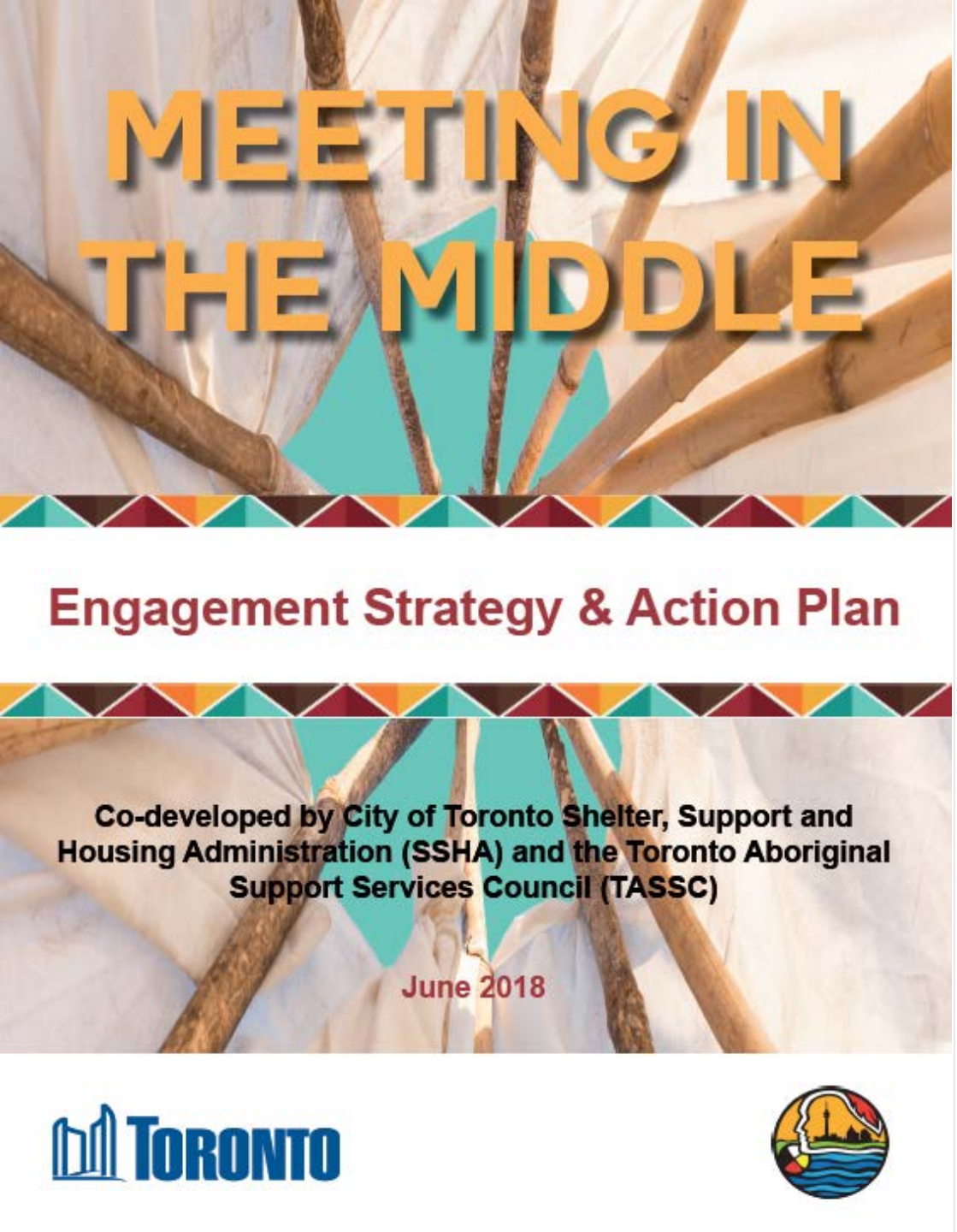


Co-Developing an Engagement Strategy & Action Plan

Aboriginal Affairs Committee
June 25, 2018

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Statement of Purpose

Meaningfully address Indigenous homelessness in Toronto by addressing City of Toronto's Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Communities

Relationships are foundational



Why This Work is Important

- Overrepresentation of Indigenous people in Toronto homeless population
- Colonization, structural and institutional racism, government polices and practices, and intergenerational trauma are ***direct contributors*** to Indigenous homelessness
- Both ***Indigenous-led solutions*** and ***effective engagement*** among Indigenous serving organizations are needed

How We Got Here

- Differences in understanding & approaching engagement
- Mutual recognition of importance of meaningful engagement to address Indigenous homelessness in Toronto



Process for Co-Developing Strategy & Action Plan

- Three-day planning session with leaders from SSHA, and TASSC and the Indigenous Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Indigenous facilitator to ground sessions in an Indigenous approach



Part A: Honouring the Relationship



Collective Commitments to Relationship-Building

- Careful listening
- Patient with each other
- Accept that mistakes will be made along the way
- Create space for relationship-building
- Open to new ways of working together
- Communicate challenges and progress
- Not avoid difficult or uncomfortable encounters
- Be goal-oriented/solution-focused
- Be authentic

Commitments to Relationship-Building – SSHA

- Land acknowledgement
- Acknowledging power differentials and privilege
- Challenging power/privilege (equitable, nation-to-nation)
- Educating self on history/diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people
- Participating in continuous cultural competency
- Challenging systems to be more responsive to Indigenous communities
- Being open to ceremony that honours relationship-building commitments

Commitments to Relationship-Building – Indigenous Organizations

- Moving away from historical grievances/embracing new ways of working
- Open to change and evolution
- Inviting SSHA to Indigenous agencies, events and meetings
- Transparency around capacity issues and impact of funding on Indigenous homelessness
- Working to organize annual ceremonial events

Part B: Upholding the City's Commitments to Aboriginal Communities



Commitment 1 – Learning & Development

- On-going cultural learning and development of all staff

Commitment 2 – Integrating Holistic Approaches

- Integrate holistic approaches into policy and programs with the guidance/support of Indigenous partners

Commitment 3 – Supporting Capacity-Building

- Support capacity building of Indigenous organizations
- Develop data strategy to ensure Indigenous data are owned/protected by local Indigenous authority

Commitment 4 – Meaningful Engagement

- Hold separate consultations in addition to general consultations
- Advocate for increased inclusion of Indigenous people on municipal boards/committees

Commitment 5 – Employment Practices

- Promote employment opportunities to Indigenous communities
- Explore on-the-job training
- Funding for Indigenous knowledge keepers to support public consultations

Commitment 6 – Opportunities for Collaboration

- Create engagement and collaborative opportunities with Indigenous organizations
- Seek opportunities to share promising practices to promote our mutual work

Commitment 7 – Action & Accountability

- Meet annually to review progress on commitments and actions
- Explore and monitor impacts of commitments and actions on improving housing outcomes for Indigenous people

Current SSHA Actions to Support Implementation

- Indigenous Cultural Competency Training, 2017
- Indigenous Community Magnet Events, 2017
- 2018 Street Needs Assessment
- Home For Good Supportive Housing Funding
- SSHA leadership attending Indigenous CAB meetings and Aboriginal Affairs Committee meetings

Next Steps

- Ceremony this afternoon to launch *Meeting in the Middle*
- Develop an SSHA implementation and dissemination plan



Chi Miigwetch/Nia:wen/Marsee/Thank-You

- Indigenous leaders
- SSHA leaders
- Indigenous Community Advisory Board and TASSC
- Elder Andrew Wesley
- Michelle Sault, facilitator
- Frances Sanderson, for her role as Elder during planning sessions
- Crystal Basi (TASSC) & Linda Wood (SSHA) for co-writing the strategy
- TASSC students and volunteers
- Lindsay Kretschmer for designing the document
- Nish Dish Catering
- Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre and the 519 Community Centre