



April 2, 2014

Dear Chair and Members of the Executive Committee,

Re: Premature Death Among Members of Toronto's Aboriginal Community: Walking in their Shoes

On March 26, 2014 the Aboriginal Affairs Committee met and discussed item **AA16.3 – Premature Death Among Members of Toronto's Aboriginal Community: Walking in their Shoes**. Dr. Shah of Anishnawbe Health Toronto submitted his report and gave a presentation to the Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

Dr. Shah's report traced the average age of death and causes of death amongst aboriginal people living in Toronto over the past several years. His findings were disturbing. The average age of death for the aboriginal community was 37, compared to 75 years of age for Torontonians overall.

The report delved deeper into the causes of death and points to the root cause of this shocking finding to deeper impacts of colonial & postcolonial policies on social determinants of health: Assimilation Policy, Systemic Discrimination, and Cultural Disruption.

In the view of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee, the findings of this report should be presented to the Executive Committee for their consideration.

Recommendation:

- 1) The Aboriginal Affairs Committee forwards the report and presentation from Dr. Shah to the Executive Committee for information.

Sincerely,

Mike Layton
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