Children's Services 2015-2019
Service Plan: 
Progress Updates 
& Aboriginal Child Care Consultation

Aboriginal Affairs Committee
February 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2016
Delivered by Elaine Baxter-Trahair, General Manager of Children’s Services
Children’s Services Commitment

Children’s Services recognizes that Indigenous children and families have unique needs, cultures, languages and histories.

We are committed to:

• Identifying and meeting the needs of Indigenous children and families in culturally responsive ways.

• Improving access to services and quality of services for Indigenous families in Toronto, in partnership with Indigenous service providers.
Broader Commitments and Priorities
The Role of Children’s Services

- Service System Manager
  - Provincially legislated
  - Planning and managing child care & early years services

- Service Provider
  - Directly operate TELCCS
  - Special Needs Resourcing

- Strategic Leader
  - Promote positive child outcomes
  - Promote healthy communities
  - Pursue research & evidence based practices/policy
Strengthen partnerships with the Aboriginal community by providing ongoing support to the Aboriginal Advisory and Planning Committee and regular, targeted engagement initiatives.
Strategic Directions

The 2015-2019 Children’s Services Service Plan includes Strategic Directions for the next five years:

1. Access to High Quality Child Care
2. Inclusive Support for All Families
3. Engagement, Partnership, and Communication
4. Systems Change
5. Leadership
Expand Aboriginal cultural competency across the system

Exploring Indigenous Curriculum for Non-indigenous Early Learning Environments

Keynote Speaker
Kahontakwas Diane Longboat, M.Ed
Speaker of the Governing Council of Soul of the Mother

Monique Gray Smith – Little Drum Consulting
Increase the number of culturally-specific spaces

Work with the Aboriginal community to increase the number of culturally-specific spaces for Aboriginal children through a variety of approaches.
Work to date

• Voluntary Self ID
• Viability of existing Aboriginal child care
• Increased support in navigating the subsidy system
• Child Care Demand Study
Increasing Culturally Specific Child Care

1. Support the development of new culturally specific child care spaces

2. Explore other opportunities (ie. Home Child Care)