For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Neighbourhood Information Tool Data by Ward**

FROM: Janice Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide the Neighbourhood Information Tool data for each ward across the Region of Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Neighbourhood Information Tool is an online common data mapping tool that calculates a neighbourhood well-being index score for each census tract[1].
- The data sources include Statistics Canada, Environics (the Canadian Community Health Survey), Peel Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police and municipal libraries and recreation services.
- The Neighbourhood Information Tool was developed through Municipal and Regional partnerships and has been launched for the City of Brampton, the City of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon.
- The Neighbourhood Information Tool's well-being index score provides a strong base to achieve greater understanding of neighbourhoods but does not capture all data and issues.   Additional qualitative information gathered in consultation with community stakeholders and residents is necessary to obtain a more in-depth understanding of neighbourhoods.
- Since its launch, the Neighbourhood Information Tool has been used by Regional and Municipal staff, community agencies and stakeholders to inform priorities, planning, funding applications and services.
- The Neighbourhood Information Tool is continually updated as new data becomes available. Staff is also currently reviewing opportunities to integrate the Neighbourhood Information Tool with other Regional data maps and tools.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

At the November 14, 2019 Regional Council meeting, Council directed staff to provide a data breakdown of population, percentage of youth and economic status for each ward in the Region of Peel as well as to identify the neighbourhoods that are at risk (using the Neighbourhood Information Tool).

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[1] Census Tracts are defined as small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population of between 2,500 and 8,000 persons.

Neighbourhood Information Tool Data by Ward

The Neighbourhood Information Tool (NIT) is a user-friendly platform that combines quantitative and qualitative data for 21 indicators, grouped into six domains to provide a neighbourhood well-being index score. The lower the well-being index score, the more targeted supports, programs, resources and/or investments a neighbourhood may need to improve their well-being. The NIT displays a geographic map with the well-being index scores across each municipality through the shading of census tracts.

The data indicators (e.g. self-rated health, prevalence of low income) are gathered from a variety of sources such as: Statistics Canada, Environics (the Canadian Community Health Survey), Peel Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police, municipal libraries and recreational services.

The NIT was developed through Municipal and Regional partnerships with the City of Brampton, the City of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon. The NIT has been used by Regional and Municipal staff, community agencies and stakeholders to inform priorities, planning and services. For example, community agencies access the NIT to identify service needs and provide an evidence-informed approach to grant applications.

2. **Neighbourhood Information Tool Well-being Index**

The NIT's well-being index score provides a strong base to achieve greater understanding of neighbourhoods. However, it is important to note that the NIT does not capture all the data and issues in neighbourhoods. This type of qualitative information should be gathered in consultation with community stakeholders and residents. Because the information presented is by census tract, it is granular in nature. Planning for new programs, services and investments should be looked at from the level of the community as a whole.

The NIT is a snapshot in time and currently most indicators reflect the 2016 Statistic Canada Census data. In the future when the NIT is updated with more recent data, a historical reference of prior data and well-being index scores will be maintained to enable trending.

3. **Neighbourhood Information Tool Data by Ward**

As requested by Regional Council, Appendix I contains a ward-level overview of the NIT domains which includes youth, economic status and at-risk factors. In partnership with the Peel Data Centre, the following information has been provided for all 245-census tract across Peel's 26 wards. The Neighbourhood Information Tool Data by Ward appendix will provide Councillors with a snapshot of the NIT and includes:

- Neighbourhood Information Tool well-being index maps by municipal and ward areas
- Neighbourhood Information Tool data summary charts at ward-level (includes youth population (age 0-19 years), economic status)
- Neighbourhood Information Tool Data Glossary

The topography (geography) used in the NIT differs from ward-specific geography. Therefore, the ward-level data summary charts include census tracts that cross ward boundaries. Staff will provide a demonstration of the Neighbourhood Information Tool to accompany this report.

Neighbourhood Information Tool Data by Ward

CONCLUSION

The Region of Peel's Neighbourhood Information Tool is a data tool that is used in supporting decision making related to the delivery of appropriate programs and services that meet resident needs at all stages of life. The NIT is continually updated as new data becomes available. Staff is also currently reviewing opportunities to integrate the NIT with other Regional data maps and tools.

To better understand well-being trends and to support policy decisions, Councillors can access the tool online through the Peel Data Centre *(peelregion.ca/planning-maps/nit).* The Peel wide NIT is being shared across Regional departments, municipalities and community stakeholders to increase its usage.

APPENDICES

Appendix I - Neighbourhood Information Tool by Municipal and Ward Areas

For further information regarding this report, please contact Sonia Pace, Director Community Partnerships ext. 3807 or Sandra Solonik, Advisor, Community Investment ext. 4935

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