

Re: AA5.4

Aboriginal Affairs Committee
City of Toronto



Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle



Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle

Gathering the Circle

Circle Partnerships

*Meet the health needs of
Toronto's diverse Indigenous
communities*



**Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle**

 **TORONTO**
Public Health



Ontario

Toronto Central Local Health
Integration Network



SIZE OF TORONTO'S INDIGENOUS POPULATION

According to Statistic Canada's 2011 National Household Survey: **19,265**

Our Health Counts Toronto: **34,000 to 69,000¹**

Our Health Counts study documents high rates of non-participation in the NHS.

INCOME (BEFORE TAXES) – PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS POPULATION LIVING UNDER LOW INCOME CUT OFF



Our Health Counts Toronto: **90%**³

According to Statistic Canada's 2011 National Household Survey: **26%**⁴

Our Health Counts notes that the majority of Indigenous People living in Toronto did not participate in the 2011 NHS and those who did participate had higher incomes. This participation bias is created because the main NHS recruitment method is to send mail to fixed addresses using the voting registrar. People with low incomes are more likely to move frequently or be homeless, and therefore may not receive this mail.

TIHAC ADVISORS: SKILLS, DIRECTIONS AND ELEMENTS

NAME	DIRECTION	ELEMENT
Sara Wolfe, RM Represents families, mothers, children and the unborn	EAST	Seeds of a new generation in a new era
Sarah Midanik Represents the foundational elements of Indigenous languages, cultures and knowledge systems that are essential to health and well being	EAST	Basket holding those things most sacred to our future
Kenn Richard Represents advocacy, heart of the people, and the fulfillment of urban community needs	SOUTH	Eagle feather carrying the prayers of the people to the Creator for a balanced life
Youth Council: Akeesha Footman, Myles Jacko, Sam Kloetstra, Devin Trottier, Kaitlyn Adams-Lewis, Daniella Robinson, Connor Pion, Cedar Landon Carries the new generation's wishes and dreams for the fulfillment of the 8th Fire Prophecy: the rise of Indigenous Nations	SOUTH	Fire in the candle
Larry Frost Carries messages from the Toronto Aboriginal Social Services Committee to TIHAC and back again; aided by the guidance of the Ancestors' sacred direction	WEST	Black and white flags representing the ancestors
Joe Hester Uses tools left by the Ancestors on the pathway for us to pick up to become well and balanced in our relationships with each other and Creation	WEST	Pipe bundle holding sacred guidance from the spirit, traditional knowledge systems and sacred ceremonies
Elders Council: Kahontakwas (Diane) Longboat, Kawennanoron (Cindy) White, Amy Desjarlais Holds the sacred connection to the Spirit during meetings to ensure integrity and transparency in all relationships and issues, as well as sharing wisdom and teachings to guide the work	NORTH	Turtle shell rattle representing truth
Dr. Janet Smylie Uses the best of research and data to "see far ahead" in meeting the needs of Toronto's emerging Indigenous population	NORTH	Guswentha belt (two row wampum) to depict our roles as Indigenous nations and Canadians mutually supporting one another but not interfering or seeking to change one another



**Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle**

**TORONTO
INDIGENOUS
HEALTH STRATEGY**

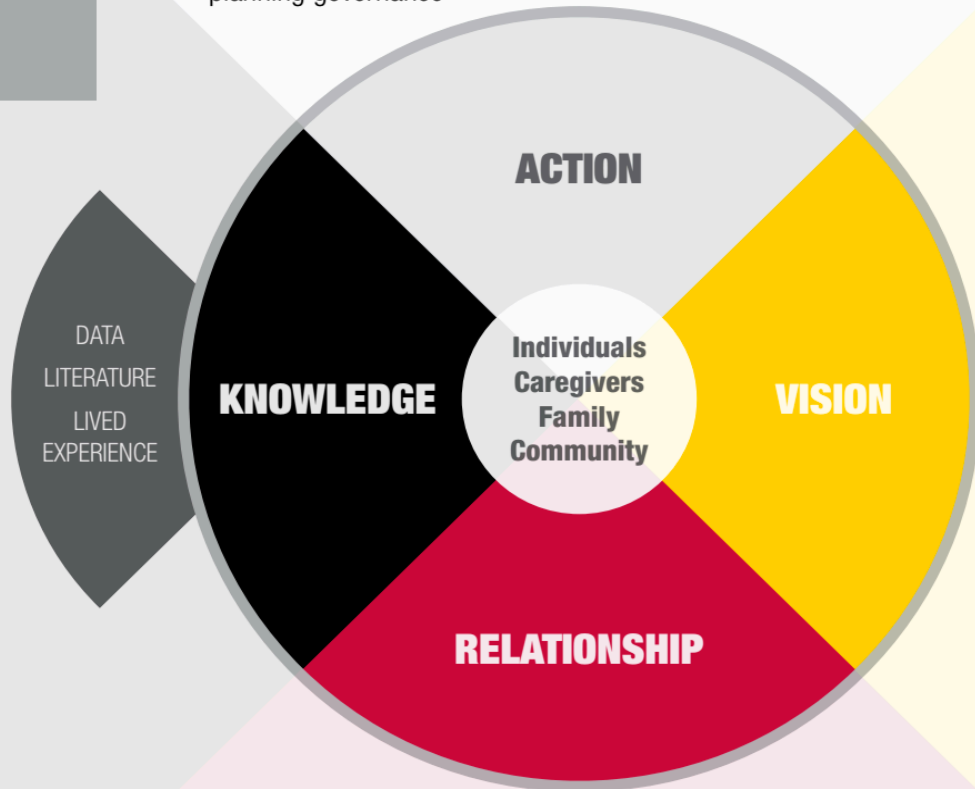
**VISION
WHEEL**

DEVELOPMENT OF:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Toronto Indigenous Health Strategy | Monitoring and evaluation |
| Programs and services | Strategies to influence areas beyond TPH/ TC LHIN mandate |
| Indigenous health research | |
| Permanent Indigenous health planning governance | |

IDENTIFICATION OF:

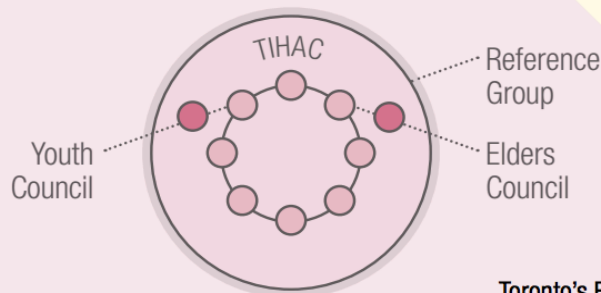
- Indigenous health services and locations
- Research Opportunities
- Indigenous health data and gaps
- Indigenized monitoring and evaluation tools
- Indigenous ways of knowing, well-being and knowledge transfer



DEVELOP STRATEGY:

- Community driven
- Wholistic
- Social determinants of health perspective
- Improve Indigenous health service experiences and quality of care
- Improve Indigenous health outcomes

**TORONTO
INDIGENOUS
HEALTH
ADVISORY
CIRCLE (TIHAC)**



Youth Council

The Youth Council carries the new generations wishes and dreams. It is comprised of seven diverse Indigenous youth which support the TIHAC by inserting an Indigenous youth perspective in decision making and planning through discussion.



Elders Council

The Elders Council is comprised of four esteemed Elders who hold the sacred connection to the Spirit during meetings to ensure integrity and transparency in all relationships and issues; as well as sharing wisdom and teachings to guide the work of the TIHAC.



**Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle**



TIMELINE OF INDIGENOUS HEALTH PLANNING IN TORONTO

INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL

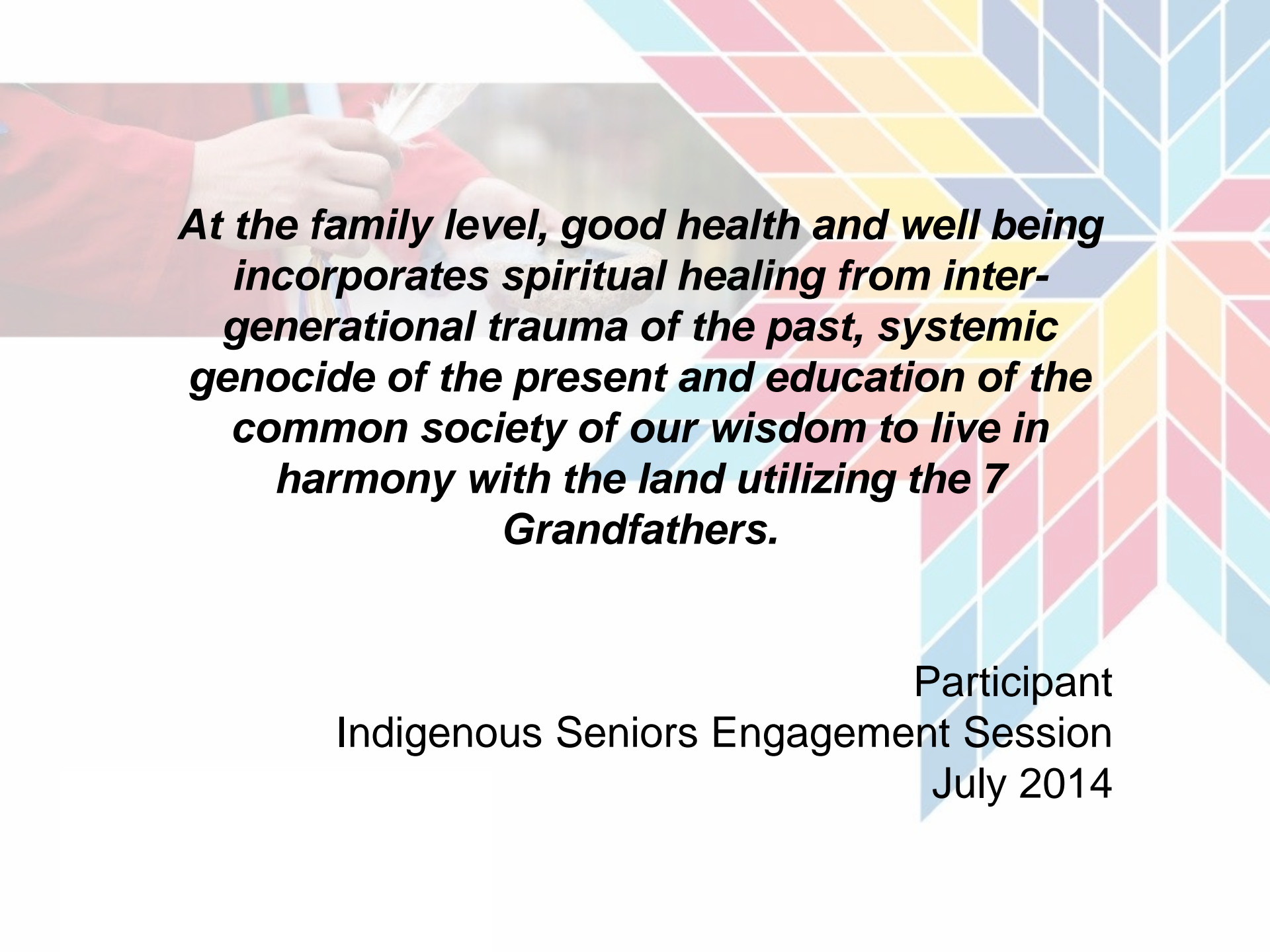
LOCAL



2007

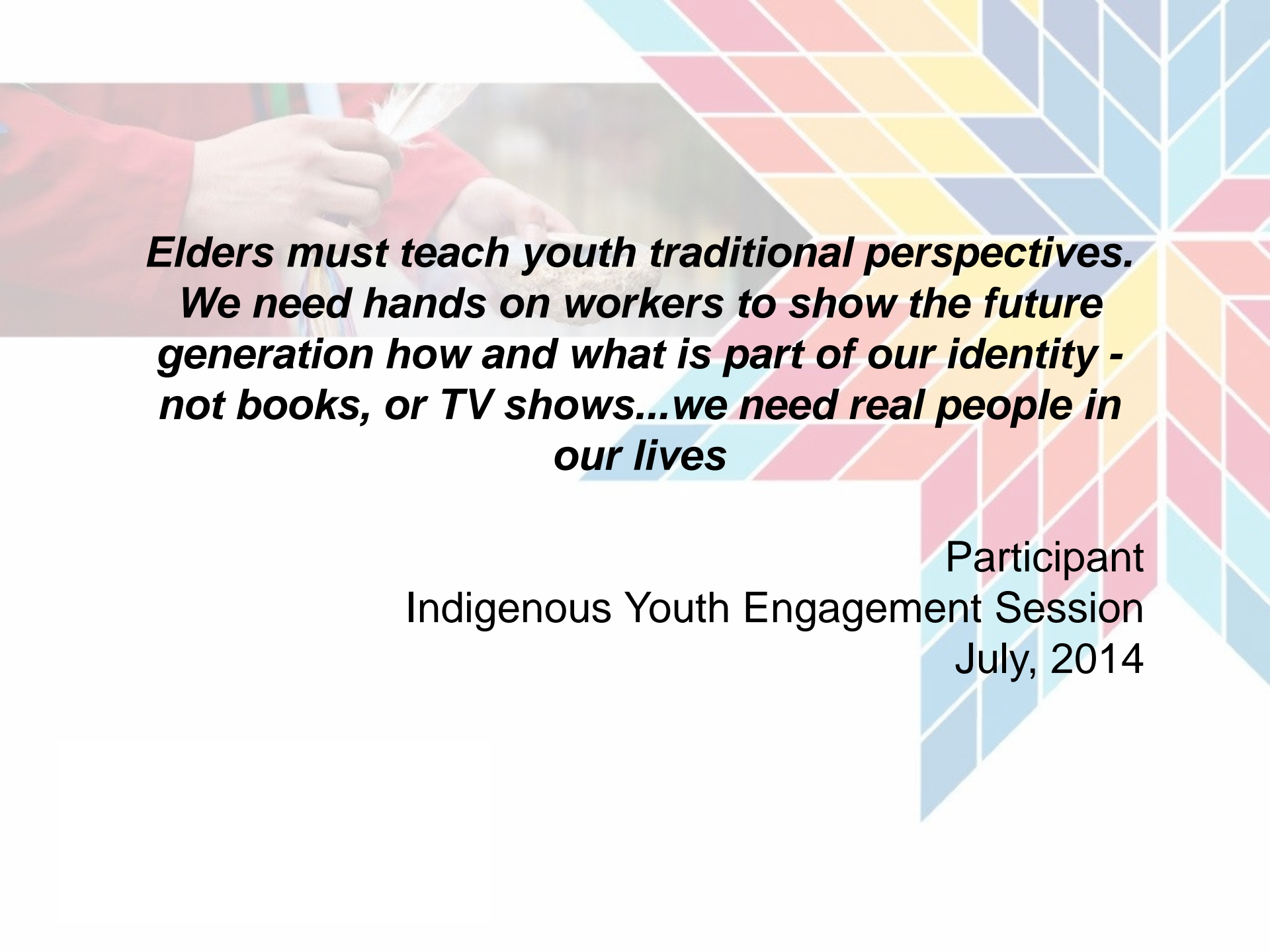
2016



A hand in a red sleeve holds a white feather against a background of colorful geometric patterns in shades of blue, yellow, and pink. The text is overlaid on this background.

At the family level, good health and well being incorporates spiritual healing from inter-generational trauma of the past, systemic genocide of the present and education of the common society of our wisdom to live in harmony with the land utilizing the 7 Grandfathers.

Participant
Indigenous Seniors Engagement Session
July 2014



***Elders must teach youth traditional perspectives.
We need hands on workers to show the future
generation how and what is part of our identity -
not books, or TV shows...we need real people in
our lives***

Participant
Indigenous Youth Engagement Session
July, 2014

Vision

We envision a thriving and healthy Indigenous community in Toronto through the respectful harmonizing of practices, policies and resource allocation.



Mission

To lead transformation in health programs and services toward well-being for Indigenous people in Toronto.



Mandate

1. To guide and advise Toronto Central LHIN and Toronto Public Health in their health programs and services for Indigenous people
2. To influence the policies which impact the health of Indigenous people in this city



Operating Principles

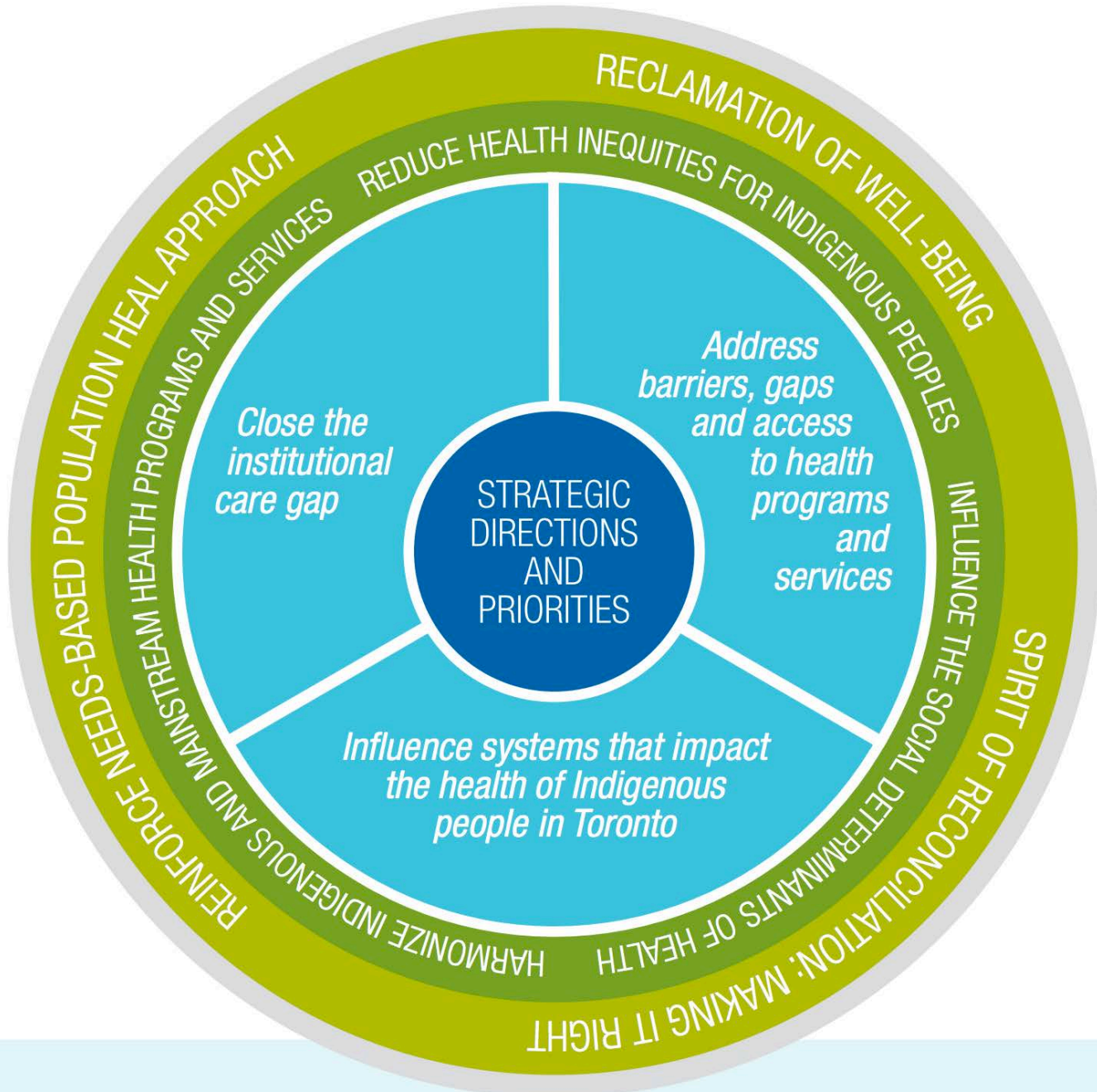
1. Health plans are developed with Indigenous Peoples as full partners
2. Wherever Indigenous Peoples go to access programs and services, that they receive culturally appropriate, safe and proficient care, and all barriers to optimal care have been removed
3. Care is planned to be responsive to community to needs and is appropriate, efficient, effective and high quality at both systems and interpersonal levels
4. Dedicated resources and funding for Indigenous Health programs and services will support a coordinated and collaborative system
5. Leverage and build the capacity of Indigenous leadership and Indigenous communities to care for themselves





Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle

A Reclamation of Well Being



Strategic Direction #1

Reduce Health Inequities

- Better integration of health care systems in collaboration with Indigenous organizations
- Increasing investment in cultural proficiency
- Development of an Indigenous healing and caring telephone line
- Integrate more Indigenous system navigators into the health system
- Ensure health care spaces are welcoming and inclusive
- Increase investment in culturally safe care for chronic diseases
- Support the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action with a focus on seniors



Strategic Direction #2

Influence the Social Determinants of Health

- Address racism in housing
- Housing for youth, seniors, pregnant women, Two-Spirited and LGBTQ
- Accessible healthy food and gardens
- Advocate for the development of a well equipped centre of excellence which prepares Indigenous youth for entrance into post-secondary education
- Advocate within justice system for culturally appropriate court processes for Indigenous women attending family court
- Support programming which addresses violence
- Advocate within justice system



Strategic Direction #3

Harmonize Indigenous and Mainstream Health Programs and Services

- Support new and existing Public Health promotion programs to be culturally appropriate
- Support new and existing palliative care that integrate an Indigenous world view
- Culturally secure health promotion
- Investigate the development of a live-in family healing and caring lodge
- Mental Health and Addictions are a seamless network of culturally secure and trauma based care providers





Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle

Realizing the Vision

What is your vision of a healthy and thriving Indigenous community in Toronto in 2050?

“I am hoping that people will enjoy equity, make a living and enjoy their rights. I hope they have access to services and most importantly, to education. The Circle can look to the youth to guide our future.”

Ruth Anne Cyr, Community Elder

“It’s a living process, and so it moves with the time. There is a continual dialogue in the community about what a healthy Indigenous community can look like.”

Joe Hester, Executive Director, Anishnawbe Health Toronto

“I see a thriving and healthy Indigenous community where Indigenous patients can move seamlessly through the health care system, where cultural elements of care are offered as a choice with every interaction, and where Indigenous people are determining their own pathways to health that are meaningful to them.”

Susan Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network

“This is a model of Indigenous health in Indigenous hands. We can only be successful with the community. I think that this is particularly true of the Indigenous community if we work in partnership and take our lead from members of the Indigenous community themselves.”

Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto





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