

048 Toronto (Canada)

4.9 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

| Name | Population | % of total | Area, km ² | Density, people/km ² |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Toronto | *2.481.494 | 8,2 | 939 | 2.642 |
| Greater Toronto Area | *5.081.755 | 16,9 | 6.327 | 803 |
| Province of Ontario | *11.410.046 | 38,0 | 1.076.395 | 10,6 |
| Canada | *30.007.094 | 100 | 9.984.670 | 3,0 |
| | **32.507.113 | | | 3,2 |

* Data from 2001 census by *Statistics Canada*.

** Estimation by *Statistics Canada* for July 2004.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

| Name | Designation | Number of Municipalities |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Toronto | City of Toronto | 1 Municipality 44 Municipal Districts |
| Greater Toronto Area | Greater Toronto Area (GTA) | 1 Municipality: City of Toronto* 4 Regional Municipality: Durham, Halton, Peel and York 24 Municipal Areas: Pickering, Ajax, Uxbridge, Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Aurora, Newmarket, King, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Mono, Orangeville, Oakville, Milton, Halton Hills, Burlington, New Tecumseth, Bradford and West Gwillimbury |
| Province of Ontario | Province of Ontario | 1 Province 11 Municipalities* 7 Regional Municipalities 26 Counties 10 Districts |
| Canada | Canada | Federal structure composed by: 10 Provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador 3 Territories: Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut |

*Municipalities in Canada are often urban and referred also as Megacities. These are formed by the aggregation of former regional municipalities, and composed by an urban centre dominant and its suburbs. In the Greater Toronto Area there is a Municipality (Toronto) and four regional municipalities (Peel, York, Durham and Halton).

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Toronto

General Aspects

The municipal government has authority in the following areas: fire prevention, ambulances, police, shelters, day-care centres, housing, parks and recreation, culture, economic development, tourism and heritage, public roads, solid waste management, water supply, the sewer system and traffic.

Mayor

Has municipal executive power. Is responsible for the political leadership of the city. Elected by direct universal suffrage by a simple majority system with a mandate for three years.

City Council

Composed of the Mayor and 44 Councillors. The Council is the most important government organisation and is the legislative body in the city. Councillors are elected for three-year terms and elections are carried out by majority vote in single-member electoral districts. Councillors also participate in the Committees of Council and the Community Council of the district where they were elected.

Committees of Council

Committees that discuss the budgets, services and administrative affairs later forwarded to the Council for final discussion and approval. During these meetings, the Councillors hear the opinions of citizens, business leaders and social groups. They can be classified into three groups: Community Councils (corresponding to the districts and making recommendations on planning and local development), Standing Committees (public services and corporate operations) and other Committees.

Senior Management Team

Made up of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and six commissioners. The CAO coordinates the administration of the City of Toronto and helps the Council develop policies and services. The commissioners are responsible for the following departments: Works and Emergency Services, Finances, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Urban Development Services, Corporate Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism.

Public Organisations

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)

This public company operates the bus, tram and subway system in the City of Toronto.

Toronto Hydro Corporation

This group of companies affiliated to Toronto City Council performs the following tasks: it distributes energy, it is responsible for city lighting services, develops and sells products for improved energy efficiency and manages the fibre-optics infrastructure.

Greater Toronto Area

General Aspects

There is no administration with general direct authority for the territory of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Greater Toronto Transit Authority (GTTA) – GO Transit

The public transport system that joins the City of Toronto with the rest of the GTA. A public company with resources from the three levels of government: national, provincial and municipal.

Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA)

A public corporation governed by a committee of 15 people appointed by the regional municipalities and the City of Toronto, and the provincial and national governments. The main function is to provide the GTA with a system of airports that meets demands. It directly manages, operates and maintains Toronto International Airport.

Ontario Province

General Aspects

The Province has authority over direct taxes, natural resources, prisons, social welfare institutions, hospitals, municipal institutions, civil and patrimonial law, civil rights, the justice administration and education.

Lieutenant Governor

It is the official representative of the Monarchy in Ontario. Appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Lieutenant Governor acts as the Head of State in the Province. It carries out symbolic and political tasks such as advising the leader of the majority party to seek the support of the Legislative Assembly to become the Premier and form a government, or opening the sessions of parliament. The Lieutenant Governor may dissolve the Houses of Parliament upon the request of the Premier of Ontario.

Premier

The Premier has executive power in Ontario Province. To be appointed, the Lieutenant Governor asks the leader of the party or coalition with the most support in the Parliament to form a government and become the Premier for a five-year term of office.

Parliament

The Parliament is the unicameral assembly with legislative power in the Province. The 125 members of the Parliament are chosen by simple majority vote in single-member electoral districts for a mandate of five years.

Canada

King or Queen

The Monarch is the hereditary and lifelong Head of State. The Sovereign does not have many political powers and usually acts as an adviser to the Canadian Primer Minister.

Governor General

Is the Monarchy representative in Canada. He or she is usually a retired Canadian politician or prominent figure in the country chosen by the Monarch to advise the Prime Minister of Canada. Formally, the Governor General gives the royal approval to laws, reads royal speeches before institutions, sanctions State documents and dissolves the sessions of Parliament upon the Prime Minister's request or at the end of each five-year term.

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister has executive power in Canada. Under the PM's leadership, the government determines and leads the politics of the nation, addresses governmental action and is responsible for the execution of laws. The PM is politically responsible to the Parliament. Following elections to the House of Commons, the Governor General asks the leader of the party or coalition with the most support in the House of Commons to form a government and be the Prime Minister.

Parliament

Parliament is made up of two Chambers (the Senate and the House of Commons). Both Chambers exercise control of the government as well as their legislative functions. The Senate has the same powers as the House of Commons except in financial matters, where the Commons has priority. The 308 members of the House of Commons are chosen by a simple majority system in single-member districts for five-year terms. The 105 senators are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Their mandate is permanent and valid until the age of 75, or if they miss two consecutive sessions of parliament.

4. Relevant web sites and online documents

City of Toronto: <http://www.city.toronto.on.ca>

Province of Ontario: <http://www.gov.on.ca>

Lieutenant of the Province of Ontario: <http://www.lt.gov.on.ca/>

Legislative Assembly of Ontario: <http://www.ontla.on.ca/>

AMO - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario: <http://www.amo.on.ca/>

GO Transit: <http://www.go transit.com/>

The Greater Toronto Airport Authority – GTAA: <http://www.gt aa.com/>

Toronto Transit Comisión – TTC: <http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/ttc/>

The Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance: <http://www.greater.toronto.on.ca/>

Toronto Hydro Corporation: <http://www.torontohydro.com/>

FCM – Federation of Canadian Municipalities: <http://www.fcm.ca/>

Government of Canada: <http://www.canada.gc.ca/>

Parliament of Canada: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/>

Statistics Canada – The National Statistic Agency: <http://www.statcan.ca/>

Elections Canada: <http://www.elections.ca/>