



**MISSION...
WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST**

**Mission's Understanding the Early Years Project
&
Early Childhood Development Committee**

Present

Mission's Community Mapping Study

Provincial EDI Comparisons

**MISSION
BRITISH COLUMBIA**



Canada
This Project funded by Human Resources and
Social Development Canada

Mission's Community Mapping Study



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About this Report

Any non-profit organization may freely copy and use this report to promote public understanding of children's needs and services. Acknowledgement must be given to Paul Favaro, Kathleen Russell, and Elana Gray as authors and the Success by Six Community Coalition of Peel Region as the sponsor of the Community Mapping Study for Dixie Bloor Neighbourhoods in Mississauga, Ontario for some content and layout of this report.

Opinions and interpretations are those of the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada, Provincial Government of British Columbia or any other organizations.

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This report may also be found on the internet:
www.missionecdcom.shawbiz.ca/Home.html

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Community Mapping Study Highlights: Mission Neighbourhoods

Understanding the Early Years is a national research and community development based initiative. Information on families with young children is gathered to provide their community with current and relevant data on their socioeconomic status, their young children's development, and supports for families with young children. By identifying factors that influence childhood development and well-being we are building community capacity to make informed policy and program decisions regarding the best interests of families with children aged 0 to under 6 years of age.

Based on research conducted in Mission, British Columbia, this report provides the results of a community mapping study and is designed to gather information about: our community's physical, social and economic environments; the programs and services supporting families with young children; and 'readiness to learn' upon school entry of all kindergarten children. Kindergarten children are assessed on five developmental domains: (1) physical health and well-being; (2) social competence; (3) emotional maturity; (4) language and cognitive development; (5) and communication skills and general knowledge. The student's readiness to learn at kindergarten is an excellent predictor of childhood development and also helps predict the possible future successes that children will experience later in life.

The physical geography of Mission consists of two large rural neighbourhoods and five urban high density neighbourhoods that are home to approximately 1500 families with young children under six. Mission compares favourably on several social risk indicators: homeownership, low income cut-off (LICO), education, mobility, immigration and language. Although Mission fares well, overall, in these areas of socioeconomic risk, it measures relatively 'poor' against the national average for family household income. Mission neighbourhoods are socioeconomically segregated and lack cultural diversity; most are also characterized by high unemployment, receipt of government transfers, single parent families and rapid growth. The challenges facing Mission are diverse, yet in light of an emerging social development agenda and the opportunity for sustainable, dense and diverse residential development, these challenges may be met with appropriate action.

The majority of the challenges in Mission are located in three neighbourhoods: Downtown, West Heights and Upper West Heights. These neighbourhoods were indexed as having 5 or more risks (out of 9) on the Social Risk Index.

Mission has a wide variety of services, resources and programs for families with young children. These services, resources and programs are located mostly in the five urban neighbourhoods of Mission – areas where high densities of children and high socioeconomic risks occur and are easily accessible by public transit.

However, the two rural neighbourhoods – Silverhill and Hatzic, do not share the same opportunity for public transit which impairs accessibility to Mission’s assets and increases the vulnerabilities associated with childhood developmental outcomes.

Approximately 73% of the children in Mission were ready to make the transition from kindergarten to grade one which is above the national average of 72.5% (The Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, 2006) and within the provincial average range of 72.5% to 77.1% (Human Early Learning Partnership, UBC, 2007). Downtown had the highest percent of children not ready for school (42.5%), followed by Upper West Heights (30.6%), West Heights (30.2%), Hatzic (27.8%), North (23.3%), Silverhill (21.9%) and Northeast (15.8%). School readiness is about children’s growth socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically prior to entry into the school system. Social competence and emotional maturity are the areas of developmental concerns for Mission’s children with four of seven Mission neighbourhoods exhibiting the highest and second highest percent of children vulnerable, meaning, in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission. These two domains are linked to income levels and single parent families on the Social Risk Index as well as access to quality child care. Social competence is also linked to structured community programs, parent education programs and neighbourhood cohesion with localized access to services, while emotional maturity is linked to access to diverse environments and informal opportunities to interact with peers. For example, Downtown exhibits the highest Social Risk Index, is a neighbourhood that lacks socioeconomic diversity, has the highest percent of lone-parent families and also has the second lowest average family income (over \$18,000 lower than the national average). Upper West Heights and West Heights tell similar stories and in total these three neighbourhoods are home to 40% of all young children in Mission.

The Community Mapping Study provides new evidence for Mission neighbourhoods to guide the development of community initiatives to improve the lives of children in our community and their developmental outcomes.

As a next step, UEY, in conjunction with the Mission Early Childhood Development Committee seeks to expand parent and community involvement and develop an action plan that will assist our families and their young children to thrive in a community where the **village** nurtures...



Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our appreciation to the United Way of the Fraser Valley, Mission Public Schools and the Mission Early Childhood Development Committee for working together to help increase awareness and understanding of the early years in our community. Their support and efforts towards early learning and childhood development, from a child's conception to school entry, has made it possible to realize the importance of the early years, creating success for all children upon school entry, as well as, later in life.

Gratitude is extended to the many service providers and organizations that took the time to inform us of the services, resources, and supports that they offer families with young children.

Without funding from Human Resources and Social Development Canada this project would not have been possible and the community of Mission is grateful for the opportunities that the Understanding the Early Years Project has offered them.

**“The object of education is to prepare
the young to educate themselves
throughout their lives.”**

- Robert M. Hutchins



Components of the Understanding the Early Years Project

Kershaw et al. explain child development is not just a reflection of biology, parenting patterns, or resources that families invest in offspring, but rather “it also reflects the broader social dynamic and institutions through which the entire community organizes itself economically, culturally, socially, and so on” (pp. 57, 2005).

A good start in life is important for a child’s well-being and is a foundation for learning and development as he grows up. A child’s family and community are key influences on the child’s readiness to learn and overall well-being and this community plays a significant role in shaping experiences for a child and his family. Research and knowledge are critical for informed policies and programs that enhance early childhood development.

The key components of Understanding the Early Years (UEY) are community research and community capacity building. The community research component consists of assessing kindergarten children with the Early Development Instrument; child survey; parent interviews; and assessing family and community factors, and children’s development by means of a community mapping project. The community capacity building component consists of building knowledge, empowering community, developing an action plan and mobilizing the community to assist families and young children for future success.

“Understanding the Early Years is a national initiative that provides research information to strengthen the capacity of communities to make informed decisions about the best policies and most appropriate programs to serve families with young children”

- Connor, Norris & McLean, 2001

UEY started as a pilot project in 1999 in North York. Information was gathered about the development and experiences of young children in the community, their families and community resources that were available for young children and their families. Action plans were developed to mobilize the community to improve the development of their young children. Since 1999 there have been 33 other sites across Canada, Mission being one of them. We presently have 7 UEY sites in B.C. This year 16 new sites across Canada have been selected to become an Understanding the Early Years Project site.

The UEY project in Mission, BC has three key partners: The United Way of the Fraser Valley, Mission Public Schools and the Mission Early Childhood Development Committee. The United Way of the Fraser Valley is the project’s sponsor. Mission Public Schools have proven to uphold a vested interest and concern for early learning and all children’s development.

Both partners have representatives on the Mission Early Childhood Development Committee which includes individuals from many other organizations and facets of the community that are concerned with services, resources and supports for families with children aged 0 to 6.

This report contains the results of the Community Mapping Study for Mission, British Columbia. Using 2001 Census data, both the distribution of children 0 to under 6 and the socioeconomic characteristics of the community were mapped. Detailed data from the 2006 Census were not available during the preparation of this report; therefore, 2001 Census datasets were used as the basis for all of the maps.

This community mapping study examines in detail the challenges, assets and Early Development Instrument results (EDI) of kindergarten children throughout the neighbourhoods of Mission. A program inventory identified the types of programs, services and supports available to families with young children. This report, which includes the recently released EDI assessments of kindergarten children on their readiness to learn prior to school entry, will equip our community to better understand its strengths, assets, and areas needing improvement. This knowledge will provide a foundation from which Mission neighbourhoods can work to support and improve the early development of their youngest residents.

Report Interpretation Considerations

- ❖ **The data collected and presented in this report are not intended to form an exhaustive list. This report represents an important first step in understanding the programs and services, and physical, social, and educational environments of Mission neighbourhoods.**
- ❖ **All Census data used in this report are from the 2001 Census, obtained from Statistics Canada. This information provides a picture of Mission neighbourhoods in 2001.**
- ❖ **The asset data was collected over a six month period in 2006. The ever-changing nature of communities and their environments adds complexity to any community mapping study, especially when using data from different sources that do not represent the same period of time or, being the only source by which to extract data, are outdated.**
- ❖ **The results of this study should be interpreted within this context and within the limitations imposed by these factors.**

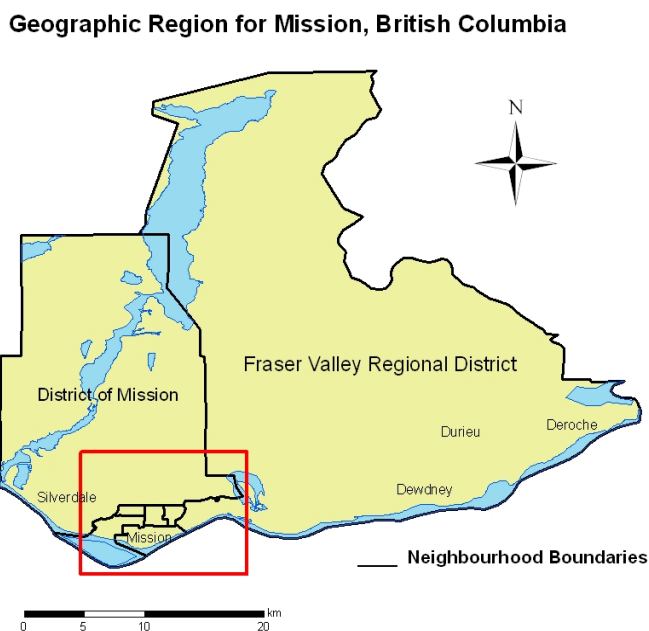


Mission, British Columbia

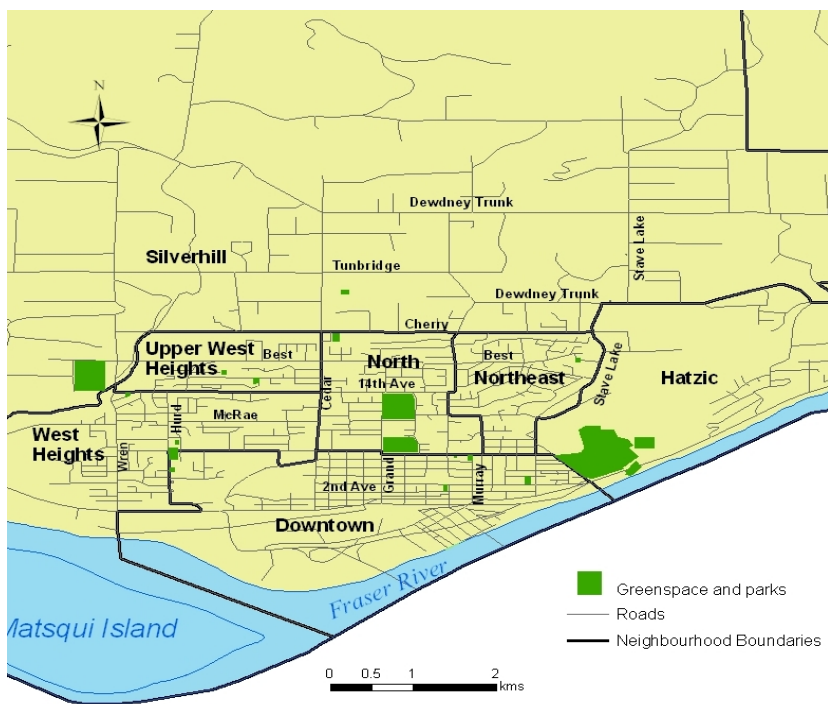
The Landscape of Mission

The District of Mission and part of the Fraser Valley Regional District, is divided into 7 community neighbourhoods that were created by Mission residents in conjunction with the Human Early Learning Partnership team from UBC. Silverhill and Hatzic are the largest neighbourhoods made up of large rural areas. The five urban neighbourhoods are Downtown, West Heights, Upper West Heights, Northeast, and North. The region's boundaries are the community of Maple Ridge to the west, Stave Lake to the north, Lake Errock to the east, and the Fraser River to the south. The two largest communities closest to Mission are Maple Ridge to the west and Abbotsford to the south, which is the largest urban region in the Fraser Valley. Both are approximately 15 km and 20 minutes travel time by vehicle.

Map 1: Geography of Mission



Map 2: Neighbourhoods, Major Streets and Parks



Clusters of smaller communities exist throughout our region. The District of Mission includes Silverdale and Mission proper, and the Fraser Valley Regional District includes Dewdney, Durieu and Deroche. For the purpose of this mapping project the majority of the maps will be of Mission proper where most of the assets are located and will be used to visually explain the community challenges, community assets and EDI results. The red rectangle in Map 1 contains the boundaries of the urban core with the two rural neighbourhoods – Silverhill and Hatzic, on the periphery. Map 2 explains the location and names of Mission's neighbourhoods, major road arteries and locations of urban parks and green spaces. The majority of the urban core is residential with Downtown containing most of the services and industry for Mission.



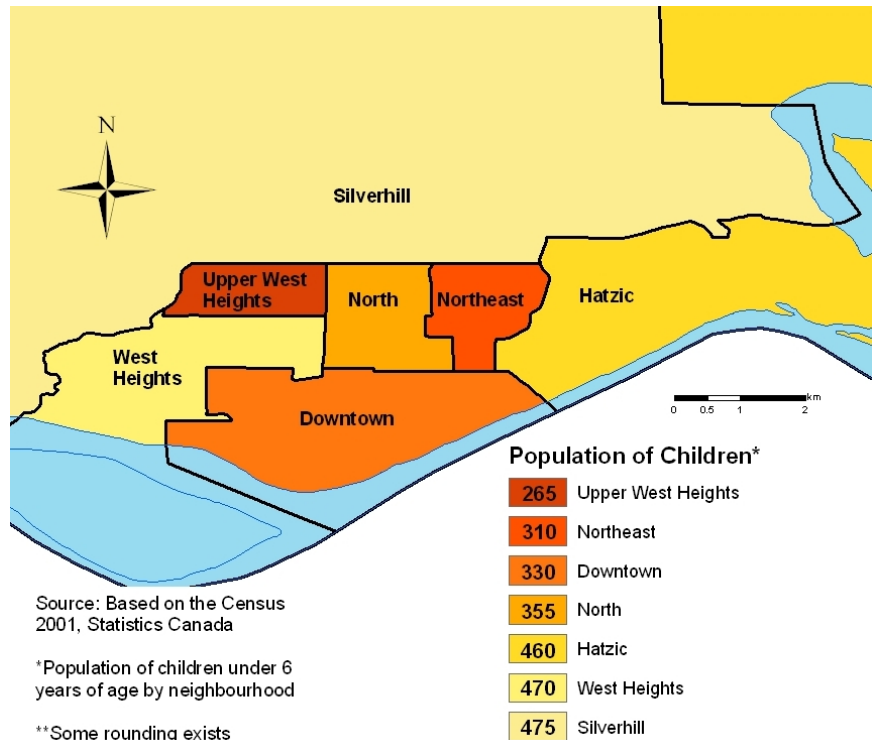
The Neighbourhoods of Mission

Population and Income

Population of Children (Birth to Under Six Years)

- In 2001, there were 30,080 people residing in Mission neighbourhoods. Of this population there were 2,665 children aged birth to under 6 years.
- The majority of children reside in the two large rural neighbourhoods – Silverhill and Hatzic, and West Heights which is located in Mission proper. In proportion to the physical size of the rural neighbourhoods, Upper West Heights houses just over half the population of Silverhill, yet is a fraction of the size.

Map 3: Population of Children (Birth to Under Six Years)



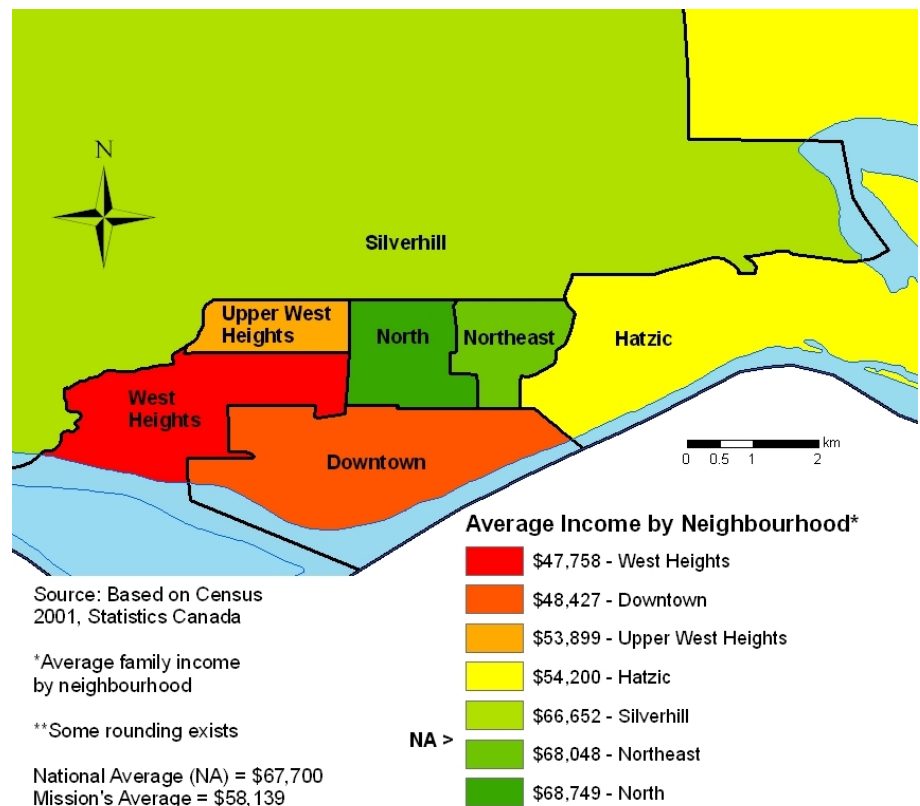
Missions' neighbourhoods were defined using block level units, which are the smallest standard geographic area of census data reported by Statistics Canada. The block level data has been aggregated at the neighbourhood level and therefore, a dot density population map of children was unable to be created.

- Although a dot density map could not be created it can be assumed that the majority of children in the rural areas reside in the small communities of Silverdale, Dewdney, Durieu and Deroche.
- Increasing population growth is occurring in Mission as large residential neighbourhoods are being constructed. This growth is occurring mostly around the periphery of the urban neighbourhoods.

Average Family Income by Neighbourhood

- Two neighbourhoods had an average family income greater than the national average of \$67,700 – North and Northeast.
- One neighbourhood, Silverhill, was almost at par with the national average.
- Four out of seven of the neighbourhoods were well below the national average and their populations represent 58% of all neighbourhoods.
- Overall, Mission's average family income is almost \$10,000 below the national average.

Map 4: Average Family Income by Neighbourhood



Community Challenges - Mission

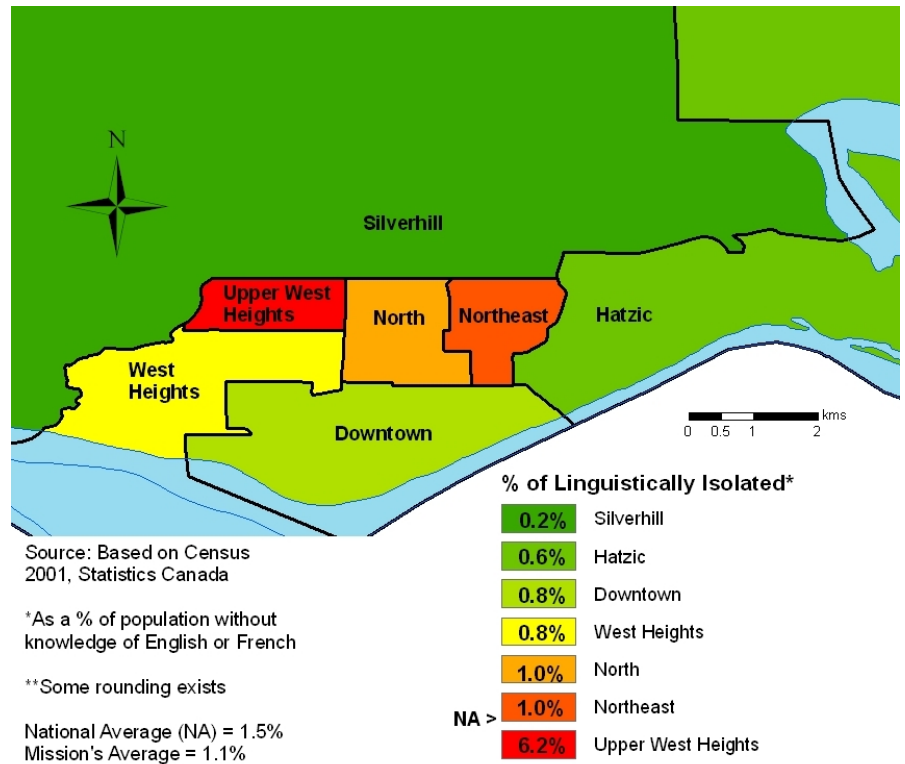
Young children grow and learn within communities, they do not develop in isolation. There is considerable evidence that shows supportive communities help children reach their potential, and that communities influence children's outcomes (Government of Canada, 2002; Ross and Roberts, 2000; Ross, Scott, & Kelly, 1999; United Nations Children's Fund, 2001). Young children are more likely to experience positive outcomes when they grow and develop in a stimulating and nurturing environment. Providing young children with quality learning environments enhances their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. In contrast, scarcity of resources or an impoverished environment challenges the community and can result in reduced opportunities for positive child development.

The Social Risk Index (SRI) is based on 9 variables extracted from Census 2001. The SRI variables were chosen by academics at The Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, as good representative descriptors of the social, economic and cultural health of families in communities with a bearing on children's development. The SRI variables are as follows: Linguistic Isolation, Recent Immigration, Residential Mobility, No High School Education, Unemployment, Lone Parent Families, Government Transfers (i.e., Canada Pension Plan, Canadian Child Tax Benefit, Employment Insurance, Income Assistance), Low Income Cut-off (LICO) and Homeownership. The following nine maps represent how Mission and its neighbourhoods compared to the national average for each variable. A neighbourhood is at risk if its average falls above the national average with the exception of 'Homeownership' which is at risk if it falls below the national average. The last map sums the amount of risks for each variable by neighbourhood, which equates to a Social Risk Index for each neighbourhood. 'low risk' index equates to one or two risks; 'somewhat low risk' index equates to three or four risks; 'somewhat high risk' index equates to five or six risks; and 'high risk' index equates to seven or more risks.

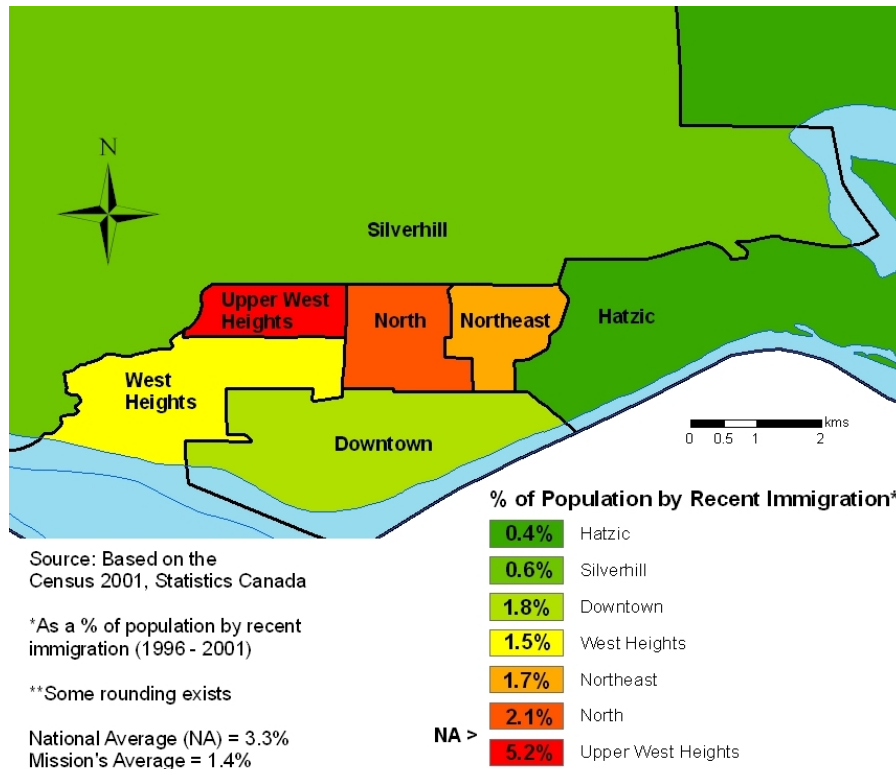
Linguistic Isolation

- Linguistic Isolation is defined as a percent of population without knowledge of English or French.
- The neighbourhood with the highest percent of linguistically isolated people is Upper West Heights. At 6.2% Upper West Heights soars above the national average of 1.5%.
- All other neighbourhoods rank well below the national average with Silverhill situated the lowest at 0.2% of their population without knowledge of English or French.
- Overall, the percentage of the Mission population that did not speak either official language was below the national average at 1.1%.

Map 5: % of Population Linguistically Isolated



Map 6: % of Population by Recent Immigration



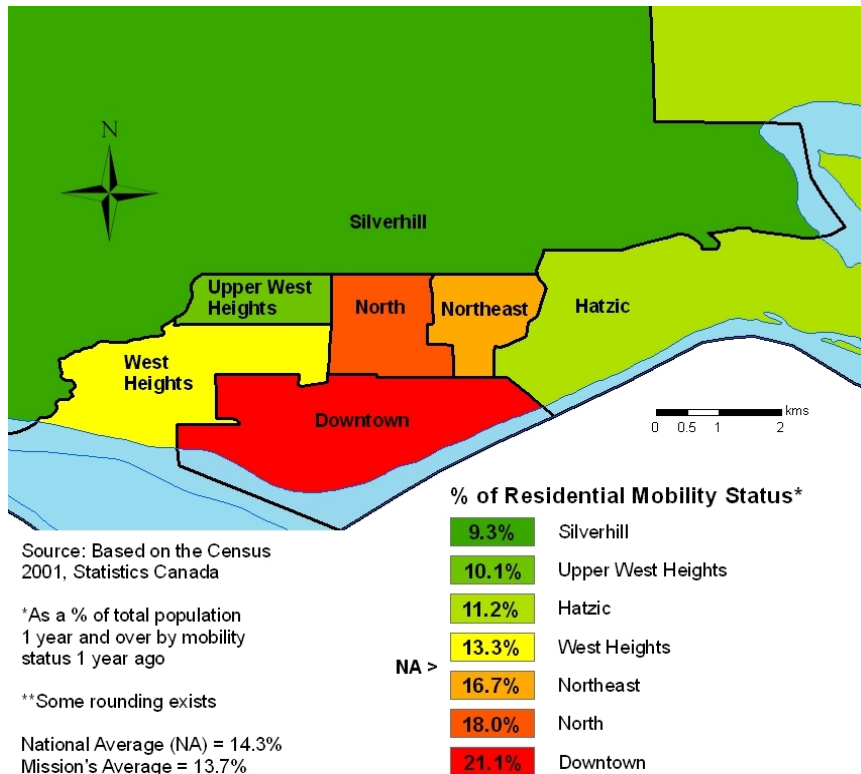
Recent Immigration

- Recent Immigration is defined as a percent of population by recent immigration (1996-2001).
- The neighbourhood with the highest percent of recent immigrants is Upper West Heights which is also the neighbourhood with the highest percentage of linguistic isolation. At 5.2% Upper West Heights is above the national average of 3.3%.
- The average proportion of new immigrants coming to Mission was 1.4%, which is well below the national average.
- The remaining neighbourhoods were situated well below the national average with Hatzic being the lowest at 0.4%.

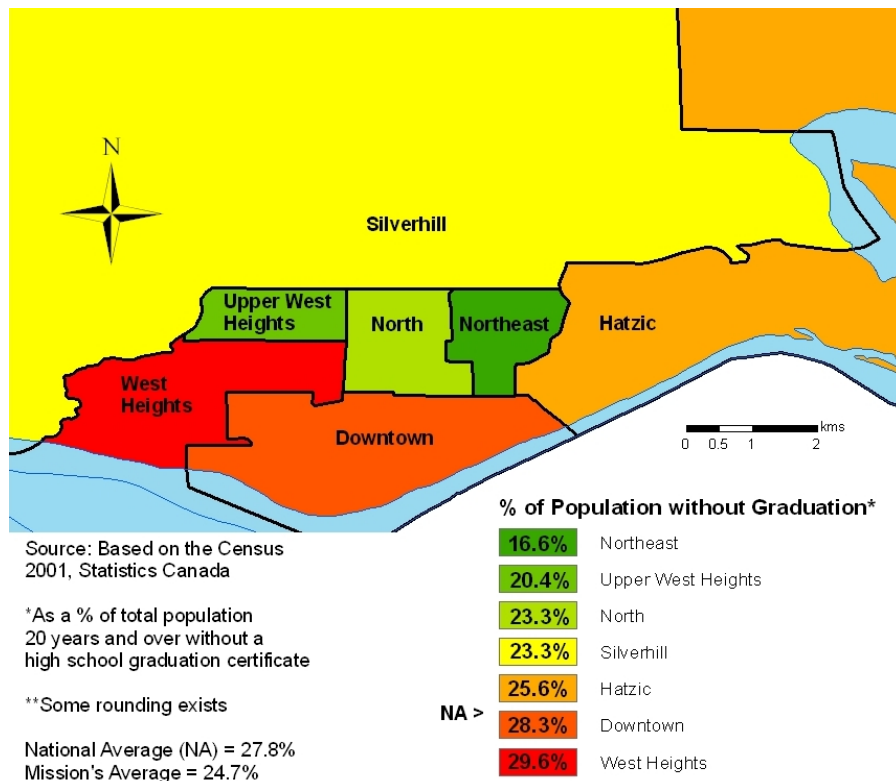
Residential Mobility

- Residential Mobility is defined as a percent of total population by mobility status 1 year ago.
- There is high variability in range between neighbourhoods with Silverhill maintaining relative stability at about 5% below the national average and Downtown surpassing the national average by almost 7%.
- The Residential Mobility trend by neighbourhood does not correlate with linguistic isolation or recent immigration.
- Overall, the percentage of the total mobile population in Mission was below the national average by 0.6%.

Map 7: % of Residential Mobility Status



Map 8: % of Population without Graduation



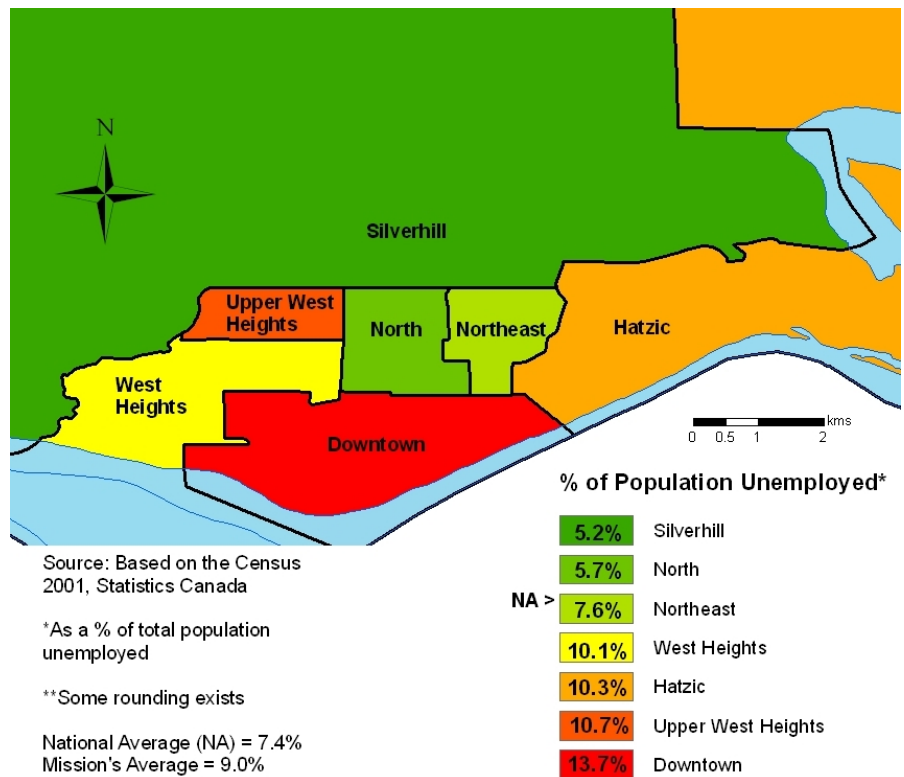
No High School Graduation

- No High School Graduation is defined as a percent of total population, 20 years of age and over, without a high school graduation certificate.
- Northeast had the lowest percent of population that had not completed their high school education at 16.6% - almost 11% below the national average.
- Downtown and West Heights were slightly over the national average.
- Although the variation in range between neighbourhoods was great the overall average for Mission was over 3% lower than the national average.

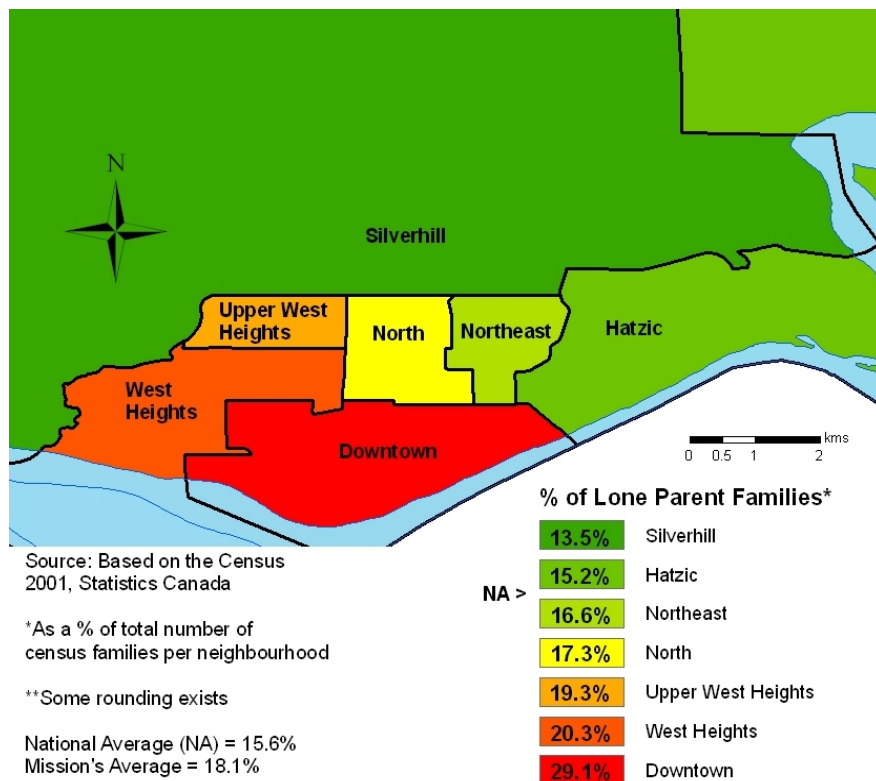
Unemployment

- Unemployment is defined as a percent of the total population unemployed.
- Five out of seven of the neighbourhoods in Mission were higher than the national average in unemployment.
- Silverhill and North neighbourhoods were about 2% below the national average.
- Silverhill and North neighbourhoods were about 2% below the national average.
- Downtown was almost double that of the national average.
- Mission is about 1.6% higher overall than the national average.

Map 9: % of Population Unemployed



Map 10: % of Lone Parent Families



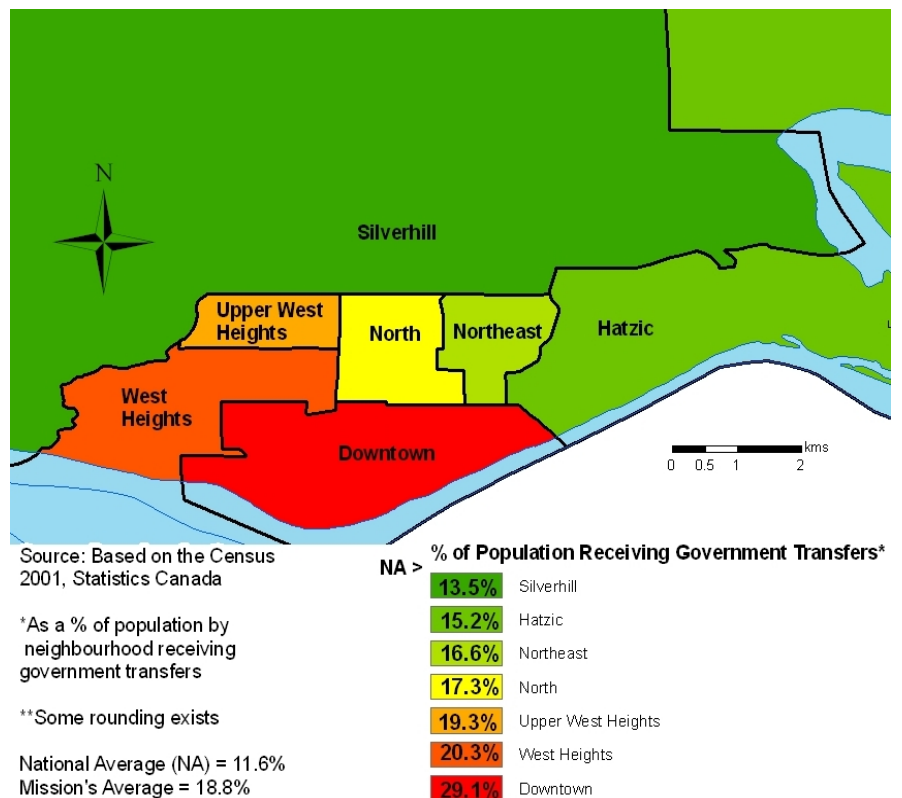
Lone Parent Families

- Lone Parent Families is defined as a percent of the total number of census families per neighbourhood.
- Five out of seven of Mission's neighbourhoods are greater than the national average with Downtown measuring almost double the national average of 15.6%.
- Silverhill and Hatzic ranked modestly below the national average.
- Mission's average for single parent families is 2.5% greater than the national average.

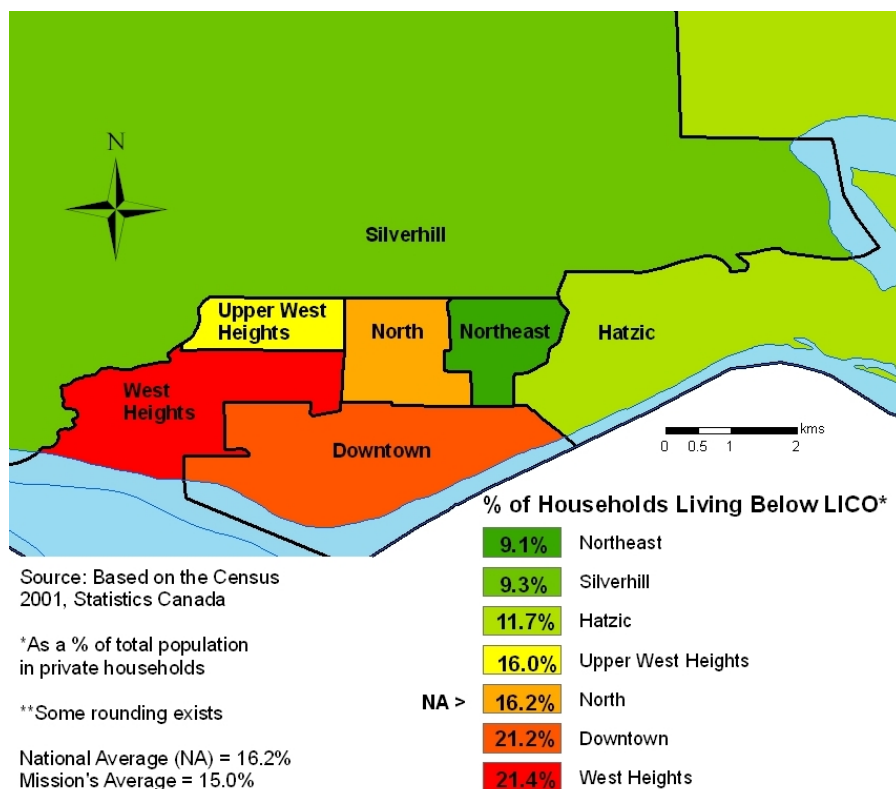
Government Transfers

- Government Transfers is defined as a percent of the population receiving government transfers.
- All neighbourhoods in Mission were moderate to high ranked against the national average.
- Silverhill received the least amount of government transfers at 13.5% and Downtown was 17.5% higher than the national average of 11.6%, ranked at 29.1%.
- The areas with the highest proportion of residents receiving government transfers were also marked by other forms of social disadvantage, such as high rates of poverty, no graduation certificate, unemployment and lone parenthood. Mission ranks over 7% higher than the national average for government transfers.

Map 11: % of Population Receiving Government Transfers



Map 12: % of Households Living Below LICO



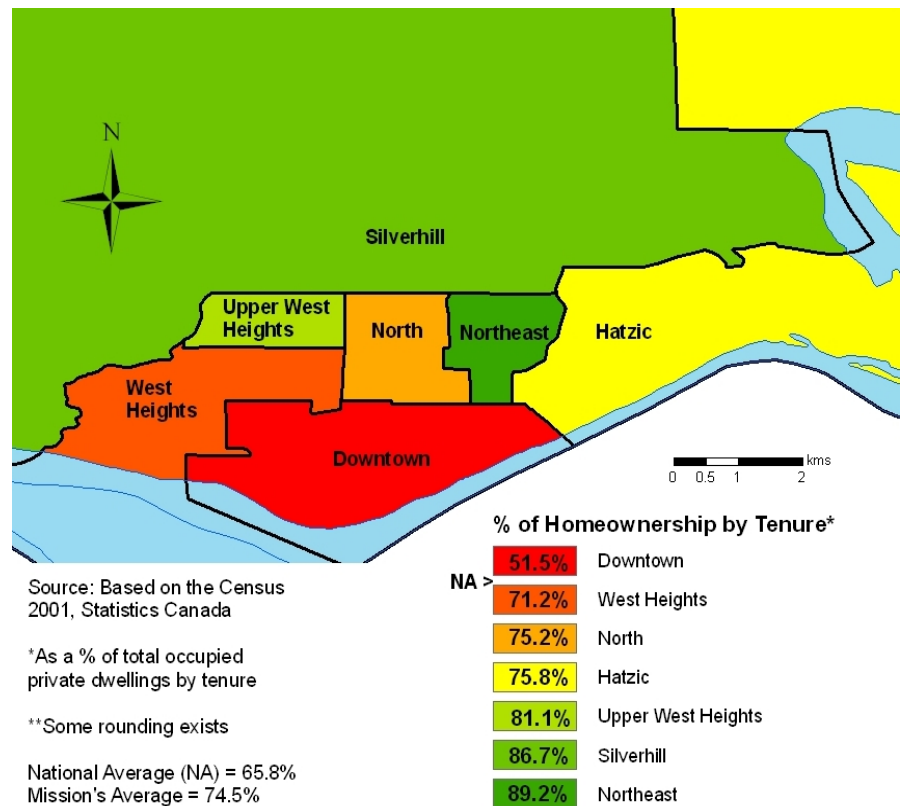
Low Income Cut-off (LICO)

- LICO is defined as a percent of the total population in private households living below the low income cut-off.
- A large variation in range between neighbourhoods exists from 9.1% to 21.4%.
- Three neighbourhoods – North, Silverhill and Hatzic ranked low compared to the national average of 16.2%.
- Two neighbourhoods – Downtown and West Heights, ranked about 5% above the national average.
- Overall, Mission's average compared to the national average is 1.2% lower.

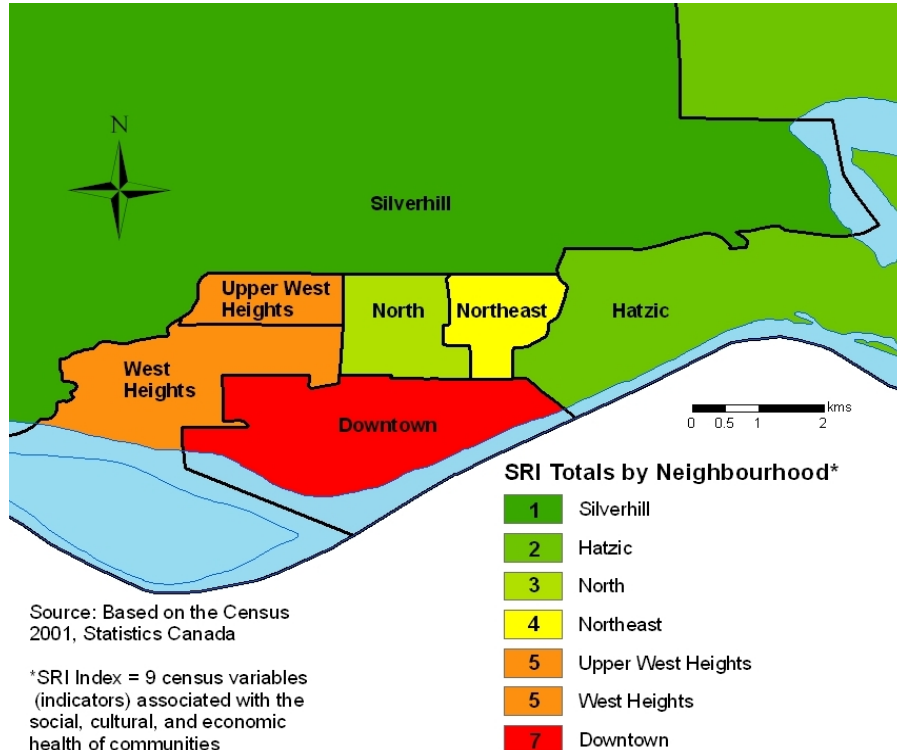
Homeownership

- Homeownership is defined as a percent of total occupied private dwellings by tenure.
- Six of Mission's seven neighbourhoods ranked higher than the national average ranging from approximately 6% to 24 %.
- Downtown is 'high risk' and the only neighbourhood below the national average by 14.3%. About half of the residents of Downtown are homeowners.
- Mission has a high proportion of homeowners compared to the national average and exceeds the average by over 8.5%.

Map 13: % of Homeownership by Tenure



Map 14: Social Risk Index (SRI) by Neighbourhood



Creating a Social Risk Index

- Downtown is 'high risk' and exhibits seven out of the nine potential risks factors and is home to 12% of children under six years.
- Upper West Heights and West Heights are 'somewhat high risk', exhibit five potential risk factors and are home to 28% of children aged 0 to under six years.
- These preceding three neighbourhoods have five or more risk factors and house 40% of all young children in Mission.
- North and Northeast are 'somewhat low risk', exhibit three and four potential risk factors, respectively, and are home to 25% of all young children.

Summary of the Challenges

Mission consists of a high density urban core that is comprised of five of its seven neighbourhoods. Four of the five neighbourhoods are primarily residential with Downtown being a nucleus that combines business and industry with residential. These five neighbourhoods – Downtown, West Heights, Upper West Heights, North and Northeast are home to 65% of young children and their families. The two rural neighbourhoods – Silverhill and Hatzic, comprise most of the geographic region of Mission and include four very small communities and both have two of the largest populations of young children.

Although Mission, as a whole, compares favourably with the national averages on several social risk indicators (i.e., homeownership, LICO, education, mobility, immigration and language), analyses of individual neighbourhoods identified three that are characterized as potentially at risk and vulnerable. These neighbourhoods – Downtown, West Heights and Upper West Heights – are identified by high proportions of residents with high unemployment, high incidence of receiving government transfers and high incidence of lone parents in combination with the disadvantage of having the three lowest average family incomes. Specific community services, resources and supports should be instituted and targeted towards the 40% of Mission's young children and their families that reside in these neighbourhoods.

Conversely, the neighbourhoods of North and Northeast have higher than the national average family incomes. These neighbourhoods exhibit low incidence of unemployment and LICO, have high incidence of homeownership and are well educated; however, both are identified as receiving high rates of government transfers, housing high proportions of lone parent families and having high residential mobility. These neighbourhoods have been undergoing great population growth in response to residential development; therefore, high mobility rates may be indicative of in-migration.

Upper West Heights is the only neighbourhood above the national averages for language barriers and recent immigration. Mission's immigrant population is about 14.6% of its total population. The top three origins of birth are the United Kingdom, India, and the United States and total about 7.3% of the total immigrant population. Immigrants from India total about 3% of Mission's population with most of these recent immigrants settling in the neighbourhood of Upper West Heights. Due to the high proportion of linguistic isolation, resting at 6.2%, almost 5% higher than the national average and over 5% higher than any other neighbourhood in Mission, many newcomers may find community integration and participation difficult and their children may face increased challenges.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

“All children have the same right to develop their potential – all children, in all situations, all of the time, everywhere.”

- UNICEF

Community Assets - Mission

Research consistently shows that in the cycle of life, how we are influenced in early childhood has a great effect upon how our adulthood and mature years unfold and that early intervention and exposure to opportunity is highly linked to economic success, good health and societal well-being (Canadian Council on Social Development, 1998, 2000; Keating & Hertzman, 1999; Willms, 2002). By investing in children from the point of conception onward we will be encouraging a stronger and more productive society, reaping the benefits for generations.

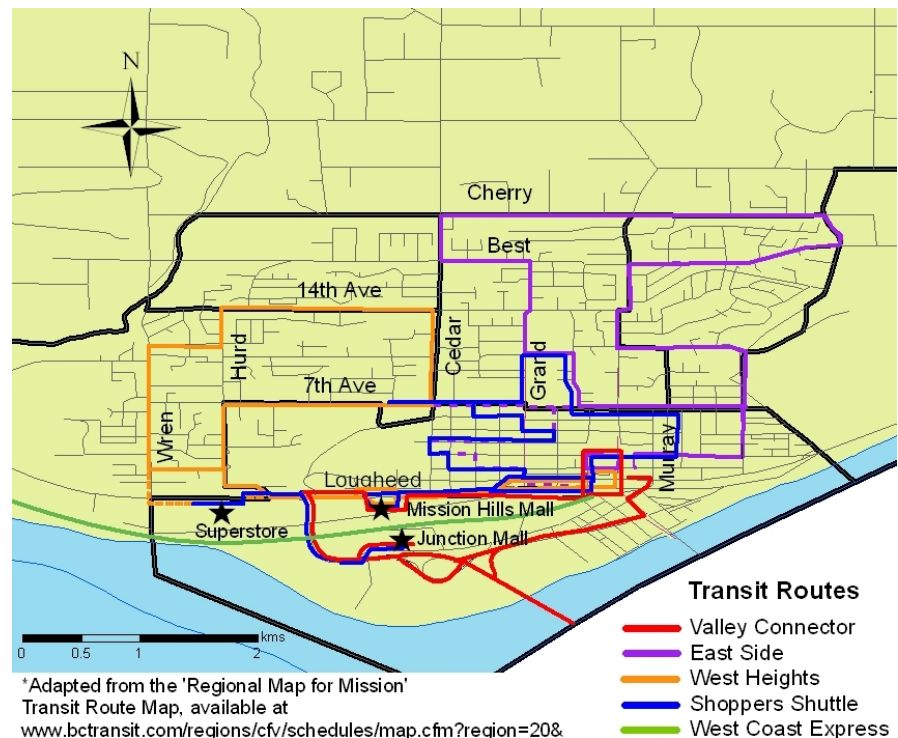
The purpose of this section of the report is to provide the community a current snapshot of the distribution and scope of programs and services offered to young children and their families. In order to build community capacity we need to know where we are currently situated and compare the results against our challenges. This comparative analysis will help our community to see positive outcomes and indicate where more supports may be needed. In conjunction with the EDI results, the challenge and asset sections of this report may be used as tools for future planning purposes focused on early childhood, program and community development.

The ensuing community asset maps pertaining to young children and their families are as follows: Transit Routes; Health and Emergency Services; Child Care Centres and Preschools; Arts, Recreation and Culture programs; Social Housing and LICO; Libraries, Toy Libraries, and Early Literacy Programs; Aboriginal Resources, Services and Programs; Resources and Supports for Families with Special Needs or At Risk; Family Programs, Counseling and Resources; and Local Religious Resources.

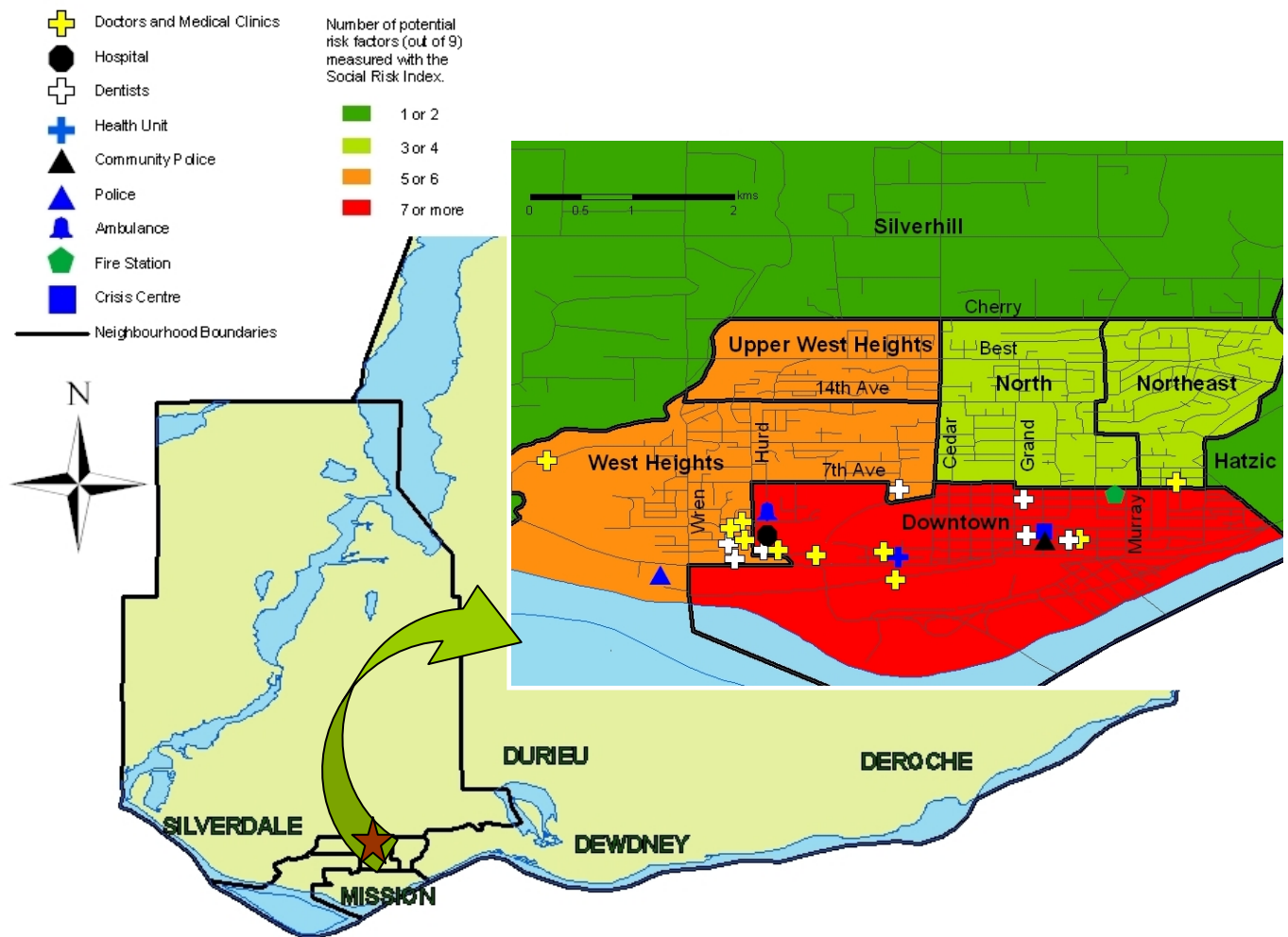
Transit Routes

- The public transit (ValleyMAX) routes in Mission serve as an essential link to services between the urban neighbourhoods and to other communities.
- There are four bus routes for Mission. Currently, there are no public transit routes available to the smaller communities in the rural neighbourhoods.
- The West Coast Express train service links Mission to other communities north of the Fraser River and Vancouver. This service is currently only available to Vancouver in the morning and from Vancouver in the afternoon, Monday through Friday.
- The TrainBus serves Mission as part of the West Coast Express service and stops at all West Coast Express terminals. It offers one trip later in the morning to communities west of Mission and one trip early in the evening from Vancouver with stops to Mission.
- Greyhound bus service also operates out of Mission with links to Abbotsford, Maple Ridge and onto other communities.

Map 15: Mission Transit Routes*



Map 16: Health and Emergency Services

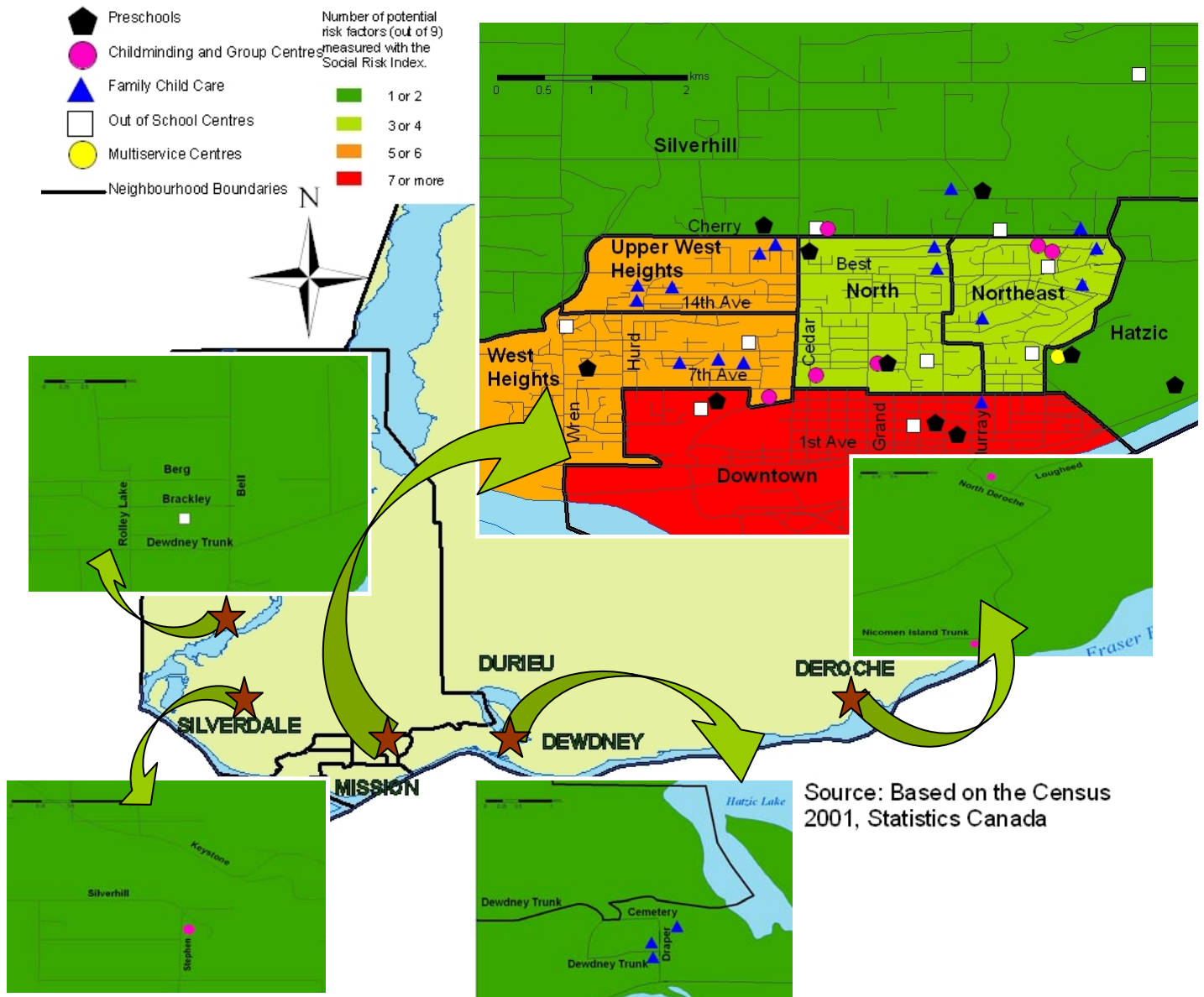


Source: Based on the Census 2001, Statistics Canada

Health and Emergency Services

- The Mission RCMP operates a community police station that serves the seven neighbourhoods of Mission. This station is located in the Downtown neighbourhood which is indexed as ‘high risk’ on the SRI and is also located within close proximity to four other high density neighbourhoods.
- Mission also has its own police and ambulance stations, crisis centre and hospital, all located around the periphery or in Downtown.
- Fourteen of the seventeen medical, dentist’s and doctor’s offices are located within two dense clusters situated around the hospital and business core of Downtown.
- The Mission Health Unit, operated under the Fraser Health Authority provides child care licensing, speech and language services, dental assessments and fluoride clinics, immunizations, growth and developmental assessments, nutrition counseling and information, breast feeding support and assessments, and baby time drop-ins. They also provide home visits for newborn infants and postpartum depression. Public Health nurse support is offered at, but not limited to, Mission Family Place, Mission Indian Friendship Centre and To’o which are located in Downtown.
- These services are accessible by public transit in five out of the seven neighbourhoods. Two neighbourhoods, Silverdale and Hatzic, cannot access these services by public transit and also do not have any of these services located in them.

Map 17: Child Care Centres and Preschools



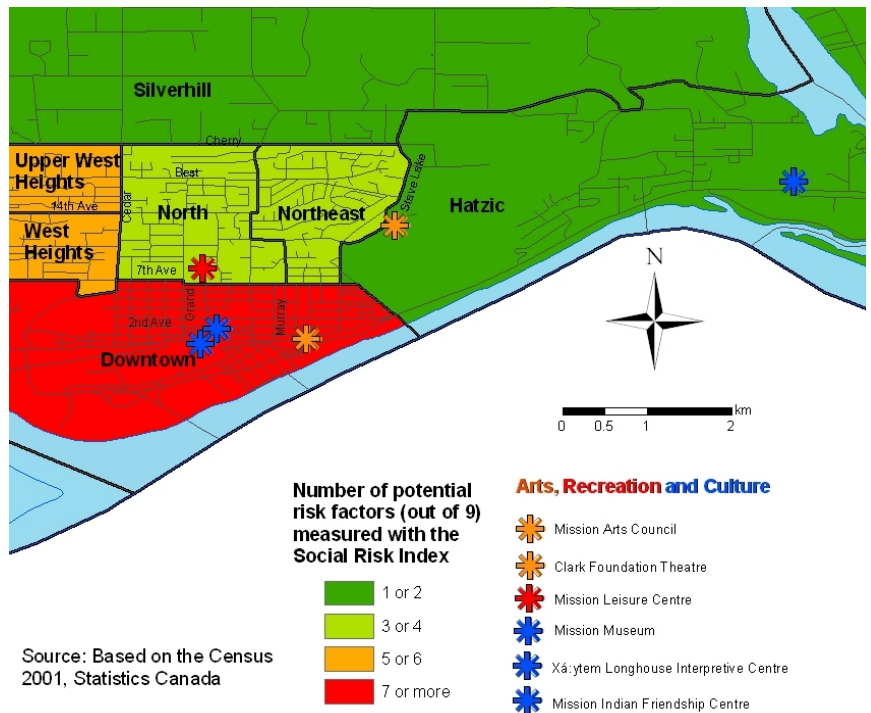
Child Care Centres and Preschools

- There are ten preschools and thirty-nine various child care centres in Mission. The majority of these assets reside in Mission proper and its five urban neighbourhoods.
- There are fifty-three license-not-required daycares available throughout Mission (not mapped).
- Preschools exist in five of the seven neighbourhoods. The two neighbourhoods that do not have preschools are Upper West Heights and Northeast. These neighbourhoods are indexed as ‘somewhat high risk’ and ‘somewhat low risk’ on the SRI and combined are home to twenty-two percent of children under six.
- Most of the child care centres and preschools are located in close proximity to dense areas with young children, however; there are very few, if any, located in the smaller communities of the rural neighbourhoods. Public transit does not exist in these areas for the smaller communities that have limited, if any, child care centres and preschools.
- Eleven out-of-school centres operate in five neighbourhoods.

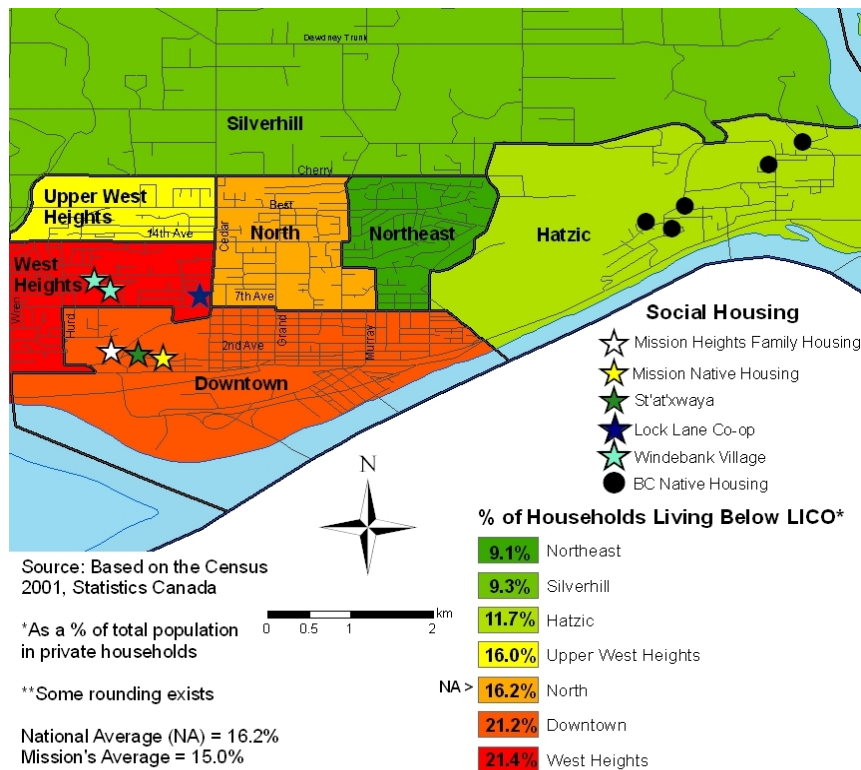
Arts, Recreation and Culture

- The Mission Arts Council and Clark Foundation Theatre offer programs and entertainment for a fee. Both are accessible by public transit and located on the east perimeter of Mission proper.
- The Mission Leisure Centre is located centrally among the five densely populated neighbourhoods and is accessible by public transit. A wide variety of community programs and services exist for all ages. Services include a pool, two skating rinks, curling rink, fitness facilities, a gymnasium and racquet courts. A 'PLAY' pass is provided to families that meet income qualifications; it includes 48 free passes, but is only available to the District of Mission residents. Services include a pool, two skating rinks, curling rink, fitness facilities, a gymnasium and racquet courts. A 'PLAY' pass is provided to families that meet income qualifications; it includes 48 free passes, but is only available to the District of Mission residents.
- Points of cultural interest are the Mission Museum, Xá:ytem and the Mission Indian Friendship Centre. Bus service to Xá:ytem does not exist and a fee is required. The Friendship Centre is free and the museum is by donation, both are accessible by public transit and are located within the highest risk indexed neighbourhood – Downtown.

Map 18: Arts, Recreation and Culture



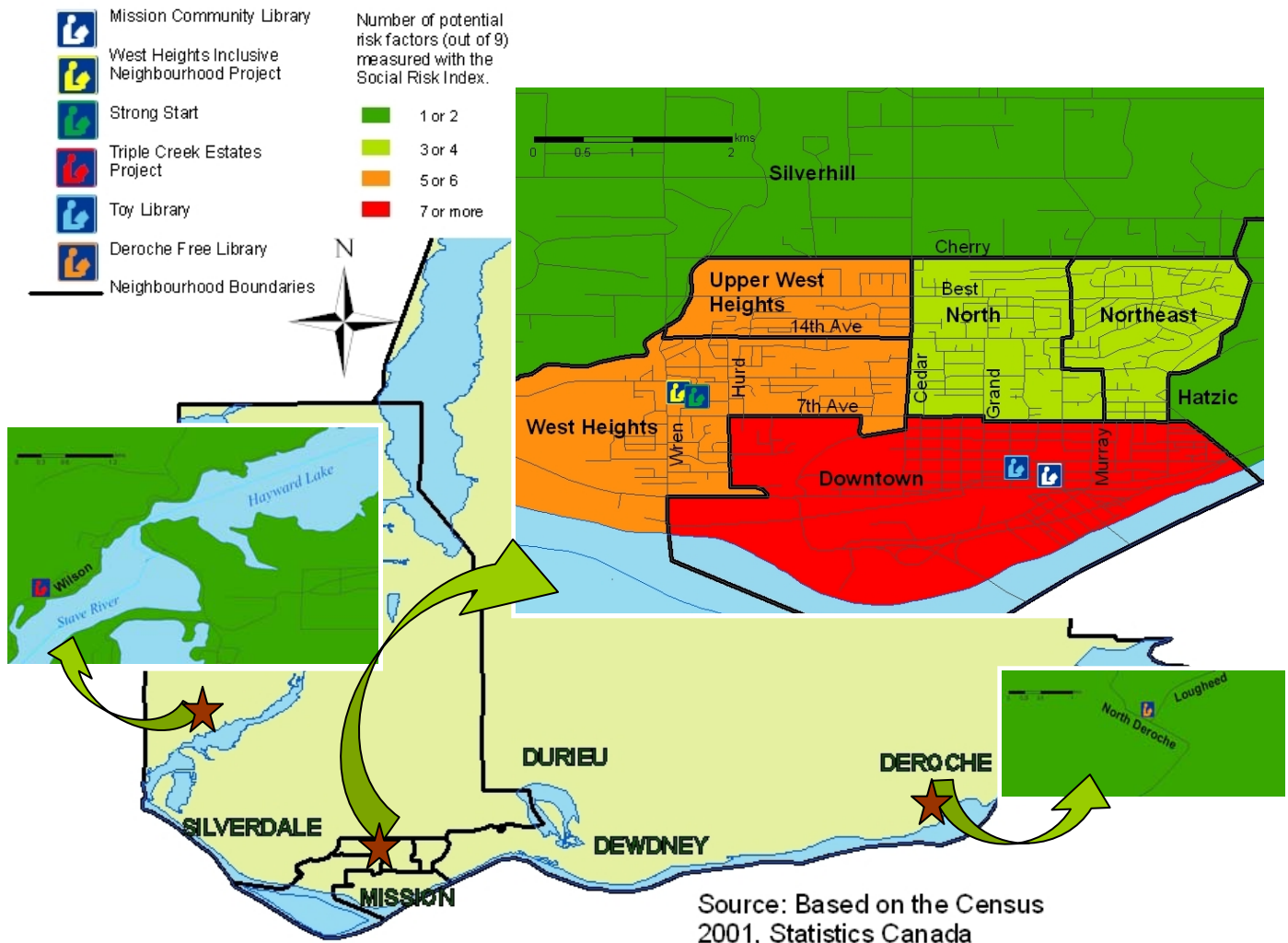
Map 19: Social Housing and LICO



Social Housing and LICO

- There are six social housing developments in Mission, all with wait lists: one co-op; two developments managed by BC housing (one of which has two sites); one managed by Mission Native Housing; and one managed by To'o and BC Housing.
- There are five detached homes managed by BC Native Housing Corporation and are located on Hatzic bench. Mission Native Housing also manages twenty-three detached single family houses throughout all of Mission (not mapped).
- Other than the homes located in Hatzic all other social housing units are located in low income, high density and high risk areas.

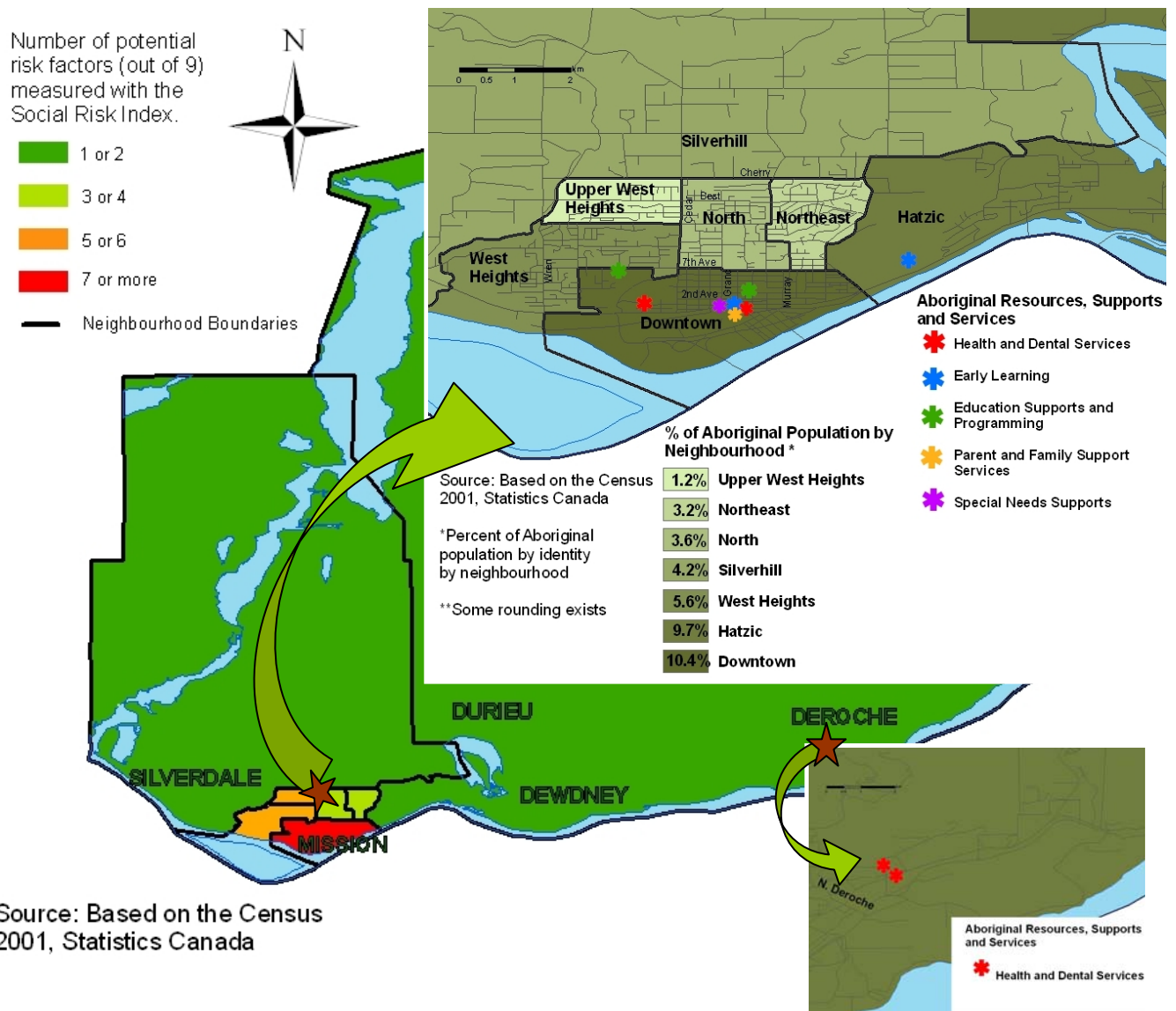
Map 20: Libraries, Toy Libraries and Early Literacy Programs



Libraries, Toy Libraries and Early Literacy Programs

- Mission has one public library located in the Downtown core and in the highest risk neighbourhood. Public transit makes the library accessible to the highest risk and most dense neighbourhoods in Mission. The library has varied early literacy drop-in programming available to young children which changes seasonally. There is also a free, community organized library located in Deroche with 1850 books.
- A toy library, the Resource Room, is located within walking distance from the public library and within the same neighbourhood. This library is currently available to all child care providers throughout Mission and is free of charge.
- An early literacy program has recently been instituted in a pocket of known vulnerability located in the rural neighbourhood of Silverhill. LAPS (Literacy & Parenting Skills) is being instructed at this site. This neighbourhood cannot access the library through public transit.
- Early literacy combined with English as a Second Language programs are available at West Heights Inclusive Neighbourhood Project (WHIN) located in West Heights and is indexed as ‘somewhat high risk’. This program has an emphasis on literacy and family support among Mission’s Indo-Canadian and Aboriginal families. StrongStart, a new early literacy program, has also been implemented in West Heights. Both WHIN and StrongStart are available to all children in Mission and there is no cost for either. WHIN and StrongStart are both located adjacent to Upper West Heights’ neighbourhood which exhibits the highest immigrant population and rate of linguistic isolation.

Map 21: Aboriginal Resources, Services and Programs



Source: Based on the Census 2001, Statistics Canada

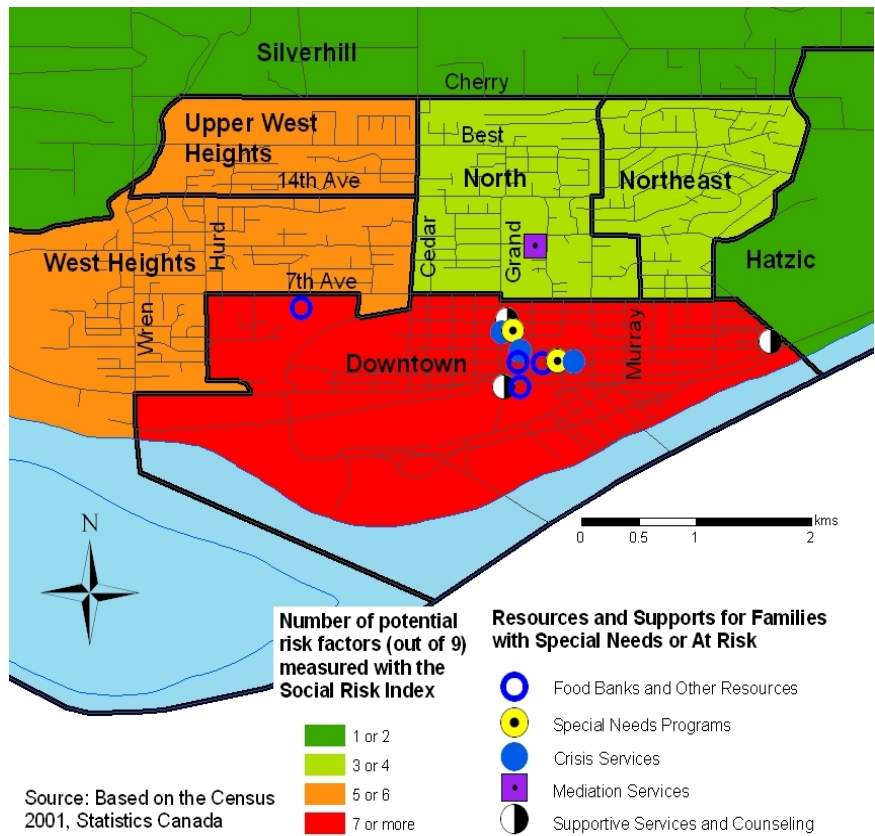
Aboriginal Resources, Services and Programs

- Aboriginal resources, services and programs are mapped against percentage of Aboriginal population by neighbourhood.
- The resources, services and programs available to young children and their families are located in the two neighbourhoods with the highest Aboriginal populations and the highest risk neighbourhood – Downtown.
- Most of the resources are located in the Mission Indian Friendship Centre situated in the heart of the Downtown core.
- Accessibility to Downtown is available by means of public transit. Leq'á:mel First Nation band is located in Deroche within the Hatzic neighbourhood. Two health services are located on reserve.
- Most of these resources, services and programs have no fee. The early learning centres are parent participatory and have drop-in programs.
- Most of these services are mobile and create accessibility to all of Mission's Métis, Inuit, self-identified and identified Aboriginal population.

Resources and Supports for Families with Special Needs or At Risk

- The resources, supports and services available to Mission are usually housed in one location for every provider, however most are also mobile and operate out of this location.
- Mobility of services and supports create availability to families in the rural areas, so transit may not be an issue.
- All but one of the resources and supports available are located in Downtown, the highest risk neighbourhood, and central to the majority of Mission's population.
- Most of these resources and supports are free or low cost.

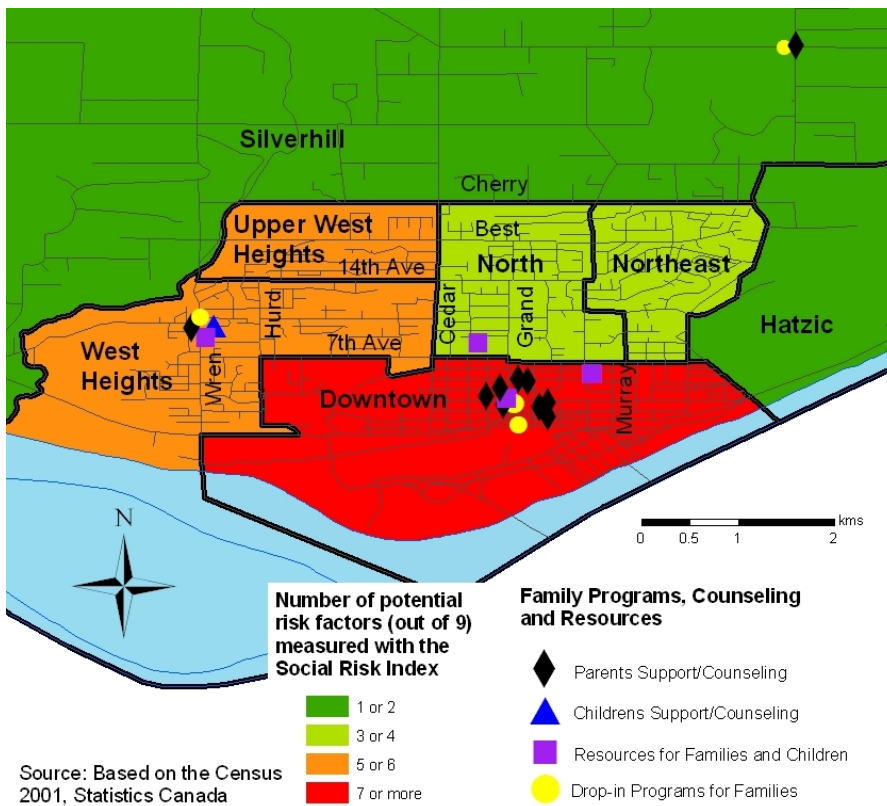
Map 22: Resources and Supports for Families with Special Needs or At Risk



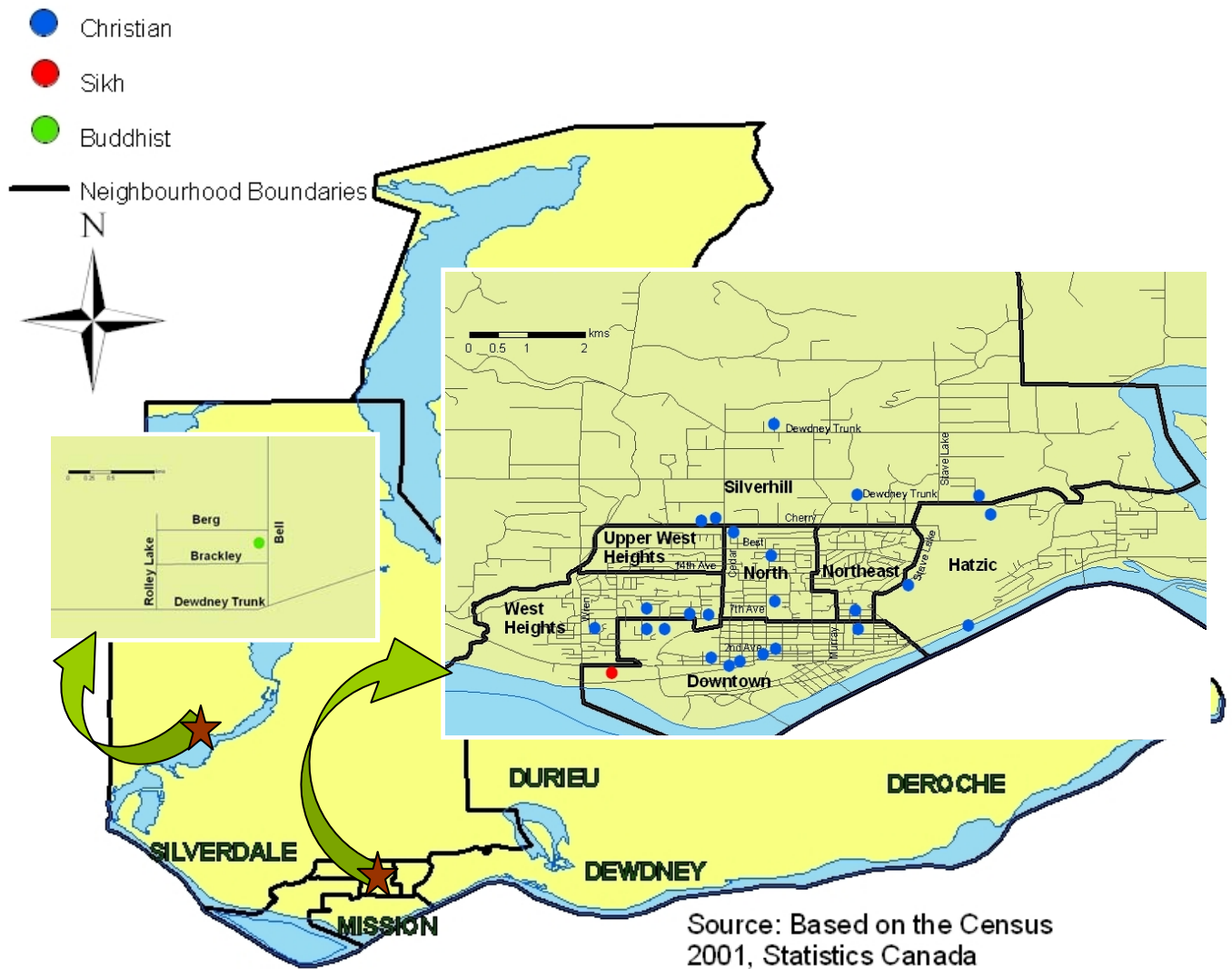
Family Programs, Counseling and Resources

- Most of Mission's supports, programs and counseling services are offered in a very dense cluster within the Downtown neighbourhood.
- A Positive Parenting and drop-in program are available in one of the rural neighbourhoods – Silverhill, which is 'low risk'.
- There are five service hubs, 1 in West Heights (somewhat high risk), 3 in Downtown (high risk), and 1 in Hatzic (low risk), that host many resources, supports and programs for vulnerable families and the general public.
- Most of these programs, services and resources are free or low cost.

Map 23: Family Programs, Counseling and Resources



Map 24: Local Religious Resources



Local Religious Resources

- Religious resources represent community cohesion for many of Mission’ residents. They provide education, child care, counseling and charitable and community-building activities.
- There are a total of twenty-seven religious organizations. Most are located close to Mission’s urban centre and are accessible by public transit.
- Mission’s religious resources primarily consist of Christian based faiths with the exception of one Sikh temple located in Downtown and one Buddhist temple located in Silverdale.

Summary of the Assets

Mission's neighbourhood resources, services and programs are primarily based in Downtown and the four peripheral and densely populated neighbourhoods. These urban neighbourhoods have higher risks than the two rural neighbourhoods. The public transit system serves the core neighbourhoods and makes accessibility to resources, services and programs easy and relatively affordable. The SRI suggests Downtown, West Heights, Upper West Heights, North and Northeast certainly require accessibility to and more supports than Silverhill and Hatzic, yet these large rural areas exhibit pockets of vulnerability and risk. Public transportation does not exist to these outlying areas making it difficult for marginalized families to meet their basic needs, such as shopping.

All medical clinics, doctors and dentists reside within Mission proper. Currently, there is a shortage of family doctors and only two dentists accept Healthy Kids Passports. The Mission Health Unit provides mobile support and services for new mothers and infants and other programs located throughout Mission. Essential medical support and services for special needs children and children at risk are all mobile and reach the entire community, yet have long wait lists. Prenatal care is offered through Sto:lo Health Services at Leq'á:mel, yet, there are currently no universal prenatal supports for the general population of women in Mission and the Mission Hospital no longer has a maternity ward.

Although licensed child care is readily accessible to residents of Mission proper, it is very often not attainable because there are currently zero child care spaces available. Partnerships between service providers and organizations created the WHIN project in 2004 to fill a void that existed for families with language, financial and other barriers. StrongStart is a new provincial pilot project geared toward family learning and literacy. There are several elementary schools that serve as locations for out of school care and promote early learning and recreational activities. Currently, there are ten preschool's in Mission; three operate through separate religious organizations, one operates through Mission Association for Community Living, two Montessori, three for profit and one Aboriginal Head Start program.

The Mission Leisure Centre is located central to the five urban neighbourhoods making it easily accessible by foot or bus. Many programs and services operate out of the Leisure Centre for families with young children, including a recent no fee program for parents with toddlers. The 'PLAY' pass has increased accessibility for many parents and children, although, it is limited to the District of Mission residents and does not include the Hatzic neighbourhood. With the exclusion of the Mission Indian Friendship Centre all other arts, recreation and culture activities are for a fee. More programs and services of this nature could be subsidized or low cost to support residents in the most fragile neighbourhoods within Mission.

Social housing in Mission does not provide the opportunity for a broad range of socioeconomic mix within neighbourhoods. Most social housing is found within the two neighbourhoods of West Heights and Downtown, which exhibit the greatest occurrence of people living below the low income cut-off (LICO). Expanding social housing into other neighbourhoods would provide opportunities for a mix of socioeconomic households and interaction between diverse backgrounds. Social housing is currently not serving Mission's population with wait lists occurring for each housing development. Continued disparity may increase as Mission continues to grow at a rapid rate.

Literacy services and programs are embedded throughout Mission offering resources in the community and many are derived from partnerships between service providers and organizations. Many no cost programs, such as: Books for Babies, Ready Set Learn, Little Readers, early literacy drop-ins at the library, ESL services at WHIN, mobile literacy programs in Silverdale and the Resource Room at Family Place all offer varied and purposeful services that target populations in crisis, as well as, the general population.

Aboriginal resources, services and programs provide extensive coverage to the population of Mission by means of localized and mobile services. Most of the services offer an extensive variety of supports and are appropriately located within the neighbourhoods with the highest Aboriginal populations. The early learning drop-in programs are full to capacity offering young children the opportunity to expand their learning experiences.

Resources and supports for families with special needs or who are at risk are clustered within the Downtown core, however most are mobile offering service to out lying areas. Family programs, counseling and resources, again, are primarily populated in Downtown with hubs located in three of the seven neighbourhoods. All of these services are free or low cost and located within neighbourhoods that are close to or exhibit the most risk.

Several Christian organizations offer early learning opportunities, crisis services and counseling. Mission is densely populated with twenty-seven faith based organizations, however only two are not Christian based. Union Gospel, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and All Saints Anglican Church are heavily invested in Mission providing unique and essential services to families.

**“It takes an entire community
to raise a child”**

- African proverb

Early Development Instrument (EDI) - Mission

Introduction to the EDI

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) was designed as a population based tool for assessing the state of child development in five domains: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. These domains of early childhood development are recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The EDI measures a kindergarten child's readiness to learn upon school entry. Measuring children's readiness for school is important because it reflects children's early development and it can predict their performance later in life (Janus & Offord, 2000; Kershaw et al., 2005).

The EDI assessment contains more than 70 questions, in the form of a checklist, that kindergarten teacher's fill out after 5 to 6 months of knowing the child. The last assessment was collected in Mission in February 2006 for all kindergarten children that attended all elementary schools in the Mission Public School District. The EDI is not a diagnostic tool, nor is it meant to reflect the performance of a teacher or school. The results of the EDI are aggregated at the neighbourhood level in which the child resides, and therefore it provides a community perspective of the developmental outcomes of children's early years as they pertain to their readiness to learn. As a community we can assess how well we have supported and prepared our children in their formative years.

Mission's results have been measured against the provincial cohort of all children province wide that have performed the assessment, which has provided the provincial level cut-offs for vulnerability. The following maps provide an overview of our most vulnerable children as measured against the bottom 10% of children scoring the lowest on the EDI assessments province wide.

These most vulnerable children are then mapped against the Social Risk Index to provide a complete picture that combines socioeconomic trends with children’s outcomes, helping us to understand the capacity to which our community prepares our children.

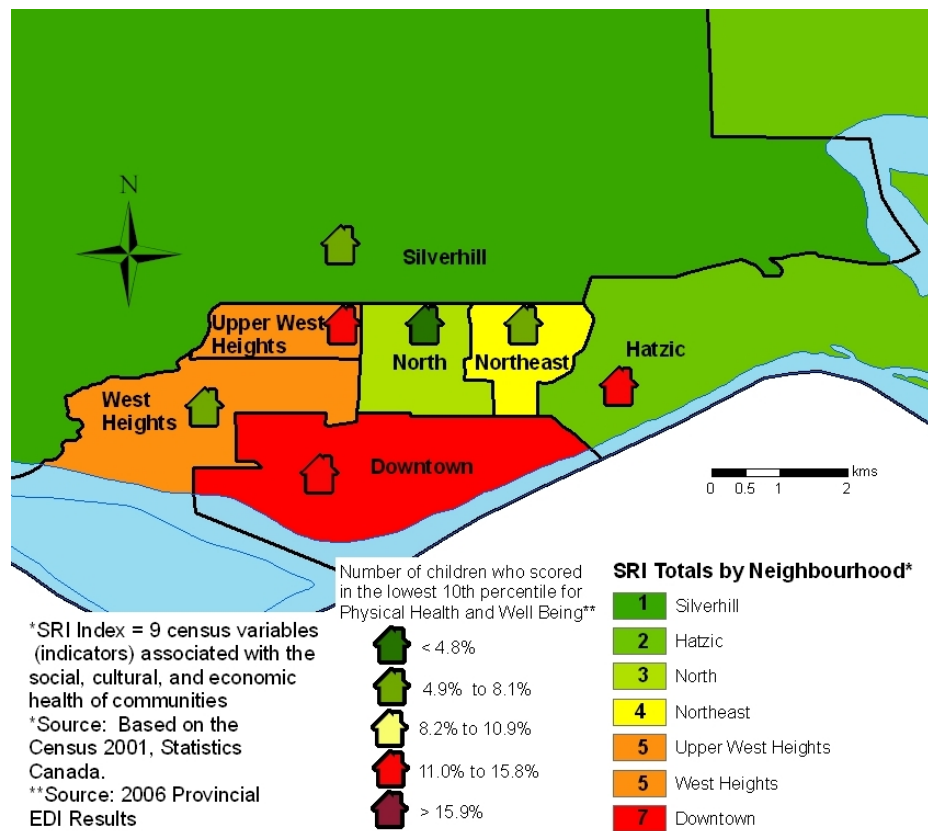
EDI Developmental Domain Maps and Vulnerability

Maps 25 to 29 represent the number of children who scored in the lowest 10th percentile on each EDI domain for every Mission neighbourhood. Map 30 represents all children vulnerable in one or more domains by neighbourhood. Dark green houses indicate the neighbourhoods with the lowest percentage of children in the lowest 10th percentile. Dark red houses indicate the neighbourhoods with the highest percentage of children in the lowest 10th percentile. There was a significant amount of variability between neighbourhoods and domains that pertain to vulnerability rates. The percent of children vulnerable for individual domains ranged between 0% and 22.2%.

Physical Health and Well-Being

- Physical health and well-being refers to a child’s motor skills, energy levels, fatigue, clumsiness, co-ordination, and overall physical development.
- The cut-offs for vulnerable children listed in the legend were derived from the provincial cohort of EDI children.
- There was a high degree of variability between neighbourhoods within the physical health and well-being domain. Percent of children vulnerable by neighbourhood ranged from 2.3% to 13.9% of children scoring within the lowest 10th percentile.
- Upper West Heights, Downtown and Hatzic exhibited the highest percent of children vulnerable in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission.
- North had the least percent of children vulnerable.
- Two neighbourhoods – Upper West Heights and Downtown, had high rates of vulnerability and also indexed as ‘somewhat high risk’ to ‘high risk’ on the SRI.
- Hatzic, although indexed as ‘low risk’ on the SRI, had a high percent of children vulnerable on the EDI, conversely West Heights indexed as ‘somewhat high risk’ on the SRI and had a relatively low percent of children vulnerable.

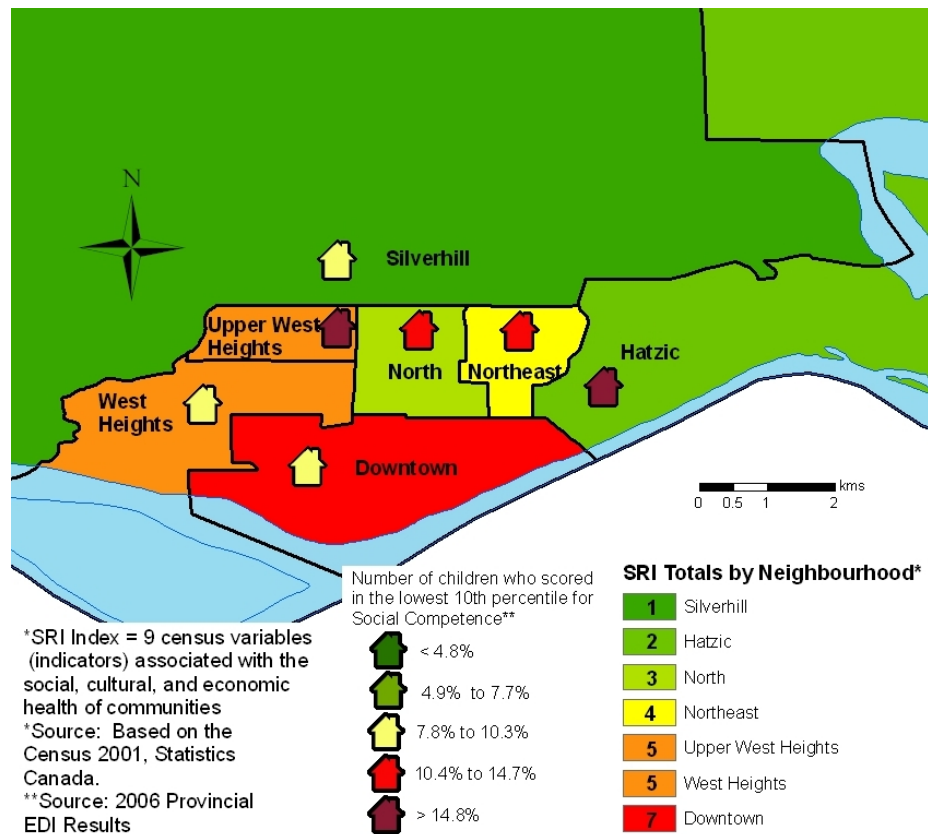
Map 25: Physical Health and Well-Being Lowest 10th Percentile



Social Competence

- Social competence refers to a child's self-confidence, tolerance, ability to get along with other children, capacity to accept responsibility for his/her actions, and ability to work independently.
- The cut-offs for vulnerable children listed in the legend were derived from the provincial cohort of EDI children.
- There was a high degree of variability between neighbourhoods within the social competence domain. Percent of children vulnerable by neighbourhood ranged from 9.4% to 22.2% of children scoring within the lowest 10th percentile.
- Upper West Heights and Hatzic exhibited the highest percent of children vulnerable in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission. North and Northeast exhibited the second highest percentage of children vulnerable.
- Silverhill, West Heights and Downtown fell into the mid-range for vulnerability within Mission neighbourhoods.
- Two neighbourhoods – North and Northeast, had high rates of vulnerability yet indexed as 'somewhat low risk' on the SRI.
- Hatzic, although indexed as 'low risk' on the SRI fell into the highest cut-off or percent of children vulnerable on the EDI.

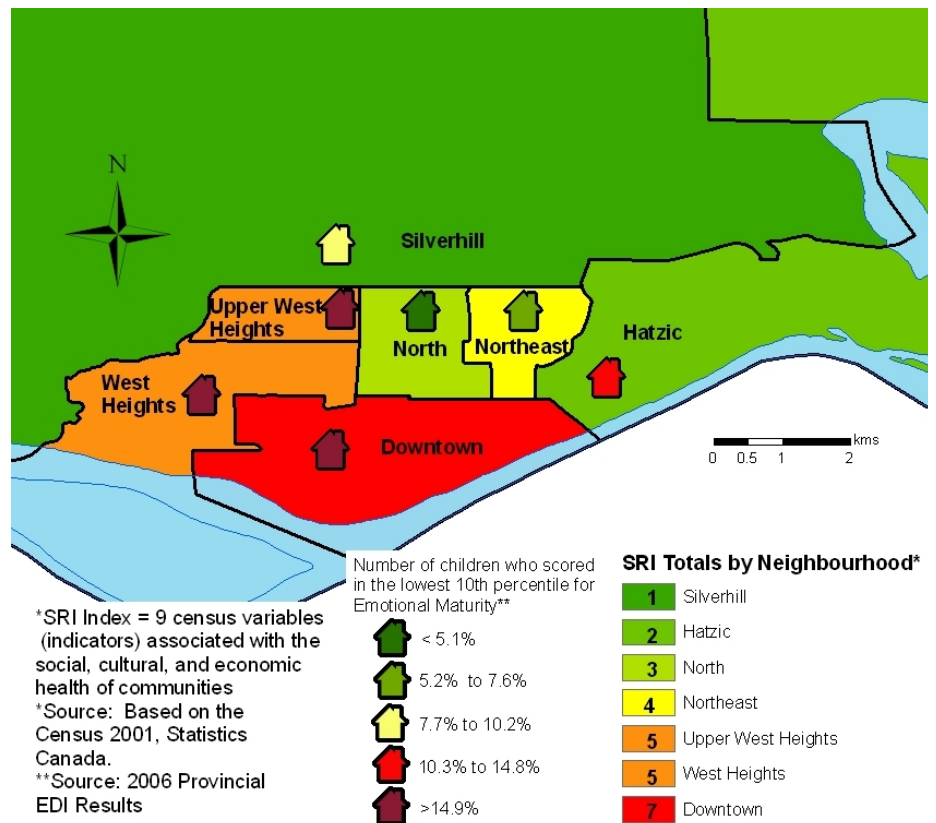
Map 26: Social Competence Lowest 10th Percentile



Emotional Maturity

- Emotional maturity refers to a child's general emotional health and maturity, problems with aggression, restlessness, distractibility, inattentiveness and regular sadness or anxiety.
- The cut-offs for vulnerable children listed in the legend were derived from the provincial cohort of EDI children.
- There was a high degree of variability between neighbourhoods within the emotional maturity domain. Percent of children vulnerable by neighbourhood ranged from 4.8% to 19.4% of children scoring within the lowest 10th percentile.
- Upper West Heights, West Heights and Downtown exhibited the highest percent of children vulnerable in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission. North and Northeast exhibited the least percent of children vulnerable.
- Hatzic, although indexed as 'low risk' on the SRI had the second highest percent of children vulnerable on the EDI for emotional maturity.
- Upper West Heights, West Heights and Downtown indexed as 'somewhat high risk' and 'high risk' on the SRI and also exhibited the highest percent of children vulnerable in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission.

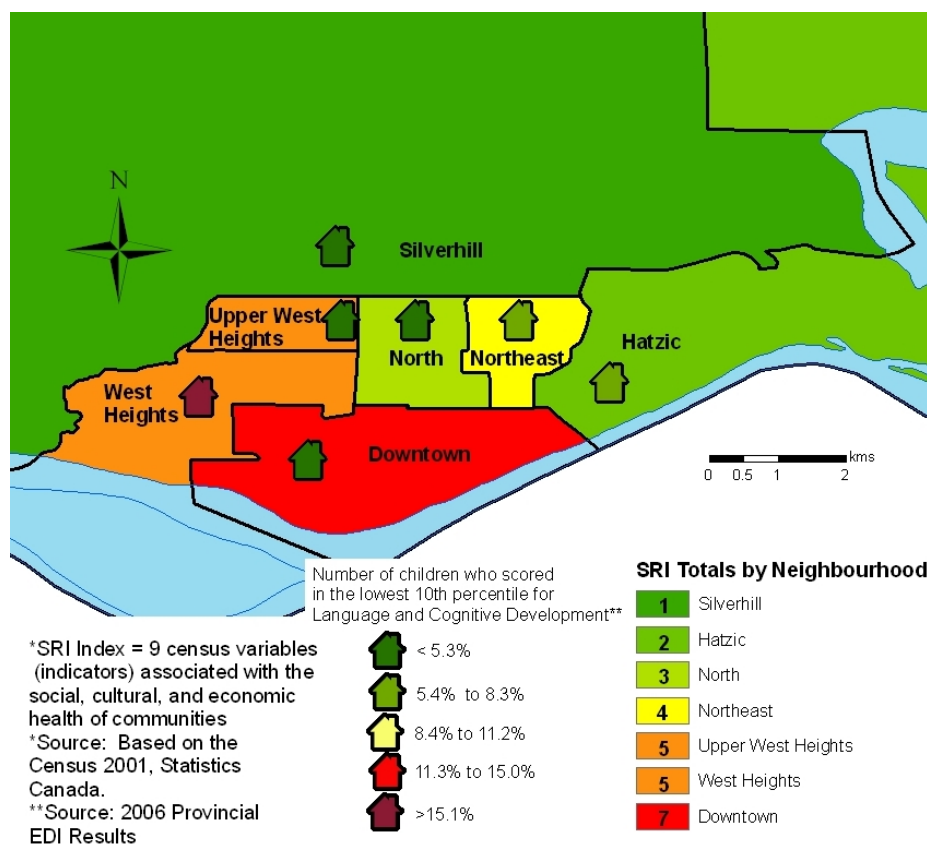
Map 27: Emotional Maturity Lowest 10th Percentile



Language and Cognitive Development

- Language and cognitive development refers to a child's mastery of the basics of reading and writing, interest in books, and numerical skills (e.g., recognizing numbers, counting and sorting).
- The cut-offs for vulnerable children listed in the legend were derived from the provincial cohort of EDI children.
- Six out of seven neighbourhoods had low degrees of variability between neighbourhoods within the language and cognitive development domain. Percent of children vulnerable by neighbourhood ranged from 0% to 20.6% of children scoring within the lowest 10th percentile.
- West Heights was the only neighbourhood to exhibit a high percent of children vulnerable in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission.
- All other neighbourhoods exhibited the lowest to second lowest percent of children vulnerable.
- Downtown, although indexed as 'high risk' on the SRI ranked in the lowest percent of children vulnerable.
- West Heights was indexed at 'somewhat high risk' on the SRI and had the highest percent of children vulnerable.
- Upper West Heights, the neighbourhood with the highest rate of immigration and linguistic isolation, had 0% of children vulnerable.

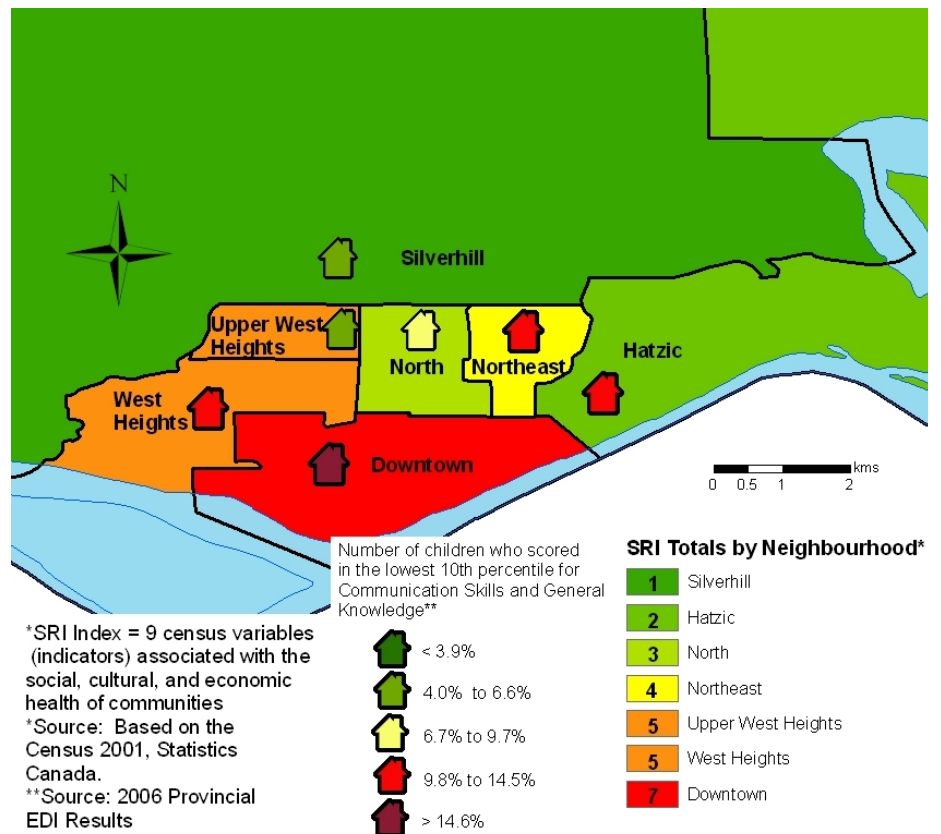
Map 28: Language and Cognitive Development Lowest 10th Percentile



Communication Skills and General Knowledge

- Communication skills and general knowledge refers to a child's ability to understand and communicate clearly in English and to articulate clearly, and his or her general knowledge.
- The cut-offs for vulnerable children listed in the legend were derived from the provincial cohort of EDI children.
- There was a high degree of variability between neighbourhoods within the communication skills and general knowledge domain. Percent of children vulnerable by neighbourhood ranged from 5.6% to 20% of children scoring within the lowest 10th percentile.
- Downtown exhibited the highest percent of children vulnerable in the lowest 10th percentile of all children in Mission. West Heights, Northeast and Hatzic have the second highest percent of children vulnerable.
- Hatzic, although indexed as 'low risk' on the SRI had the second highest percent of children vulnerable.
- Respectively, West Heights and Downtown are indexed at 'somewhat high risk' and 'high risk' on the SRI and also exhibit the second highest and highest percent of children vulnerable.

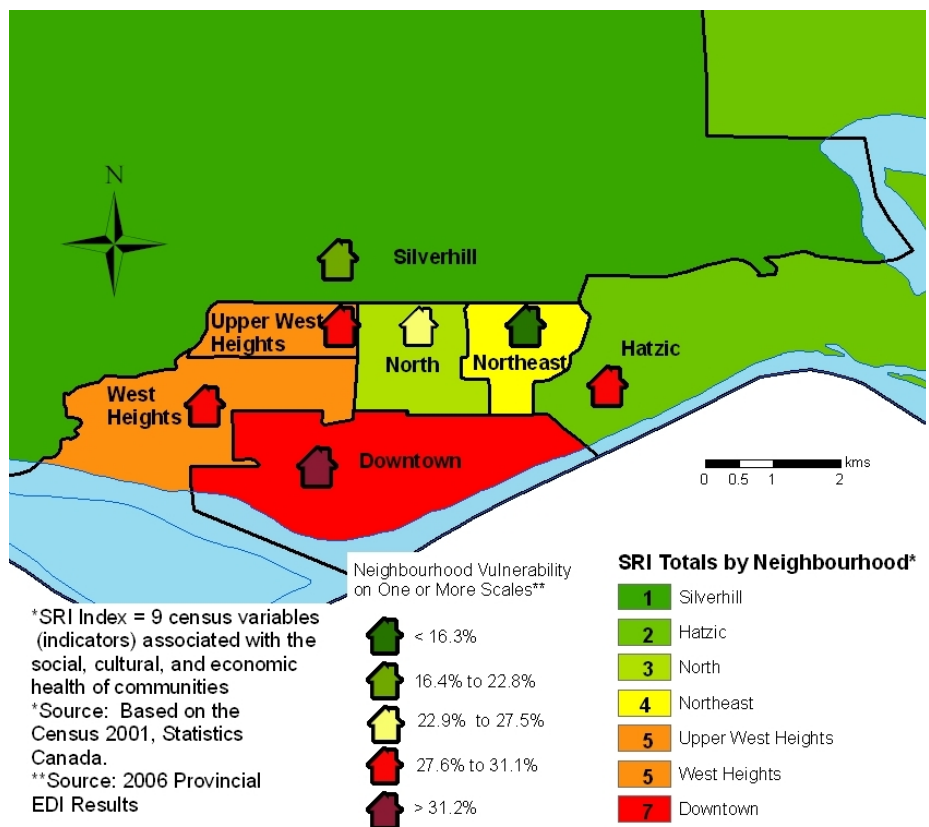
Map 29: Communication Skills and General Knowledge Lowest 10th Percentile



% of Children Vulnerable on One or More Scales

- This map represents the percent of children deemed vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI as measured against the provincial cut-offs.
- The cut-offs for neighbourhood vulnerability on one or more scales listed in the legend were derived from the provincial cohort of EDI children.
- There was a high degree of variability between neighbourhoods which indicates considerable disparity or difference between domains of development. Percent of children vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI by neighbourhood ranged from 15.8% to 42.5%.
- Silverhill exhibits 'low risk' on the SRI and the second lowest percent of children vulnerable on one or more domains.
- Downtown exhibits 'high risk' on the SRI and the highest percent of children vulnerable on one or more domains (42.5%).
- Hatzic exhibits 'low risk' on the SRI and the second highest percent of children vulnerable on one or more domains.
- Six out of seven neighbourhoods had more than 20% of children vulnerable in at least one domain of their development. The lowest proportion was in Northeast (15.8%).
- Overall, district wide the average for percent of children deemed vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI for 2006 was 26.7% as measured against all school districts province wide. This means that just under 27% of children in Mission are vulnerably situated in the bottom 10% of the distribution of children province wide.

Map 30: % of Children Vulnerable on One or More Scales



Summary of the Early Development Instrument Results

Children in Mission had the lowest rates of vulnerabilities in the language and cognitive development domain followed by the physical health and well-being domain. Upper West Heights exhibits the highest rates of linguistic isolation and recent immigration, yet has the lowest rate (0%) of vulnerability in the language and cognitive domain. It is possible to surmise that ESL supports located in the adjacent neighbourhood of West Heights have had a tremendous effect on this target population.

Most domains of development for children showed a high degree of variability between neighbourhoods which indicates considerable disparity or difference between neighbourhoods and domains of development. Often this disparity increases with increasing urbanization. Questions of affordable housing, transportation and equal access to services should be considered.

The highest rates of vulnerabilities for Mission’s children were in the social competence and emotional maturity domains. Questions to consider are: What opportunities do children have to interact with peers and adults from diverse backgrounds? What is the housing mix in the district? What access do children and families have to quality child care? The challenge is to establish a community where every neighbourhood is “child friendly”.

Hertzman et al. (pp. 3, 2002) conclude that:

“In Canada, inequalities in child development emerge in a systematic fashion over the first five years of life, according to well-recognized factors: family income, parental education, parenting style, neighbourhood safety and cohesion, neighbourhood socioeconomic differences, and access to quality child care and developmental opportunities. By age 5, a ‘gradient’ in early child development emerges, such that, as one goes from the families with the lowest to highest incomes, least to most parental education, and least to most nurturing and interactive parenting style, the average quality of early child experiences increase.”

Individual domains of development between neighbourhoods showed interesting relationships between the SRI and EDI. These relationships can be read directly from the maps and represent patterns and effects that we would expect to find, such as, green EDI houses on green SRI neighbourhoods. This indicates that favourable socioeconomic characteristics of these neighbourhoods are also enjoying less childhood vulnerability. The same comparison is relative for red on red and yellow on yellow. Conclusions that can be drawn from these examples are that neighbourhoods that are privileged or struggling within social and economic circumstances would also be excelling or suffering within the realms of childhood development. The interesting neighbourhoods, however, are neighbourhoods that show contrasting results. For example, the language and cognitive developmental domain for Downtown maps a low vulnerability rate against the index of ‘high risk’ on the SRI. Downtown is showing that it may be overcoming socioeconomic circumstances that would generally result in higher rates of vulnerability among its children. In contrast, the social competence developmental domain for North maps a high vulnerability rate against the index of ‘somewhat low risk’ on the SRI. Recent Canadian studies (Kohen et. 2002; Boyle and Lipman 2002; Curtis et al. 2004) provide considerable evidence that the geography of opportunity (i.e., family, community and demographic characteristics) has a significant statistical impact on a child’s development and that even though the rate of vulnerability increases as one descends down the socioeconomic ladder, the majority of developmentally vulnerable children reside in Canada’s much more numerous economically secure homes. North is a relatively affluent neighbourhood measuring greater than the national average for family income. These findings indicate that social risk is not a definitive predictor of EDI performance, but rather should be used in conjunction with the roles that family, neighbourhood and community play in a child’s learning and development.

Children’s development is impacted by environment and relationships – children do not develop in isolation.



Summary of Mission's Community Mapping Project

This section of the report ties all three previous components of the project together to give a comprehensive overview of individual neighbourhoods in Mission. Each neighbourhood summary will provide an interpretation of how the SRI, EDI, neighbourhood population and income, and assets are related, or in some cases, are unrelated to childhood developmental outcomes at the community level. Kershaw et al. (2005) explain how a relationship exists between socioeconomic variables, family and neighbourhood social gradients, and childhood development and outcomes. Conclusions have been drawn based on these relationships but in no way reflect a statistically significant study for each neighbourhood; rather, the information will be presented in a fashion that projects the possibility of these relationships and how they could have affected early learning and developmental outcomes for children in Mission.

The following lists what EDI domains correlate with the SRI and other socioeconomic variables. Physical health and well-being corresponds with rates of Aboriginal/ESL populations and low income families. Social competence corresponds to rates of single parent families and income levels. Emotional maturity corresponds to rates of single parent families and employment. The language and cognitive domain correlates with income levels, rates of single parent families and unemployment. Communication skills and general knowledge shows a relationship with rates of homeownership, Aboriginal populations and population with a foreign home language.

This list does not include mobility, education and government transfers; however, they do inter-correlate, or are interconnected, with the preceding list as they relate to childhood development. Mobility inter-correlates with rates of single parent families and income levels, yet is only an accurate predictor of '% vulnerable on 1 or more scales' for the EDI due to its indirect relationship with each EDI domain. Education is not listed due to its inability to predict accurately, at the neighbourhood level, the effects of parent education on their children's development and learning; however education is implicated in family income and homeownership. Government transfers, the last variable not listed, inter-correlates with income levels, employment rate and low income cut-offs.

More than any other domains, social competence and emotional maturity reflect family and neighbourhood social gradients as they relate to family structure, employment status, and income levels. For example, as poverty rates decrease so does the rate of vulnerability in these domains and therefore, the majority of vulnerabilities would be found within the broader spectrum of children rather than in the lowest 10% of children. This means that neighbourhood characteristics are more closely associated with physical and early learning domains than with social and emotional behaviour.

Silverhill

Silverhill is the only neighbourhood indexed with one variable on the SRI – government transfers. Its average income is approximately \$66,600, situated below the national average by approximately \$1000 annually, and houses the largest population of children (475) in Mission and the fourth largest population of Aboriginal kindergarten students (10.3%, national EDI comparisons). District wide, Silverhill has the second lowest percent of vulnerable children in 1 or more domains (21.9%).

The domains that require attention in Silverhill are social competence and emotional maturity which are situated as 'average' rates of vulnerabilities against 'low risk' – yellow on light green, on the SRI. These domains correlate with single parent families and family structure and are more sensitive to socioeconomic dynamics that unfold across the broader spectrum of local residents which is also where the most vulnerable children are located.

Universal access to supports for children, such as, quality childcare and structured community programs, parent education programs and neighbourhood cohesion with localized access to services would create access for the majority of vulnerable children and families in Silverhill. Public transportation does not operate in Silverhill making local access to services difficult for residents that do not have access to a vehicle. Combined together, these factors enable us to ask: Are services and supports accessible while targeting most of the population in Silverhill? Could community participation, involvement and cohesiveness play a role in the higher rates of vulnerabilities in Silverhill? Do families know of the resources available to them in town? Silverhill is not indexed on the SRI with any variables directly related to social competence and emotional maturity domains, so, are there other socioeconomic reasons for these low scores?

Hatzic

Hatzic is indexed on the SRI with two variables – government transfers and unemployment; however, it also has the second highest Aboriginal kindergarten population of children (19.4%, national EDI comparisons) on the recent EDI assessments. Its average income is approximately \$54,200, situated below the national average by approximately \$13,500 annually, and houses the third largest population of children (460) in Mission. District wide, Hatzic has 27.8% of children vulnerable in 1 or more domains.

Social competence, physical health and well-being, emotional maturity and communication skills and general knowledge domains are all situated in the highest and second highest rates of vulnerabilities and are located well below where we might expect to see them on the SRI – dark red and red on light green. Social competence and emotional maturity domains are affected by income, single parent families and family structure which enables us to ask: Is access to quality child care and structured programs; parent education programs; and neighbourhood cohesion with localized access to services available to Hatzic children? Like Silverhill, public transportation is not available to the urban neighbourhoods that house these services, supports and resources, so we might ask: Are these services available to the broad spectrum of children in Hatzic whose families may have below average incomes but are not below LICO and require public transportation? Do single parent families have enough time to access these services?

The physical health and well-being and communication skills and general knowledge domains are negatively affected by income disparities, homeownership, linguistic abilities and increased rates of Aboriginal populations. Kershaw et al. explain how colonialism and residential schools are primarily responsible for separating and segregating Aboriginal families and culture which in turn have created 'stressors' that are still affecting Aboriginal parenting styles and community traditions. Tremendous stress affects the immune, nervous and hormone systems of individuals and if this stress is incurred over long periods of time eventually resistance to disease, bodily functions and other physical ailments may occur (2005). Low average family incomes in combination with rate of Aboriginal populations of children in Hatzic and factors that affect this domain enable us to ask: Do children in Hatzic have access to food security and healthy family lifestyles? Is access to rich oral language environments available to Hatzic children? Are safe outdoor play spaces available? Is access to formalized recreation centres available? Hatzic, which is not part of the District of Mission, is not entitled to 'PLAY' passes which entitles the card holder with 48 free swim, skate or gym sessions a year. Food banks and other sources for low or no cost groceries are located in Mission's urban centre. Outdoor play areas are obviously available in Hatzic, but the question to consider may be: Are safe, well-constructed and developmentally appropriate outdoor play spaces available to the young children in Hatzic?

North

North is indexed on the SRI with three variables – single parent families, government transfers and mobility. Its average income is approximately \$1000 above the national average annually, and is home to the fourth largest population of children (355) in Mission and the fifth largest population of Aboriginal kindergarten students (9.5%, national EDI comparisons). District wide, North has the third lowest rate (23.3%) of vulnerable children in 1 or more domains.

North performed well on the EDI in 3 of 5 domains – physical health and well-being, emotional maturity and language and cognitive development. These three EDI domains are situated above where we might expect to see them on the SRI– dark green on very light green. This combination suggests that community factors are supporting children in these domains while overcoming socioeconomic circumstances, such as income gradients and higher rates of single parent families.

Social competence was the only domain to show in the second highest rate of vulnerabilities which correlates with single parent families and income. Programs that target the economically disadvantaged will miss the majority of vulnerable children which enables us to ask: Are programs and services such as quality child care, structured community programs and parent education programs, universally available to families? Do families have time in their daily schedules to access these services? Are there other socioeconomic reasons for these low scores?

North is also characterized by high rates of mobility. Generally, mobility on the SRI is indicative of changing residences within the same neighbourhood and positively correlates with single parent families and neighbourhood characteristics. However, Mission is developing rapidly and neighbourhoods are expanding. The differences and disparities between low and high rates of vulnerabilities on 1 or more scales of the EDI suggest that rapid urbanization is unfolding in Mission, particularly in North and Northeast.

Northeast

Northeast is indexed with four variables on the SRI – single parent families, government transfers, unemployment and mobility. Its average income is approximately \$68,000 and is situated just above the national average. Northeast is home to 310 children in Mission and has the second largest population of ESL children (9.1%, national EDI comparisons). Northeast has the lowest percent of vulnerable children in 1 or more domains at 15.8%.

Northeast performed well on the EDI in 3 of 5 domains – physical health and well-being, emotional maturity and language and cognitive development. These EDI domains are situated above where we might expect to see them on the SRI– light green on yellow. The vulnerabilities in Northeast suggest that community factors are possibly supporting children in these domains while overcoming socioeconomic circumstances, such as higher rates of single parent families and income gradients.

Social competence and communication skills and general knowledge were the two domains to show in the second highest rates for vulnerabilities. These two EDI domains are situated below where we might expect to see them in respect to the SRI– light red on yellow. Social competence correlates with income variables and single parent families, and like North, programs that target the economically disadvantaged will miss the majority of vulnerable children; therefore, we should ask: Are programs and services such as quality child care, structured community programs and parent education programs, universally available to families? Do families have time in their daily schedules to access these services? Are there other socioeconomic reasons for these low scores?

Northeast's population of ESL children correlates well with the higher rate of vulnerabilities that its children possess in communication skills and general knowledge. Factors that influence this domain are access to rich oral language environments and proportion of the population that speaks English as a second language.

Socioeconomic characteristics that are prevalent for majority populations may not be culturally appropriate for minority ethnic cultures. To possibly decrease vulnerabilities we should ask: Are opportunities for engagement and participation in diverse socioeconomic environments available to children in Northeast?

Northeast is also characterized by high rates of mobility on 1 or more scales of the EDI. Generally, mobility on the SRI is indicative of changing residences within the same neighbourhood and positively correlates with single parent families and neighbourhood characteristics. However, Mission is developing rapidly and neighbourhoods are expanding. The differences and disparities between low and high rates of vulnerabilities on 1 or more scales of the EDI again suggest that rapid urbanization is unfolding in Mission.

Upper West Heights

Upper West Heights is indexed with five variables on the SRI – single parent families, immigration, linguistic isolation, government transfers and unemployment. Its average income is approximately \$53,900 and is situated approximately \$14,000 below the national average. Upper West Heights is home to the smallest population of children (310), has the highest proportion of ESL children in Mission – approximately 13% (national EDI comparisons), and there are over 38% of vulnerable children in 1 or more domains.

Upper West Heights performed well on the EDI in 2 of 5 domains – language and cognitive development and communication skills and general knowledge. These two EDI domains are situated above where we might expect to see them on the SRI – dark green and green on orange. The vulnerabilities in Upper West Heights suggest that community factors are possibly supporting children in these domains while overcoming socioeconomic circumstances, such as higher rates of single parent families, unemployment, low income and especially immigration and linguistic isolation. Upper West Heights, in spite of its vulnerabilities and with the most adversity to overcome – the highest rate of ESL, has shown that literacy supports have been extremely effective for this population of children and their families.

Social competence, emotional maturity and physical health and well-being were three domains that exhibited the highest and second highest rates of vulnerabilities – red and yellow on orange. Social competence and emotional maturity correlate well with single parent families and family structure, and even though Upper West Heights has a lower family income it is not indexed with LICO, which further suggests that the majority of vulnerable children are located over the broader spectrum of economic households. Universal access to supports for children, such as quality child care and structured community programs, parent education programs and neighbourhood cohesion with localized access to services would create access to the majority of vulnerable children and families in Upper West Heights. Physical health and well-being, when positioned against the SRI had the second highest rate of vulnerability – red on orange; however, even though Upper West Heights is not indexed with any variables on the SRI that pertain to this domain, there are possible stressors that are occurring there, which enables us to ask: Could community awareness, involvement and cohesiveness perhaps play a role in the higher rates of vulnerabilities in Upper West Heights? Do children in Upper West Heights have access to food security and healthy family lifestyles? Are safe outdoor play spaces available? Is access to formalized recreation centres available? Are families aware of the 'PLAY' pass? Are there other socioeconomic reasons for these low scores?

West Heights

West Heights is indexed with five variables on the SRI – single parent families, no high school graduation, LICO, government transfers and unemployment. Its average income is approximately \$47,700 and is situated approximately \$20,000 below the national average.

West Heights is home to the second largest population of children (470) in Mission, has the fifth highest proportion of ESL children (6.5%, national EDI comparisons) and third largest population of Aboriginal kindergarten students (14.5%, national EDI comparisons). There are over 30.2% of vulnerable children in 1 or more domains in West Heights.

West Heights fared well in 1 domain on the EDI – physical health and well-being. This EDI domain is situated above where we might expect to see it on the SRI – green on orange. The vulnerabilities in West Heights suggest that community factors are possibly supporting targeted children while overcoming socioeconomic circumstances, such as single parent families and income related risks (food security and social housing).

Emotional maturity, language and cognitive development and communication skills and general knowledge exhibited the highest rates for vulnerabilities – dark red and red on orange, which correlate well with single parent families, family structure, income factors, employment rates and rates of ESL. Although West Heights is home to a hub, WHIN, that promotes family learning and early literacy (no fee), especially ESL, targeting the general population may have a positive effect on the rates of vulnerability in these domains. West Heights has the highest rate of population without a high school diploma (almost 30%), highest rate of LICO (21%), second highest rate of government transfers (20%) and the second highest rate of lone parent families (20%). The income gradient in West Heights is flatter than in North and Northeast and therefore targeting of the entire population with universal and accessible supports and services could help to decrease the rate of vulnerabilities in this neighbourhood. One can surmise from these rates of risk on the SRI and EDI that West Heights is facing issues of accessibility to a wide realm of services, supports and resources and enable us to ask: Do families know of the resources available to them in West Heights? Are services and supports available and accessible while targeting most of the population in West Heights?

Downtown

Downtown is indexed with seven variables on the SRI – single parent families, homeownership, no high school graduation, LICO, government transfers, mobility and unemployment and has the highest risk of any neighbourhood in Mission on the SRI. Its average income is approximately \$48,400 and is situated approximately \$19,000 below the national average. Downtown is home to the fifth largest population of children (330) in Mission and has the highest proportion of Aboriginal kindergarten children (30.5%, national EDI comparisons). Downtown exhibits the lowest rate of homeownership (52%), the highest rates of government transfers (29%), single parent families (29%), unemployment (13.7%) and mobility (22%), and the second highest rates of LICO (21%) and no high school graduation (28%). Downtown has the highest percent of vulnerable children in 1 or more domains at 42.5%.

Downtown compared favourably on 2 out of 5 domains on the EDI – language and cognitive development and social competence. These domains are situated well above where we might expect to see them against the SRI – dark green/yellow on dark red. This suggests that community factors are possibly supporting children in these domains while overcoming socioeconomic circumstances, such as higher rates of single parent families, several income variables, lack of safe outdoor play spaces and lack of child care spaces.

Emotional maturity, communication skills and general knowledge and physical health and well-being domains exhibited the highest rates for vulnerabilities – dark red and red on dark red, which correlate well with income, family structure, homeownership and rate of Aboriginal population. Most services, supports and resources in Mission are located in Downtown, including Aboriginal assets, which creates much needed accessibility for the Downtown residents of Mission.

Universal access to supports and services need to continue across the broad spectrum of the population in all developmental domains to decrease vulnerabilities in Downtown with concerted efforts geared towards healthy lifestyles (food security and safe, developmentally appropriate outdoor play spaces) and opportunities to interact with different cultural and social backgrounds. Most of the preceding questions for Mission's other six neighbourhoods could apply to Downtown.

Our next steps...

Mission's neighbourhoods are as different as they are diverse, representing strengths and weaknesses in many developmental domains and Social Risk Indexes. North and Northeast tend to be more mobile, are home to high numbers of single parents, with Northeast exhibiting a high rate of ESL children, and yet are economically secure, well educated and fair well on the SRI. Both neighbourhoods are similar in their strengths and weaknesses in the five developmental domains.

Hatzic and Downtown have high rates of Aboriginal children, have high or increasing rates of vulnerability in most developmental domains, show some similarities across domains, and show polar tendencies for Social Risk Indexes.

Upper West Heights and West Heights have high rates of ESL and Aboriginal children, income related risks, high numbers of single parent families and strengths in several unrelated developmental domains.

Silverhill is doing well in most areas of development and risk. District wide the highest rates of vulnerabilities are in the social competence and emotional maturity domains which is a trend that correlates well with socioeconomic characteristics for all neighbourhoods.

This information will provide the Mission Early Childhood Development Committee and its stakeholders with current and relevant information pertaining to early learning and developmental outcomes of Mission's youngest residents. It is evident from this report that Mission's neighbourhoods are distinct and diverse communities within themselves. Each neighbourhood has strengths and weaknesses pertaining to socioeconomic and community factors that support children and their families. The next step is to create an action plan that will build community capacity to carry forward sustainable community action focused on decreasing vulnerabilities and providing families with support that they require to raise children that can grow and thrive in a community that they call home.

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