



Toronto Aboriginal Support Services
Council

***Building Relationships with the
City of Toronto***

- Presented by Crystal Basi, Executive Director, TASSC



TASSC Background

TASSC grew out of the Toronto Aboriginal Social Services Association (TASSA) – a network of Indigenous support services agencies that endeavored to work together to bring about collective change in Toronto's Indigenous communities

In 2009 TASSA commissioned the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) which resulted in the TARP Report; Toronto's most comprehensive research report on Toronto's Indigenous community

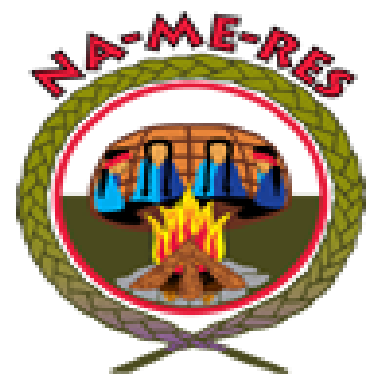
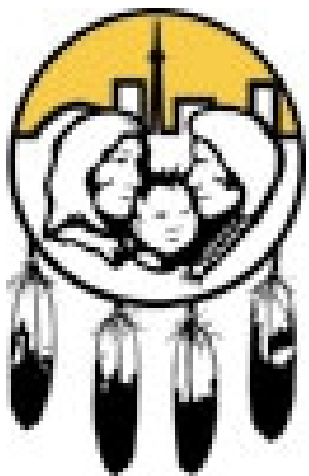
2012 TASSC became operationalized with a mission to use research, social policy, and advocacy to address the social determinants of well-being to improve and enhance the socio-economic prospects and cultural well-being of Indigenous peoples living in Toronto



TASSC Background

TASSC has a strategic plan with a focus on four key areas:

- Local Research on Social Determinants of Well-being
- Social Policy Development and Advocacy
- Building Member Agency Capacity
- Building a Resilient and Relevant Organization





Building City Partnerships Information Sharing

TARP Report findings where applicable and new research on Toronto's Indigenous population

TASSC Research Terms of Reference to City departments to inform best practices when working with Indigenous agencies and groups

TARP Recommendations alignment with TRC's Call to Actions

Promote City of Toronto committee and advisory board positions

TASSC Presentations: Social Policy Analysis & Research, Urban Fellows

SSHA provides additional data analysis on 2013 Street Needs Assessment

www.tassc.ca



Building City Partnerships Community Convening & Advising

City departments present to TASSC: SSHA, Children's Division, Parks & Rec, TO Core

Indigenous focus group on Lived Experience Poverty Advisory Group

Agency focus group on capacity building needs

Indigenous Planning Table for *Journey Together* Children's & Family Needs Assessment

Partnered with SSHA to provide an Indigenous magnet event

Sat on the City's first Equity Committee to inform the 2017 budget

Community Advisory Table: City Non-Profit Sector Relationship

www.tassc.ca



Building City Partnerships Advocacy & Outreach

Municipal, provincial, federal gathering to discuss building strong relationships with TASSC and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

Strong feedback on the City's draft Poverty Reduction Strategy

Letter to Mayor Tory Re: Supporting TRC Calls to Action

Letter to Mayor Tory Re: Reminder of the 7 Commitments to Aboriginal people

Deputation in support of motion to review City's commitments to Aboriginal people in their grant-making decisions



Building City Partnerships Impacts

More accurate data being used by City departments

Access to research analysis that can inform program prioritizing

Park & Rec to pilot an Indigenous youth leadership program in the summer

March 28th City Council approval of recommended changes to [Toronto Grants Policy] to include consideration of City's Statement of Commitment to the Aboriginal community

Signed City of Toronto contract stipulating that TASSC owns the research



Building City Partnerships Impacts

Letter of Understanding as an amendment to City of Toronto contract indicating the responsibility of the City to share research and analysis with TASSC

Impact on Indigenous community considered within 2017 budget

3 Indigenous people now sit on the Lived Experience Poverty Advisory Table

1 Indigenous senior sits on the City of Toronto's Senior's Forum

Convenor role provides TASSC with greater sustainability and relevancy



Building City Partnerships Challenges

Partnering is often:

- Uncoordinated with other departments
- Resource dependent
- Short-term, project focused
- Not housed in an institutional or systemic way
- Time intensive

Not always efficient or impactful to the degree necessary

Lack of understanding and recognition of Indigenous self-determination despite political statements



Building City Partnerships Questions

What needs to happen for the City of Toronto to use an *All My Relations* perspective (Hint: a systems level approach) to advancing the needs and well-being of Toronto's Indigenous communities?

What is the role of TASSC and the Aboriginal Affairs Committee in advancing this?



Building City Partnerships Questions

For Further Discussions and Planning:

Crystal Basi
Executive Director
TASSC
16 Spadina Road

cbasi@tassc.ca

647 407 4975

[**www.tassc.ca**](http://www.tassc.ca)