



The Quality of Life in Ontario

Spring 2000

**Ontario Social Development Council
and
Social Planning Network of Ontario**

The Quality of Life in Ontario

Spring 2000

Written by: Malcolm Shookner

For: Ontario Social Development Council

June, 2000

Social Planning Network of Ontario

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Long Term Care Waiting Lists: Ontario Ministry of Health, Long Term Care Division.

Low Birth Weight Babies: Office of the Registrar General of Ontario; Paul Inkala.

New Cancer Cases - Ontario Cancer Registry, Gordon Fehringer.

Public Housing Waiting Lists: Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing; Lisa Booth.

Social Assistance Beneficiaries: Ontario Ministry of Community & Social Services, Social Assistance Programs Branch; Annie Lan.

Spills: Spills Action Centre, Ontario Ministry of Environment & Energy; Bruce Carlin.

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The Quality of Life in Ontario - Spring 2000

The quality of life in Ontario, as measured by the Quality of Life Index, is improving and has reached **97.7** in the Spring of 2000. However, Ontario remains below the benchmark of 100 for the Quality of Life Index established in 1990. The lagging social indicators - the “social deficit” - continue to undermine progress in other sectors. The environmental indicators have led the upward trend, though air quality has been declining since 1998. The growing gap between the economic and social indicators shows that the pursuit of economic growth doesn't yield the dividends it once did. A rising tide no longer lifts all boats.

This report, the sixth in the series on *The Quality of Life in Ontario* published by the Ontario Social Development Council (OSDC) and the Social Planning Network of Ontario (SPNO), is the first report of the new millennium. It provides a ten year look at progress we have made, setbacks we have endured, and a set of benchmarks for the beginning of the 21st century.

The **Quality of Life Index** (QLI) is the tool we use to measure and monitor changes in living conditions that affect the quality of life in our communities. There are twenty community partners from all parts of Ontario involved in the QLI project. They are using the Quality of Life Index to measure changes in their local communities (see Appendix 1). Their local QLIs are reported here along with the provincial QLI.

Defining “Quality of Life”

We have developed this definition of “quality of life”, based on our research into the literature on quality of life, determinants of health, sustainable development, and human and social development. For more information, see the *QLI Literature Review* (See Appendix 2).

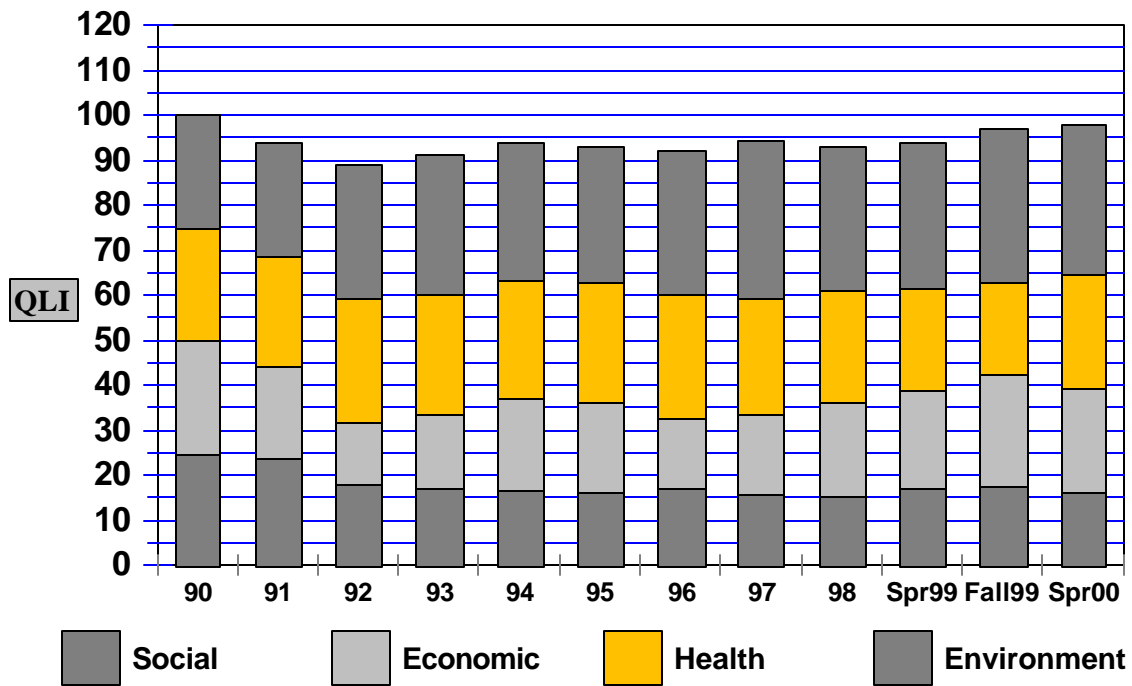
Quality of Life

“The product of the interplay among the social, health, economic and environmental conditions which affect human and social development.”

Trends in the Quality of Life 1990 to Spring 2000

Our quality of life, as measured by the Quality of Life Index, has risen to **97.7** in the Spring of 2000 (compared with 100 in 1990). But the lagging social indicators are exerting a downward effect on the QLI, even while the environmental, economic and health indicators are pulling it up. This is not a sustainable pattern, because it will weaken our cohesion as a society in the 21st century.

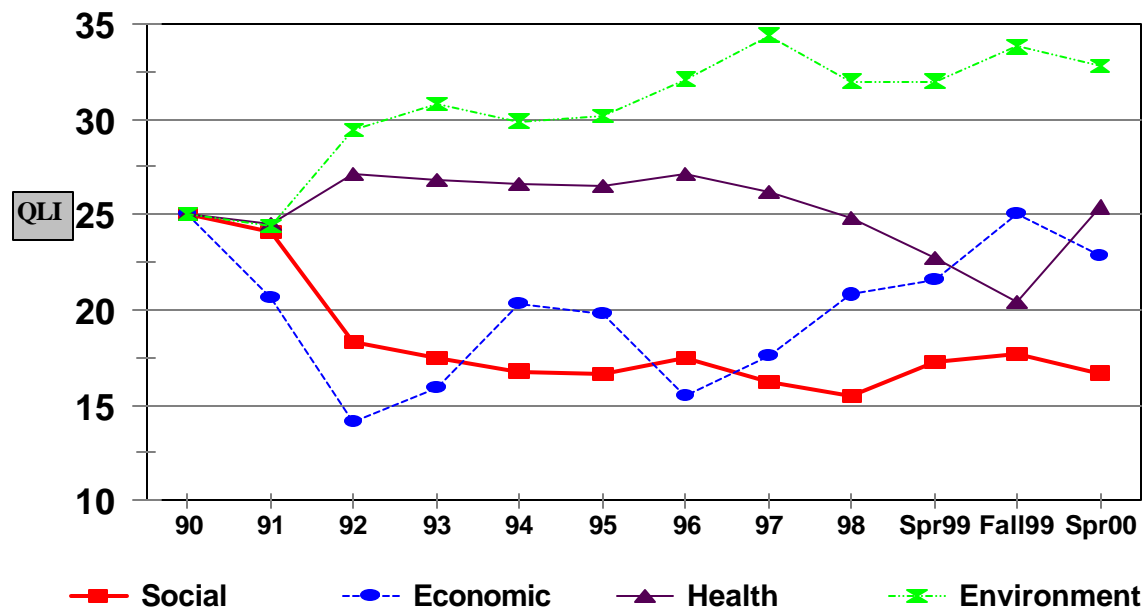
Trends in the Quality of Life Index 1990-Spring 2000



Sectoral Trends in the Quality of Life

Looking at the sectoral trends within the Quality of Life Index, we can see where we are making progress on some aspects of the quality of life and what problems are holding us back.

QLI Sectoral Trends 1990 - Spring 2000



The **social** indicators continue their decline, led by the growing crisis in housing, which is being tracked by the QLI through public housing waiting lists. The number of people receiving social assistance is declining, which appears to be good news, attributable to the growing economy. We also know that many others have been declared ineligible for welfare based on harsh new rules. Still others are joining the growing number of homeless people living in shelters. The child welfare admissions are stable at this time. Changes in legislation have been introduced that will affect the definition of child abuse, the reporting criteria, and the service requirements. This will start to show up in the QLI in 2001.

The **economic** indicators are slightly down from the fall of 1999. The number of bankruptcies continues to decline from its peak two years ago. This is good news on the economic front. The number of people working has declined from its peak in October, 1999, but is increasing again in April, 2000. The number of unemployed people has leveled off during the first three months of 2000. The Ontario Budget 2000 is projecting an economic growth rate of more than 4%. This may bring new job opportunities for those still looking for work.

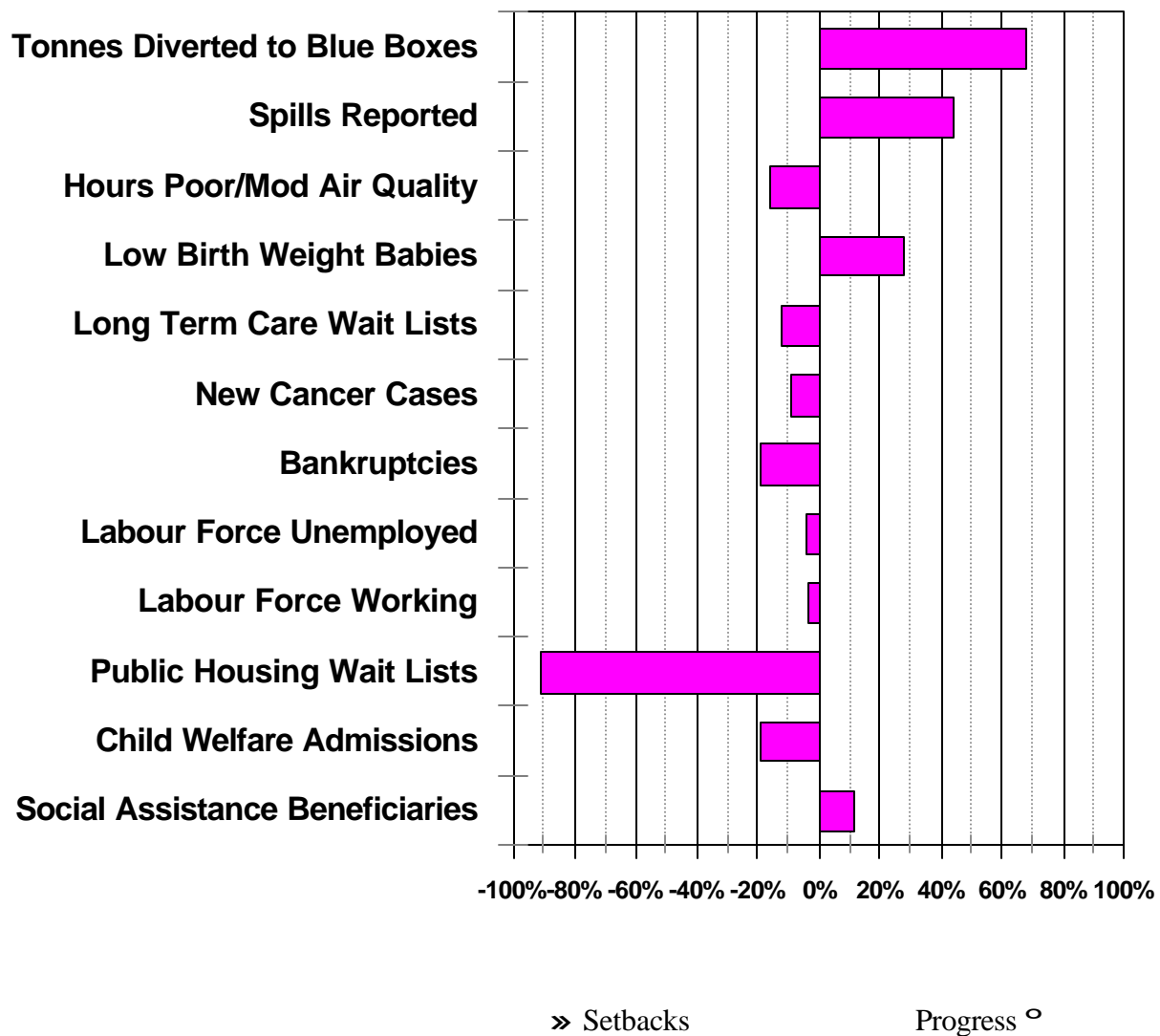
The **health** indicators are mixed. The number of low birth weight babies has declined in 1999, continuing a positive trend with long term implications for healthy child development. This reflects, in part, the positive impact of pre-natal programs on the health of pregnant women. Waiting lists for long term care remain high, but have declined from their peak in April, 1999, as money promised by the provincial government for long term care beds begins to take effect in communities. The number of new cancer cases has been growing due to an aging population, but seems to be leveling off.

The **environmental** indicators continue to lead the way in the QLI. The decline in spills reported continues through 1999, partly due to changes in provincial regulations (See *The Quality of Life in Ontario - Fall 1999*). Data for air quality and tonnes recycled to blue boxes in 1999 should be available for our Fall 2000 report on the quality of life in Ontario. Recent reports from various sources have highlighted the health problems associated with poorer air quality (see Context).

See **Context** for more information. A more detailed picture of these trends is presented by the charts on pages 13-16.

Progress and Setbacks

% Change in QLI 1990 - Spring 2000



Progress

Tonnes Diverted to Blue Boxes - Blue Box recycling, the leading indicator of progress in the QLI, reflects the success of recycling programs in Ontario. The total tonnage will be affected by the introduction of lighter packaging materials, such as plastic containers and more lightweight glass products. The 1999 data for Blue Box recycling will be available for the QLI Fall 2000 report.

Spills Reported - The number of spills reported to the Ministry of Environment continues to decline, due to changes in provincial regulations about what spills must be reported. The water crisis in Walkerton has revealed serious lapses in reporting on environmental pollution, with disastrous consequences. The loss of public trust resulting from deregulation and privatization of environmental protection raises questions about other types of environmental reporting. We hope that the good news about fewer spills does not hide another environmental disaster waiting to happen. (See **Context**)

Low Birth Weight Babies - The 1999 data shows that the decline in low birth weights per 100 live births continues. The impact of good pre-natal programs is showing up in positive results for newborn babies. This is good news for healthy child development. However, growing rates of child poverty in Ontario are undermining the conditions needed for healthy child and youth development in the long term.

Social Assistance Beneficiaries - The number of people receiving social assistance continues to decline, which should be cause for celebration. Some are finding jobs in the “booming” economy. However, severe restrictions in eligibility for Ontario Works have forced a significant number of people off welfare for arbitrary reasons. Many of these people are finding themselves among the growing homeless population living in emergency shelters. (See **Context**)

Setbacks

Public Housing Wait Lists - This is the worst of the twelve QLI indicators because it reflects one aspect of the housing crisis, the lack of public housing for people who can't afford market rents. The crisis of homelessness has become an issue that is galvanizing the public debate about poverty and growing disparities. Municipalities are now totally responsible for public housing, as a result of federal and provincial downloading of responsibilities for housing, while also cutting funding. The cost of maintenance of the current public housing stock is becoming prohibitive for cash-strapped local governments. Under these conditions, this indicator is likely to worsen in the future. (See **Context**)

Admissions to Child Welfare - The latest data for the children admitted to child welfare authorities is holding at the same level as we reported in *The Quality of Life in Ontario - Fall 1999*. Recent changes in provincial legislation, which broaden the definition of child abuse and neglect as grounds for admission to care, are coming into effect at this time. We anticipate that there will be more admissions as a result of the new law. The question is whether child welfare agencies will have adequate resources to work with these children and their families. (See **Context**)

Labour Force Working - With the Ontario economy growing at a healthy rate of 5.7% in 1999 and estimated at 4.6% for 2000 (Ministry of Finance, 2000) why is this indicator being called a setback? While the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is growing, there is still significant under-employment in the labour force. The current economic “boom” is not creating enough jobs to keep pace with Ontario’s growing population. (See **Context**)

Labour Force Unemployed - The unemployment rate has dipped to 6.7% in May, 2000, the lowest it’s been in 24 years. Part-time employment has increased, while full-time employment has declined. There are still a lot of unemployed people looking for work.

Bankruptcies - The number of bankruptcies continues to decline from record levels in 1996. Though still a negative indicator, it is improving as a result of steady economic growth since 1999. If the Ontario government’s estimates of economic growth are realized, this indicator should continue to show improvement.

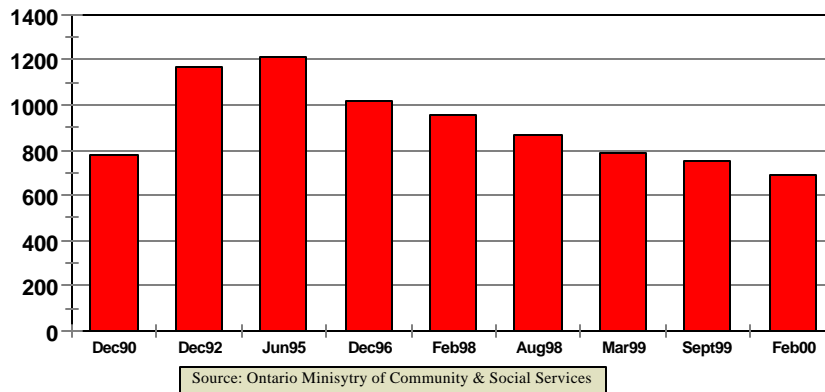
Air Quality - The 1999 data are not yet available, so this report is using the 1998 data. In our QLI Fall 1999 report, we noted the troubling trend of declining air quality that started showing up in 1998. The news has been full of reports about air quality and the health effects of smog. (See **Context**). Factors that affect air quality are vehicle emissions, industrial emissions, coal-fired hydro generation, and cross border smog. In the context of deregulation and privatization of environmental protection, problems with air quality will worsen. (See **Context**)

Long Term Care Wait Lists - The number of elderly waiting for long term care beds has declined since our last report six months ago. The impact of provincial funding for new long term care beds is starting to have an impact on the backlog of people waiting for placements. This backlog creates other problems by blocking access to hospital beds for acute care and emergency patients.

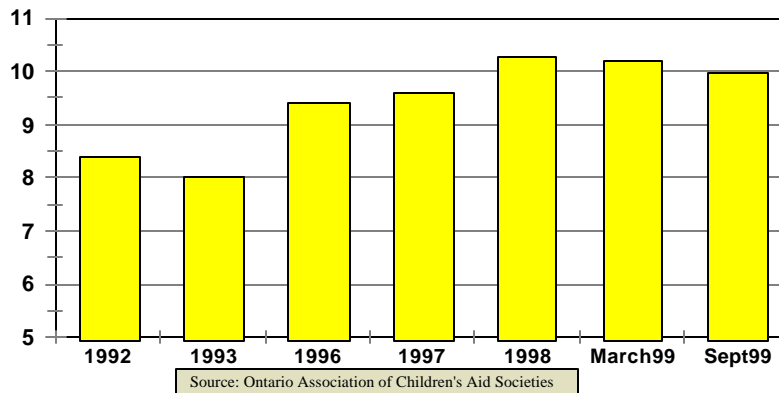
New Cancer Cases - Current data from Statistics Canada for new cancer cases is included in this QLI report. Though it is based on estimates, it provides a more current picture of the problem than old data from the Ontario Cancer Registry (OCR). The Registry hopes to have 1997 and 1998 data for new cancer cases ready for public release later this year. There is a growing number of new cancer cases, attributable to an aging population and population growth generally. (National Cancer Institute of Canada, 1999). But there are also fewer cancer deaths (see **Context**).

Social Trends

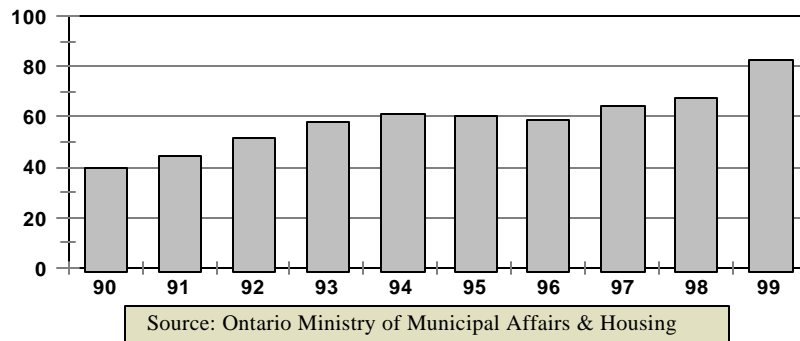
Social Assistance Beneficiaries
Rate per 10,000 population



Child Welfare Admissions to Care
Rate per 10,000 population

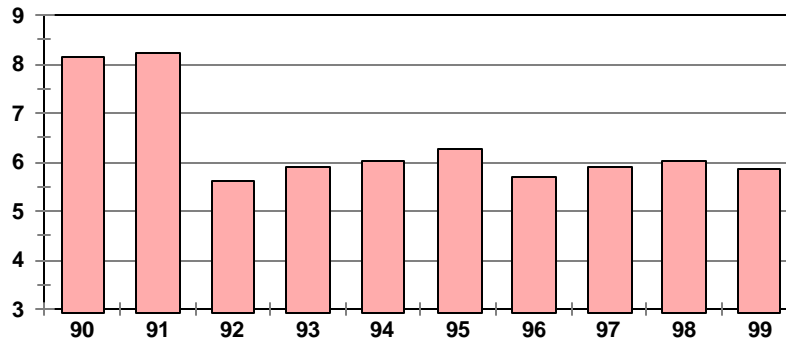


Public Housing Wait Lists
Rate per 10,000 population



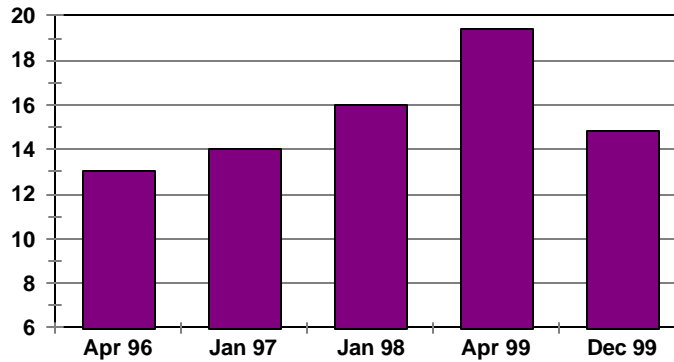
Health Trends

Low Birth Weight Babies
Rate per 100 live births



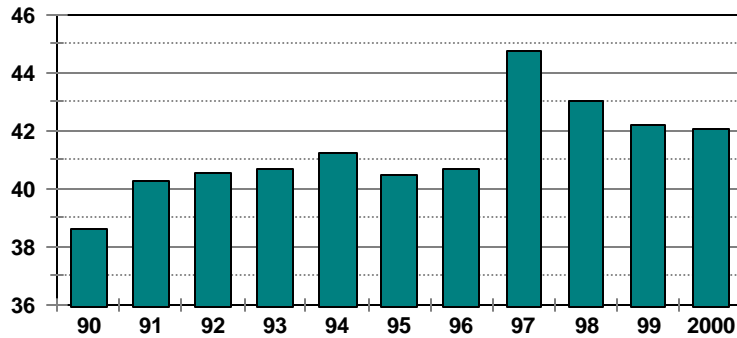
Source: Registrar General of Ontario

Long Term Care Wait Lists
Rate per 10,000 population



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health

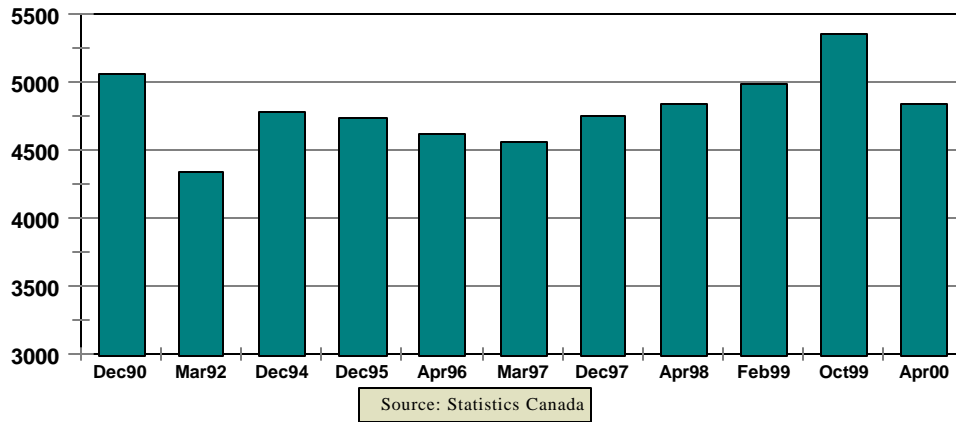
New Cancer Cases
Rate per 10,000 population



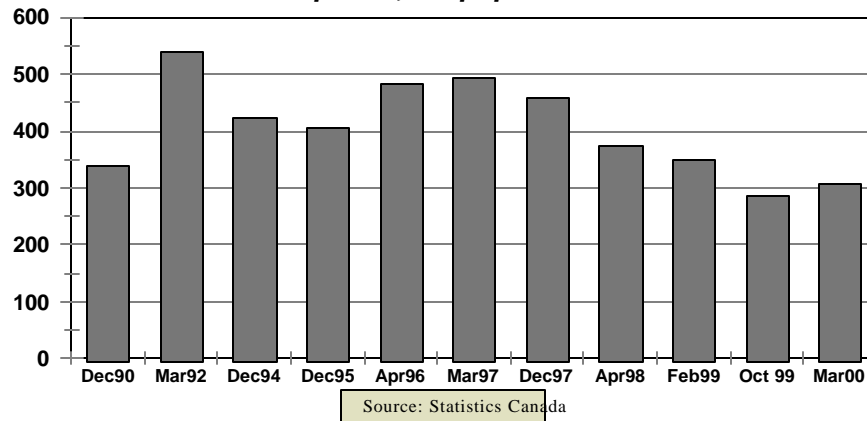
Sources: Ontario Cancer Registry & Statistic Canada

Economic Trends

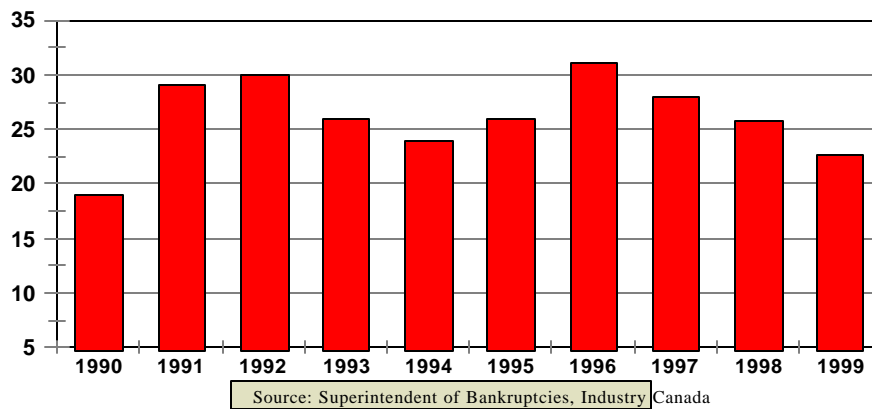
Labour Force Working
Rate per 10,000 population



Labour Force Unemployed
Rate per 10,000 population

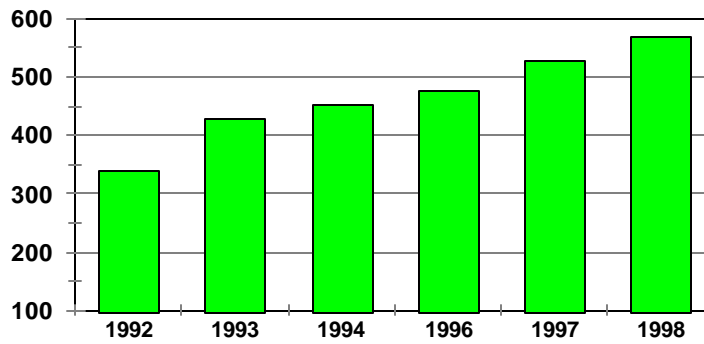


Bankruptcies
Rate per 10,000 population



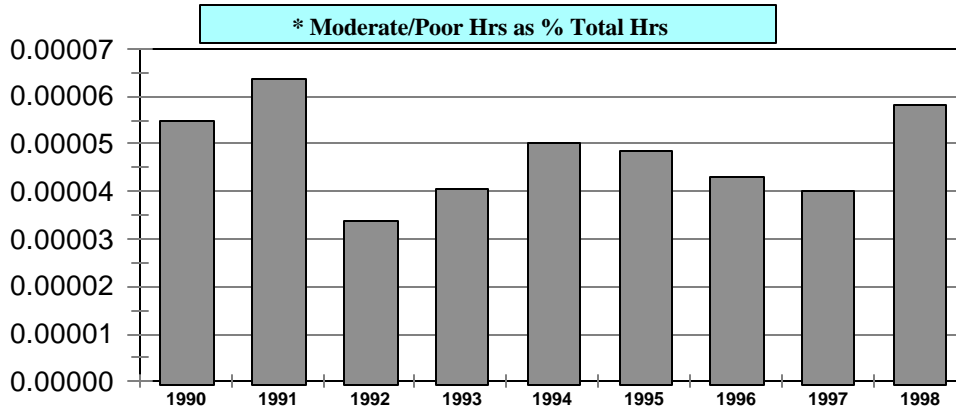
Environmental Trends

Tonnes Recycled to Blue Boxes
Rate per 10,000 population



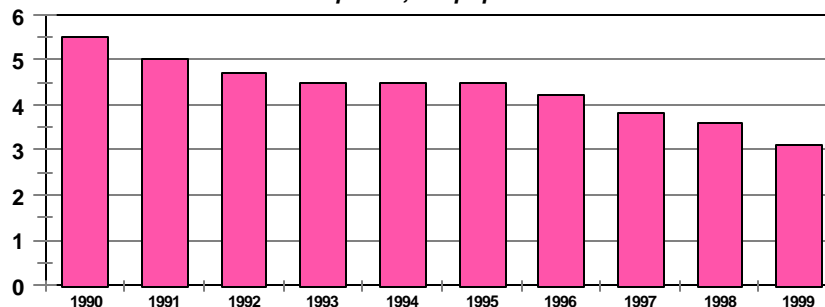
Source: Recycling Council of Ontario

Air Quality *
Rate per 10,000 population



Source: Ontario Ministry of Environment & Energy

Toxic Spills
Rate per 10,000 population



Source: Ontario Ministry of Environment & Energy

Context for the QLI:

News Clips on Quality of Life Issues

Canadians healthier than ever - Most Canadians are living longer and healthier lives than ever before, but poverty is taking a high toll, especially in aboriginal communities, says a new report from Statistics Canada (2000). Middle age boomers and seniors are healthier than they were two decades ago. In terms of child mortality and life expectancy, however, the health of Canadians still varies according to income levels and geography. “Although Canadians with low levels of income and education may have equal access to medically necessary services, they may not have equal access to good health,” says the report produced by the Canadian Centre for Health Information. In Canada’s southern urban communities, average life expectancy is now 79.5 years. But in its poorest regions, it is only 75.7 years, about the same as in the ‘70s. Regarding Canadians 65 and over, they can expect to live longer than their counterparts from the seventies, and they can look forward to a better quality of life. (*Globe and Mail; Toronto Star* - April 1, 2000)

Inequality for poor called ‘sad’ - “Canada should demonstrate its commitment to equality by extending human rights legislation to protect poor people from discrimination”, says the Canadian High Commissioner of Human Rights, Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay in her annual report to Parliament. “It is sad that in a country As wealthy as Canada, the living is good - as long as you can afford it. (*Toronto Star* - March 24, 2000)

Justice failing the poor - The National Council of Welfare reports that the justice system discriminates against the poor, from beginning to finish. “Too many poor people are picked up and charged by the police. Too many poor people are denied bail. Too many poor people get convicted because they can’t afford a lawyer,” says the report, called Justice and the Poor. The Council noted that, although there is very little evidence that poor young people commit more crimes, most young people who are arrested come from poor families. (*Toronto Star* - May 17, 2000)

Toronto tops the 905 poverty list - A new study of urban poverty released by the Canadian Council for Social Development says that Toronto is becoming a city of poor neighbourhoods surrounded by the rich 905 regions. Every part of Toronto has a higher percentage of people living in poverty than the provincial average of 17.7%. In contrast, all the surrounding regions had lower than average percentages of people in poverty. The CCSD used 1996 census data and the Low Income Cut-Offs to define the level of poverty. (*Toronto Star* - April 17, 2000)

Poverty linked to skin colour - Visible minority immigrants have a higher unemployment rate, a lower average income and are more likely to live in poverty than their white counterparts, according to a paper recently presented at the Metropolis Conference. (Harvey, Edward and Reil, Kathleen, University of Toronto, 2000) “After five years of economic recovery, we are still looking at a higher representation of visual minorities below the poverty line,” said Edward Harvey, co-author of the paper. (*Toronto Star* - March 24, 2000)

More single parents collecting welfare - Toronto's Social Services Division reports that almost twice as many single-parent families in Toronto receive social assistance today compared to a year ago. "Single people are getting off welfare rolls, but families are not faring well." (*Toronto Star* - February 16, 2000)

Study links high rents to food banks - Food or rent? A growing number of Ontarians are being forced to choose between the two because of escalating rent costs, reports the Ontario Association of Food Banks. This result is based on the Hunger Count 2000 survey. There was a drop in the number of children using food banks, but an "alarming" increase in adults - single people, seniors, students. "Two thirds of people at food banks are paying over 50 per cent of their income on rent. In Toronto, many people spend 75 percent of their income on rent. We're becoming the grocery stores for the poor," said Devi Arasanayagam, of the Daily Bread Food Bank. There has been a rise in the number of immigrants, students and people with no income using their services. (*Toronto Star* - June 1, 2000)

Homelessness re-announcement - The lead item on the CBC National News on June 2 was the re-announcement of federal funding for homelessness. At its annual meeting in London, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities re-issued its own call for a national housing strategy. Key FCM people have said that the municipal infrastructure program announced in the last federal budget is not a substitute for a national housing program. (*CBC National News* - June 2)

Why is there so much poverty in Canada? - This question was raised by author Mel Hurtig at a recent speech to the United Way of Greater Toronto. Using research by the United Nations and other international agencies, Hurtig said Canada's child poverty rate (16%) is ranked 14th among the world's developed countries. One problem lies in the uneven distribution of income and wealth by the Canadian government. Hurtig also reported that Canada's social spending ranked only 20th out of 29 countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). "Our government badly fails our own people through selfishness, greed, indifference and cruelty, and [forces] our children to struggle through misery, despair and suffering."

New law puts children at risk - Ontario needs to double the number of front-line children's aid workers to handle the increased work load expected from changes in the Child and Family Services Act, according to the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union. The shifting emphasis from families to children whenever abuse or neglect is expected, will lead to a higher workload for already overworked child protection staff. Leah Casselman, of OPSEU, said that the \$106 million announced by the Minister of Community and Social Services in March, 2000 will bring staffing up only to 1995 levels, when the Harris government was elected. (*Toronto Star* - March 30, 2000)

Cancer cases up, death rate declining - The Canadian Cancer Society reports that an individual's risk of dying from cancer continues to reflect the facts that the population is growing and getting older. "The reduced death rate is significant because it shows better treatments, earlier detection by screening, and healthier lifestyles are effective in saving lives," says Dr. Richard Schabas, of Cancer Care Ontario. The annual report, produced in collaboration with Health Canada and Statistics Canada is based on data from provincial and territorial cancer registries. (*Toronto Star* - April 14, 2000)

Ottawa, Ontario let Great Lakes cleanup pact die - The Great Lakes could soon become dirtier

because the agreement between Ontario and the federal government calling for joint cleanup actions on the lakes has been allowed to expire. This could prompt a deterioration in water quality of the four Great Lakes in Canadian territory, after decades of steady improvements, according to environmentalists. The recovery of the lakes, begun in the 1970s, has been one of the world's major environmental success stories. By some measures, the lakes are in the best condition in at least 50 years. (*Globe and Mail* - April 1, 2000)

Water pollution still on the rise - The number of illegal discharges of hazardous chemical waste from industries into Ontario's lakes and rivers rose from 1000 in 1996 to more than 3,300 in 1998, according to government records obtained by the Sierra Legal Defense Fund. The report is based on government records of waste discharges at levels higher than allowed on the operating permits for companies issued by the Ministry of Environment. "The results of the study indicate that doing business in Ontario is good for polluters and bad for the environment," the report concluded. A ministry spokesperson said that the ministry tries to work with companies to improve pollution controls, rather than rush to lay charges under the Environmental Protection Act. (*Toronto Star* - May 15, 2000)

National water crisis forecast - Pollution, habitat destruction and climate warming will compromise Canada's freshwater supplies so dramatically in the next 50 years that freshwater fisheries could disappear and drinking water supplies will be in a state of crisis. This warning has been delivered by one of the world's leading water experts, David Schindler, at the University of Alberta. (*Globe and Mail*, June 7, 2000)

Ontario 3rd worst polluter on continent - Ontario is the third worst polluter in North America, and environmental experts say it's because of a "sad lack of federal and provincial regulations" controlling industries that emit hazardous chemicals into the air we breathe. Ontario's ranking comes from *Taking Stock 1997*, produced by the Commission for Environmental Co-operation, an agency created by the North American Free Trade Agreement. Provincial and federal legislation on air quality has not been amended since the '70s, said Mark Winfield, director of Research for the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law. (*Toronto Star* - May 31, 2000)

Ontario's environment on the downswing? - The Ontario government has repeatedly been criticized for its lack of interest in the environment. The Ministry of the Environment has seen 40 percent of its budget cut in the past five years and many of the Ministry's tasks are now being managed by private organizations. The current water crisis in Walkerton may be the tip of the iceberg in terms of the cumulative damage of these changes. (*Globe and Mail*, May 30, 2000)

Ontario admits role in deaths: Water guidelines not followed in Walkerton pollution tragedy - "The Ontario government admitted yesterday that it violated its own guidelines when it failed to tell health officials about water contamination detected six weeks before a bacterial outbreak that has killed five people." (*Globe & Mail*, May 30, 2000)

Ottawa failed in smog plan - The federal government's environmental watchdog says that Canada's plan to fight the smog that kills thousands of Canadians every year has flopped. The federal government estimates that 5,000 people die prematurely each year in 11 major Canadian cities because of air

pollution. “Governments agreed on a plan, but they did not implement it,” says Richard Smith, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, in his annual report. (*Toronto Star* - May 31, 2000)

Toronto smog kills 1,000 a year - Toronto’s Health Department reports that about 1,000 people die prematurely in the Toronto area every year because of air pollution - and conditions are getting worse. *Toronto Air Pollution Burden of Illness* is based on hospital records. “It’s killing 20 times as many people as there are murders in Toronto,” says Councillor Jack Layton, chairman of the city’s environmental task force. In addition to the deaths, 5,500 people are admitted to hospital for smog-related problems. (*Toronto Sun* - May, 18, 2000)

Ministers back national clean-air plan - Canada’s environment ministers have set new national air pollution standards they say will help reduce the smog that’s prematurely killing thousands of Canadians every year. Ontario has agreed to a goal of reducing smog by 45% by 2010. The ministers have also agreed to a 2010 target for reducing fine particulate matter - small particles that can cause breathing problems. (*Toronto Star*, June 7, 2000)

New Reports on Quality of Life Issues

Canadians working longer for less pay

A study by the Centre for Policy Alternatives concludes that Canadians are now working longer hours at more precarious jobs for less pay than a decade ago. The report notes that recent growth in the economy has driven corporate profits up and helped lower the unemployment rate, but that fundamental problems remain.

Falling Behind: The State of Working Canada, 2000, is the first comprehensive account of how the poor economic performance and government cutbacks of the 1990s have adversely affected most Canadians.

“The major imbalance in the economy right now is that strong economic growth has not spilled over to working people,” says Andrew Jackson, senior economist at the Canadian Labour Congress and co-author of the report.

Co-author David Robinson, public policy director at the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says that cuts to government services have also played a role in eroding the living standards of working Canadians. “Most working people lose out when public services like health care and education are cut back, because they have to purchase those lost services in the marketplace, and often at a higher price. The impact of the cuts of the 1990s is now showing up in household budgets.”

Other highlights of the report:

* Average weekly earnings, adjusted for inflation, grew just 2.8% from 1989 to 1998. And, despite strong economic growth in 1999, there was no increase in real weekly earnings.

* The average after-tax and after transfer income of Canadians fell by 5.6% over the 1990s, with poorer families experiencing a decline of 12%.

Personal security of Canadians increases

The personal security of Canadians increased between 1998 and 1999, although people’s perceptions of their security did not improve as much as did their actual circumstances, reports the Canadian Council on Social Development in its new report, *Personal Security Index 2000*.

The Personal Security Index (PSI) is a tool that measures changes in the economic and physical security of Canadians. The PSI focuses on the basics of living: whether Canadians have enough money to get by and have resources they can count on in times of need; whether they live in good health and have access to necessary health services; and whether they are safe from crime and accidents.

The PSI includes a data index and a perception index, based on a national opinion survey. People’s

economic security dropped in 1999 as measured by the hard data, but people's perceptions of their economic security improved.

There are three groups who consistently rate their security lower than do others: people with lower incomes, those with lower levels of education, and lone-parents. The report concludes that more attention must be paid to make sure that improvements in personal security are extended to all Canadians, regardless of their income, education level, or family situation.

Bringing Down the Barriers: The Labour Market and Women with Disabilities in Ontario

In Ontario, over half a million adult women have a disability and almost one in three of these women lives in poverty, according to a new report from the Canadian Council on Social Development. The best defense against poverty for persons with disabilities is employment, but women with disabilities also have one of the lowest rates of labour force participation of any group of adults in the province.

The rate of disability increased between 1991 and 1996 in Ontario and across Canada. Some of the largest increases in Ontario were among women. This means that an increasing proportion of women are also likely to live in poverty unless they can obtain well-paying jobs.

While women and men with disabilities are typically both affected by the same barriers to employment, they are not always affected to the same degree or in the same way. Because of their gender and their disability, women often face a unique obstacle course when trying to navigate their way through the world of work.

Several strategies are recommended:

- * Delinking income programs from disability-related supports and services.
- * Creating a stable environment in which persons can move between paid employment and income support programs with ease.
- * Improving opportunities for better paying jobs.
- * Changing social attitudes about people with disabilities.

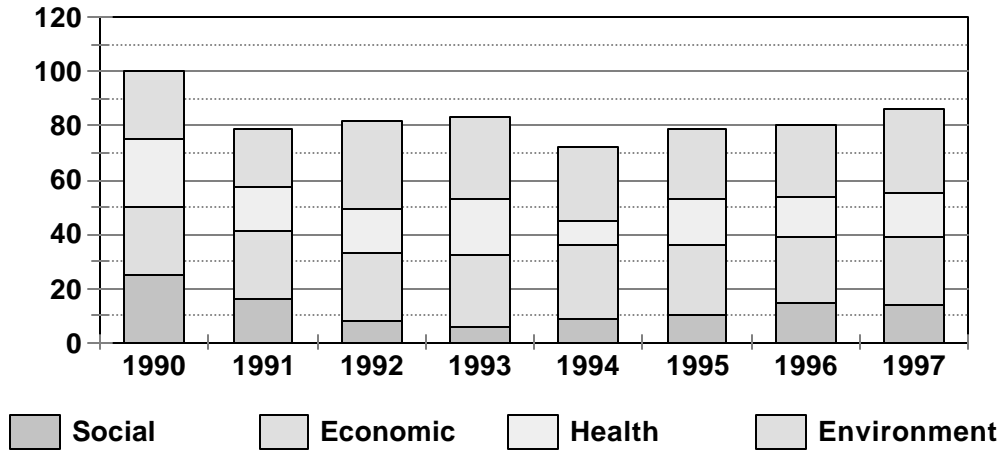
Community Quality of Life

There are twenty community partners in the Quality of Life Index Project. Many of them have produced at least one local QLI report. The following table shows the general direction of progress and setbacks for these communities.

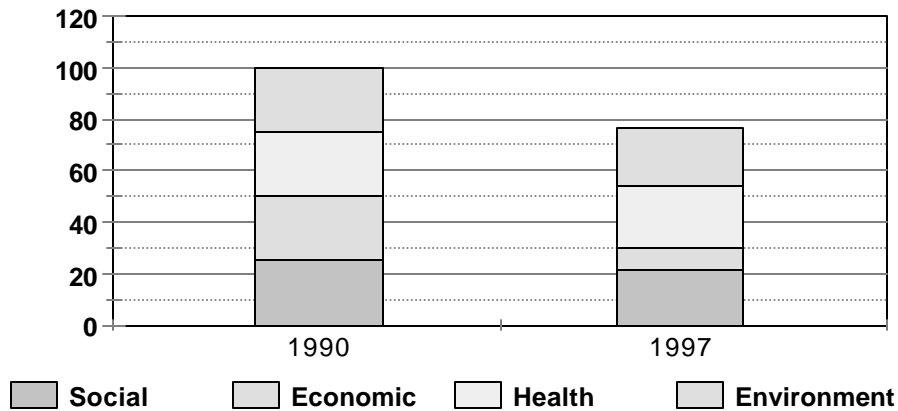
Community QLIs	Social	Economic	Health	Environment
Brant	0	0	0	0
Guelph-Wellington	0	0	0	0
Halton	0	0	0	0
Hamilton-Wentworth	0	0	0	0
North Bay	0	0	0	0
Ottawa-Carleton	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	0	0	0	0
Quinte	0	0	0	0
Sault Ste. Marie	0	0	0	0
Thunder Bay	0	0	0	0
Toronto	0	0	0	0
Waterloo	0	0	0	0

The charts on the following pages provide a closer look at each of these communities.

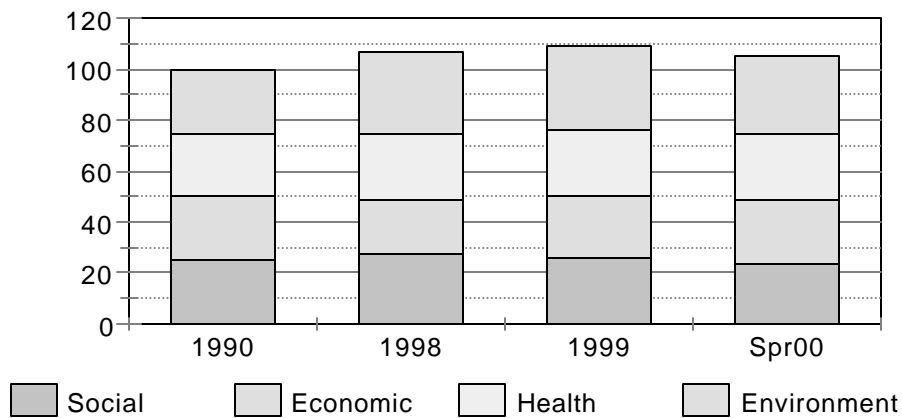
QLI Brant



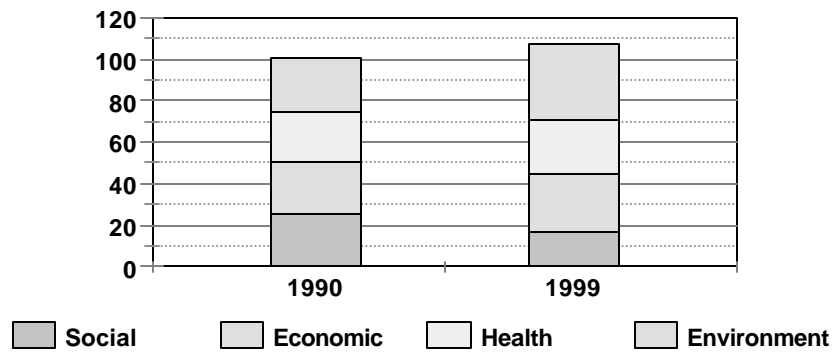
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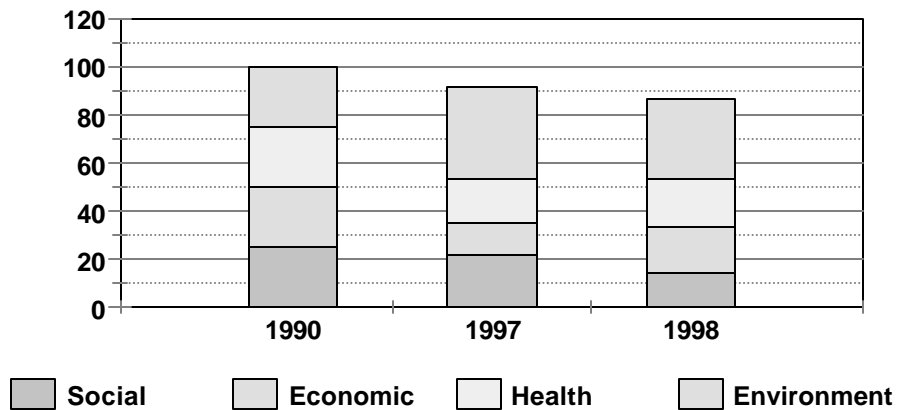
QLI Quinte



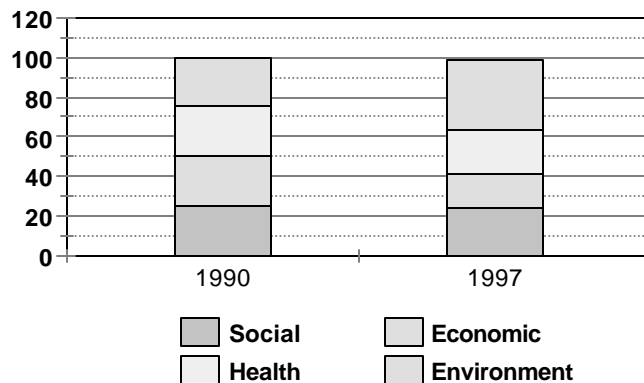
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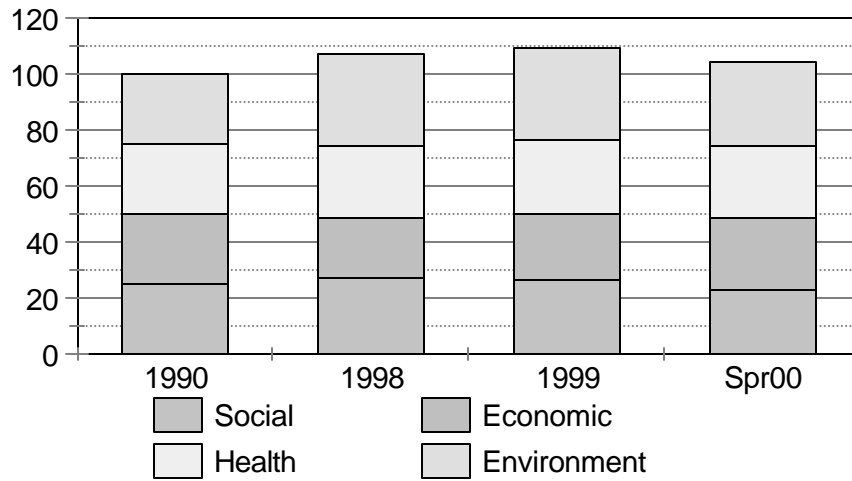
QLI North Bay



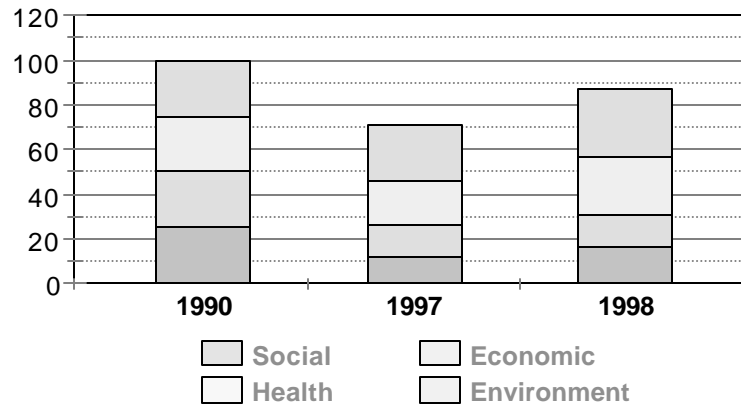
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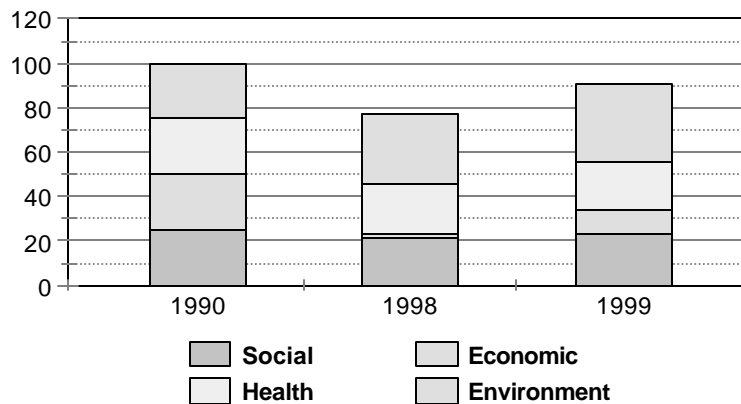
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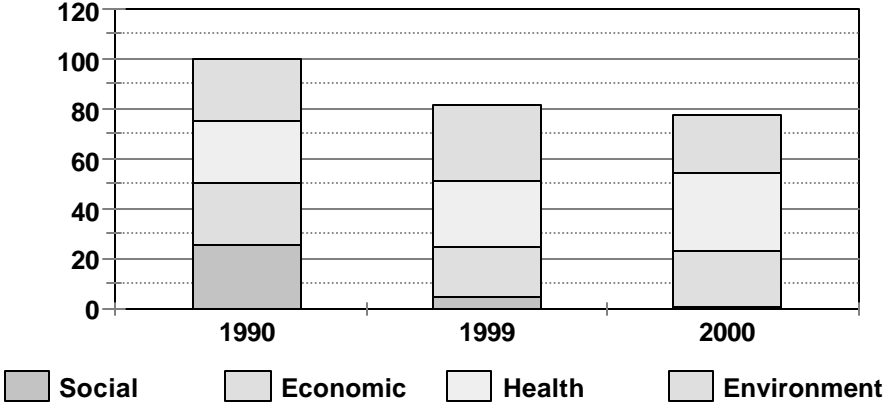
QLI Sault Ste. Marie



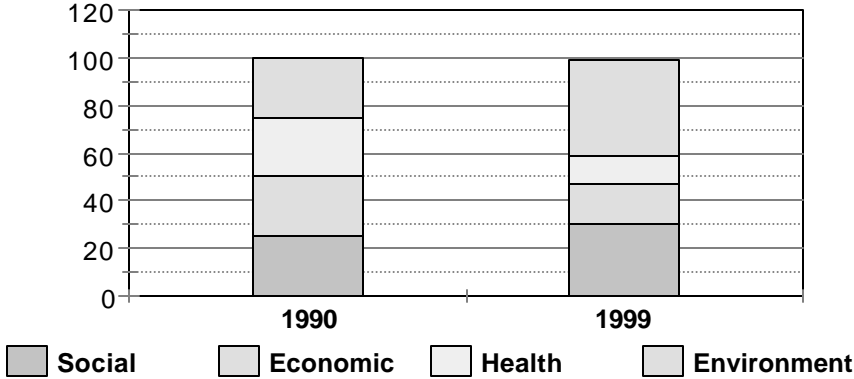
QLI Thunder Bay



QLI Toronto



QLI Waterloo



21st Century Quality of Life: A Global View

The quality of life in Ontario is attracting attention on the global scene. Ontario's Quality of Life Index was selected for presentation at the *Second International Conference on the Quality of Life in Cities: 21st Century Quality of Life*, held in Singapore in March, 2000. It was a great opportunity to showcase the QLI and to learn about quality of life issues in other countries.

A number of issues were identified in the course of the conference deliberations about measuring and monitoring quality of life (QOL):

- T Comprehensive, holistic frameworks for QOL are still in early stages of development.
- T If one were to characterize all of the QOL indicators, including both positive and negative attributes, in two words or less, it would be "income distribution."
- T The most important objective of measuring QOL is informing policy-makers and bringing about positive change where indicators show a lack of progress.
- T Measurements of the QOL are moving targets, with an extremely short shelf-life.
- T Monitoring the quality of life has become linked to regional development by reinforcing the relationship between economic prosperity and community well-being.
- T Recognising that notions of livability vary between different communities of people, but that they are grounded in places, there is scope for new studies of community QOL.
- T Key Indicators of QOL should be regionally focussed and differentiated.
- T Quality of life studies provide a critical starting point for mobilising the capacity of regions, leaders, and local communities through self-assessment.

We will use this new knowledge as we work toward improving the quality of life in Ontario's communities.

Report by:

Malcolm Shookner
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June 12, 2000

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Appendix 2 - QLI Background Papers

The Quality of Life in Ontario - 1997 (disposible en francais)

The Quality of Life in Ontario - Spring 1998

The Quality of Life in Ontario - Fall 1998 (disposible en francais)

The Quality of Life in Ontario - Spring 1999

The Quality of Life in Ontario - Fall 1999

Annotated Bibliography

Literature Review

Methodology Report (disposible en francais)

Summary of Indicators

Visit our website for more information:

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Appendix 3 - Calculating the QLI - Spring 2000

INDICATORS	BASE YEAR	BASE RATE/10,000	BASE QLI VALUE	CURRENT YEAR	CURRENT RATE/10,000	% CHANGE	QLI IMPACT	QLI Spring 2000
SOCIAL INDICATORS								
1: Social Assistance Ben.	1990	779.9	8.3	2000	693.0	-11.1%	POS	9.2
2: Admissions to CAS Care	1992	8.4	8.3	1999	10.0	19.0%	NEG	6.7
3: Ontario Housing W. Lists	1990	43.1	8.3	1999	82.4	91.2%	NEG	0.7
SOCIAL COMPOSITE			25					16.7
ECONOMIC INDICATORS								
4: Labour Force Working	1990	4991.5	8.3	2000	4832.1	-3.2%	NEG	8.0
5: Labour Force Unemployed	1990	295.5	8.3	2000	306.7	3.8%	NEG	8.0
6: # of Bankruptcies	1990	19.1	8.3	1999	22.7	18.8%	NEG	6.7
ECONOMIC COMPOSITE			25					22.8
HEALTH INDICATORS								
7: # New Cancer Cases	1990	38.6	8.3	2000	42.1	9.1%	NEG	7.5
8: Long Term Care W. Lists	1996	13.2	8.3	1999	14.8	12.1%	NEG	7.3
9: Low Birth Weight Babies	1990	8.1	8.3	1999	5.9	-27.2%	POS	10.6
HEALTH COMPOSITE			25					25.4
ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS								
10: Hours Poor/Mod Air Quality	1990	5.7	8.3	1998	6.6	15.8%	NEG	7.0
11: Spills Reported	1990	5.5	8.3	1999	3.1	-43.6%	POS	11.9
12: Tonnes Div. to Blue Boxes	1992	340.0	8.3	1998	569.2	67.4%	POS	13.9
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPOSITE			25					32.8
QLI COMPOSITE INDEX			100					97.7

Appendix 4 - References

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