

## Survey results point to Peel Region's ethnic diversity

By Nick Fernandes

Peel has proven to be one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse regions of Ontario, as of the new results for the voluntary National Household Survey that replaced the national census.

Due to this, the survey may not be entirely representative of Peel's 1.3 million people.

The Region recently released some of the results that it received from Statistics Canada.

More than half of Peel's current population have identified themselves as immigrants, with the percentage being slightly higher than that of Toronto. Half of the more recent immigrants to Peel reportedly hail from India. This amounts to more than 50 per cent of Peel's population being part of a visible minority. The Household Survey also collected information on religious identity, in which nearly 90 per cent identified themselves as religious. Less than 60 per cent of this group said they were Christian, followed by a 10th claiming no religious affiliation, and then Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus, with Peels Sikh population being the highest in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

In terms of employment, a little more than 90 per cent of Peel's population over the age of 15 is part of the labour force, similar to the rate for the entire GTA. Of this sample, over 80 per cent use personal transport to get to their places of work, while a little over a 10th use public transport and the rest walk or cycle.