevention Strategy - www.prevention.gc.ca
- Ontario Arts Council - www.arts.on.ca
- Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat - www.nativeaffairs.jus.gov.on.ca
- RBC Foundation - www.rbc.com/community/donations
- Rouge Park Natural & Cultural Heritage Funding - www.rougepark.com
- Rural Economic Development Fund - www.mah.gov.on.ca
- South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation - www.southlakecfd.org
- Status of Women Canada - www.swc-cfc.gc.ca
- TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment - www.td.com/feef

THE FUNDER IS IN!

If you are a non-profit organization or registered charity looking for funding, you may have questions about whom to ask for what. The York Region Funders' Alliance invites you to find the answers to your questions by attending...

The Funders' Forum

Monday, March 9, 2009
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

The Forum

Meet and hear from the Funders, ask questions
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
The Great Hall

Pre-Forum Workshop

Get tips on successful proposal writing
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Seminar Room

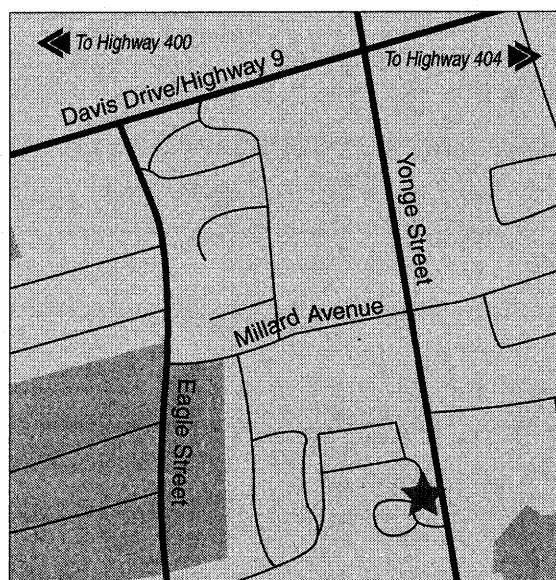
You will meet a wide range of funders, including:

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Department of Canadian Heritage*
- Ontario Arts Council
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, Sport and Recreation Branch
- Ontario Ministry of Culture
- Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Ontario Victims Services Secretariat, Ministry of Attorney General
- Regional Municipality of York
- UJA Federation
- United Way of York Region
- York Region Community Foundation

**To be confirmed*

After a short presentation from each funder about their respective mandates and funding programs, we will open up the floor for general questions and tips.

There will also be time to talk with funders individually — ask questions, get advice on potential applications and gather information.



Space is limited for both sessions.

If you plan to attend either or both events, email Lesley.Rahman@york.ca or call 1-905-830-4444, ext. 2114 by Friday, February 27, 2009

Light dinner will be provided. Please let us know if you have any accommodation and/or dietary requirements.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Funders' Forum

York Region Funders' Alliance

AGENDA

Monday, March 9, 2009, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Regional Municipality of York offices
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Pre-Forum Workshop Proposal Writing – If you want tips on successful proposal writing pre-register to attend this workshop.	Inga Lubbock, Program Manager, Simcoe-York, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Co-Chair of the York Region Funders' Alliance
5:30 p.m. - Onwards	Light dinner will be available during the evening.	Great Hall
6:00 – 6:05 p.m.	Welcome Alliance members will introduce themselves and briefly speak about their funding programs and upcoming proposal dates.	Inga Lubbock and Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Managing Director, Strategic Service Integration and Policy, Community and Health Services Department
6:05-6:20 p.m.	Presentation on Socio-economic Trends in York Region A profile of the Region's residents with a focus on the population that will have the most impact on the future make-up of the Region will be presented.	Cordelia Abankwa-Harris
6:20-7:15 p.m.	Meet the York Region Funders' Alliance Alliance members will introduce themselves and briefly speak about their funding programs and upcoming proposal dates.	John Pugsley, Program Manager, Simcoe-York, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Co-Chair of the York Region Funders' Alliance York Region Funders' Alliance Members
7:15-7:20 p.m.	Break	
7:20-8:30 p.m.	Networking with Individual Funders Visit Funders' displays. Ask questions, get advice on potential applications and gather up information that can help you in securing funding.	York Region Funders' Alliance Members