



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

June 25, 2019

Dear City of Toronto Economic and Community Development Committee:

ITEM #1: Grants Policy and Indigenous Considerations

On behalf of the Toronto Aboriginal Support services Council, better known as TASSC. We are submitting our comments in support of the amendments containing reference to greater Indigenous inclusion for the city-wide grants policy and principles documents. In honour of the steps the City is and has been taking to build better relations and bridges with the urban Indigenous community, including TASSC and beyond; we feel these amendments are reflective of tangible change needed to advance on outcomes related to Reconciliation and in ensuring equitable access to funding for Indigenous organizations, collectives and entities.

We worked closely with our friends and partners in SDFA; notably, Barbara Powell and Jennifer Hoffman to co-develop policy contents referring to greater awareness of the unique considerations for Indigenous applicants and we are pleased at the progress made in true partnership to advance on outcomes for greater Indigenous access and inclusion in city grantmaking as a result of these amendments.

We hope you will support the efforts that we have made in collaboration toward a new way forward for Indigenous organizations, entities and collectives to gain greater access to funding in a self-determining manner, while also supporting awareness raising among grant makers across city divisions to better understand Indigenous issues, applicants and needs toward the continued collective building in support of healthy vibrant urban Indigenous communities.

In Kindness,

Lindsay (Swooping Hawk) Kretschmer
Executive Director

&



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

The Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council

2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations
Aboriginal Legal Services
Association for Native Development in the Performing & Visual
Arts/Arts Indigena
Miziwe Biik Employment and Training
Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
Na Me Res (Native Men's Residence)
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
Nishnawbe Homes
Thunder Woman's Healing Lodge Society
Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
Toronto Inuit Association
Wigwamen Inc.
Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle
Toronto & York Region Métis Council
Urban Indigenous Education Centre
Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy

