

Indigenous Centre for Re:EX32.11 Innovation & Entrepreneurship



**Presented by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Aboriginal Affairs Committee
February 15, 2018**

Looking at the Downtown East

A satellite map of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, showing various neighborhoods. A thick red line runs vertically through the center of the map, and a thick black line runs horizontally across the middle, labeled 'Dundas Street'. Several blue-outlined boxes highlight specific areas: Alexander Park in the west, Moss Park in the center, Regent Park in the east, and Allan Gardens in the northeast. Callout boxes with black borders provide demographic data for each highlighted area and for the City of Toronto average.

City of Toronto (average)

Median Income: \$58,264
Low income: 20.2%
No HS Diploma: 16.4%
Unemployment: 8.2%

Allan Gardens

Median Income: \$24,787
Low income: 46.2%
No HS Diploma: 14.7%
Unemployment: 8.5%

Dundas Street

Alexander Park

Median Income: \$37,589
Low income: 36.3%
No HS Diploma: 34.1%
Unemployment: 10.0%

Moss Park

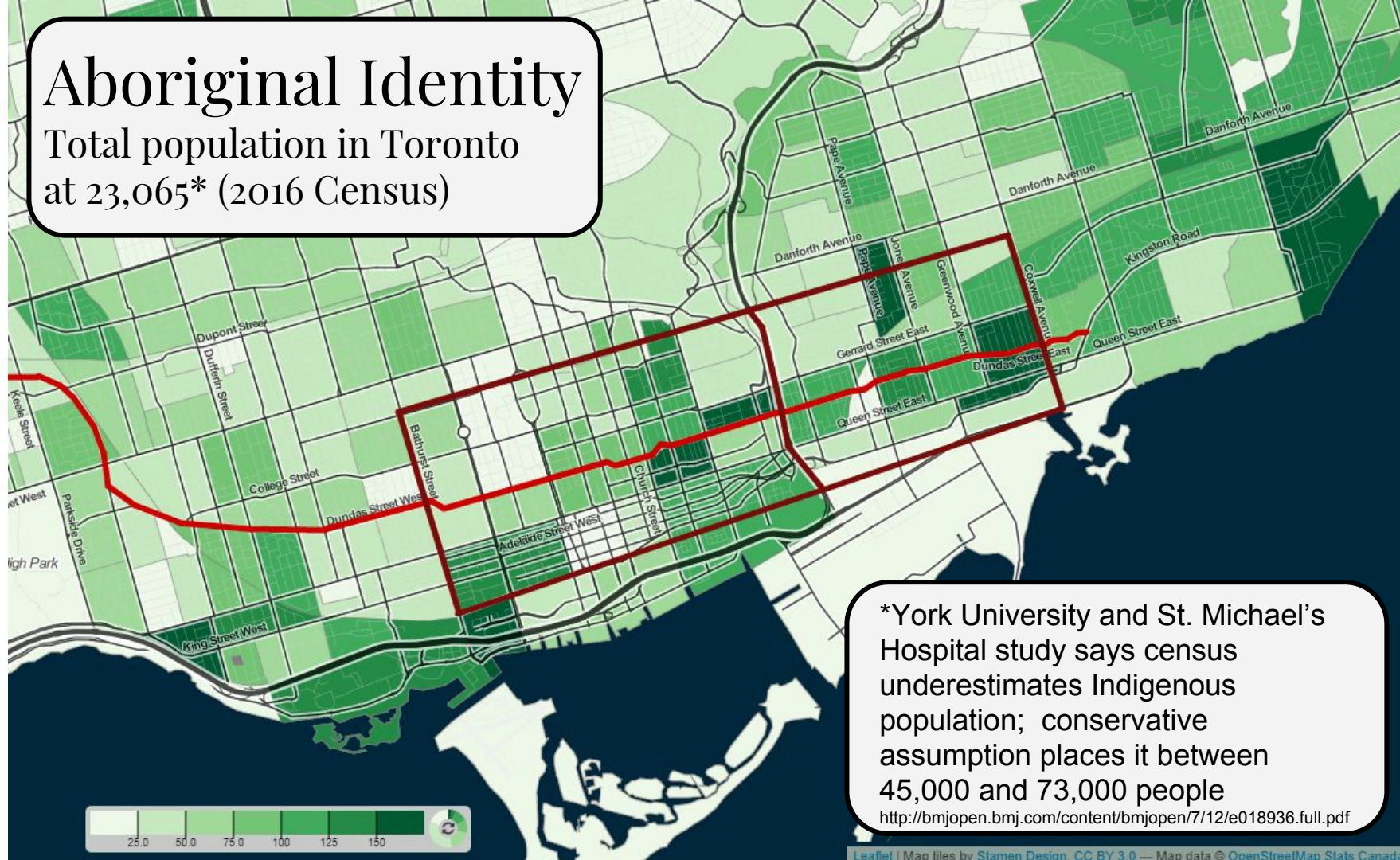
Median Income: \$21,941
Low income: 53.7%
No HS Diploma: 19.1%
Unemployment: 14.1%

Regent Park

Median Income: \$33,728
Low income: 50.0%
No HS Diploma: 25.7%
Unemployment: 10.5%

Aboriginal Identity

Total population in Toronto
at 23,065* (2016 Census)



*York University and St. Michael's Hospital study says census underestimates Indigenous population; conservative assumption places it between 45,000 and 73,000 people

<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/7/12/e018936.full.pdf>

“Aboriginal-owned and operated businesses are increasingly recognized as fundamental to improving the prospects of Aboriginal peoples and their communities.”

–Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, 2015

Project Background

- Councillor Wong-Tam began a conversation in 2012 about the possibility of creating an Indigenous Business and Cultural District in Toronto.
- In 2013, Native Women's Resource Centre, through a Metcalf Grant, contracted Morning Sky Consulting to study the feasibility of establishing an Indigenous Business and Cultural District in Toronto.
- The Aboriginal Economic Development Project held a series of consultations and interviews with Indigenous leaders and business owners in Toronto.
- The final report also included research on existing business incubator models.



What we heard

- There is an interest to redesign, revision, and rethink the Aboriginal business and entrepreneurship idea within a contemporary mindset
- There is a need to balance between the traditional and the modern
- There is a desire to engage youth to rethink business and entrepreneurship
- There is a need to have a local Aboriginal business community where shared experiences can be expressed and opportunities to build around true business needs can be supported.



Recommendations from AEDP

- Any successful social and economic model has to be a collective effort driven by strong Aboriginal leaders in partnership with the private and public sectors.
- An Aboriginal Business Council should drive the implementation and management of any prospective development project.
- A business area would create community space for dialogue and conversations to be captured.
- A connect point for a community would help facilitate where information can be obtained or disseminated in both formal and informal ways.



Toronto Aboriginal Research Project

One of the largest urban studies ever completed on the Toronto Aboriginal community.

Rec 8: That an apprenticeship program be developed involving the private sector and labour unions to train Aboriginal youth in specific trades and employment.

Rec 16: That mentorship programs between Aboriginal women experiencing financial success and those experiencing challenges be developed to assist women in building networks of support and role models as well as providing successful Aboriginal women with a community connection.

Rec 18: That women employed in Aboriginal agencies, government, and the private sector create an 'Aboriginal Professional Women's Association' to represent the interests of Aboriginal women and hold activities and events.

Indigenous Business in Canada

- Indigenous entrepreneurship and businesses in Canada are growing and expanding more than ever
- Toronto-based Indigenous entrepreneurs need support to grow and scale up their businesses
- Indigenous entrepreneurs and those seeking to do business with Indigenous communities from outside of the city need commercial space to connect with the Toronto markets



Incubators & Accelerators

- **Business Incubators** provide new businesses with support such as office space, mentorship, funding, shared resources, and training.
- **Accelerators** are shorter-term programs that focus on supporting entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses



Incubators & Accelerators

- **Entrepreneurs benefit** from having co-located resources and opportunities to connect with other businesses
- **Successful incubators** have partnerships and programs with major corporations, including banks, to support the growth and funding of start-up businesses





**Area Context for 200 Dundas Street East
North East Corner flanked by Jarvis / Dundas / George**

200 Dundas St. E.

- Located at the north east corner of Jarvis St. and Dundas St.
- Building is currently under construction
- Commercial space will be left unfinished and the City will take possession at end 2019
- City of Toronto will ultimately own the space
- Space to a non-profit organization at below-market rent to manage and program



200 Dundas Street E.

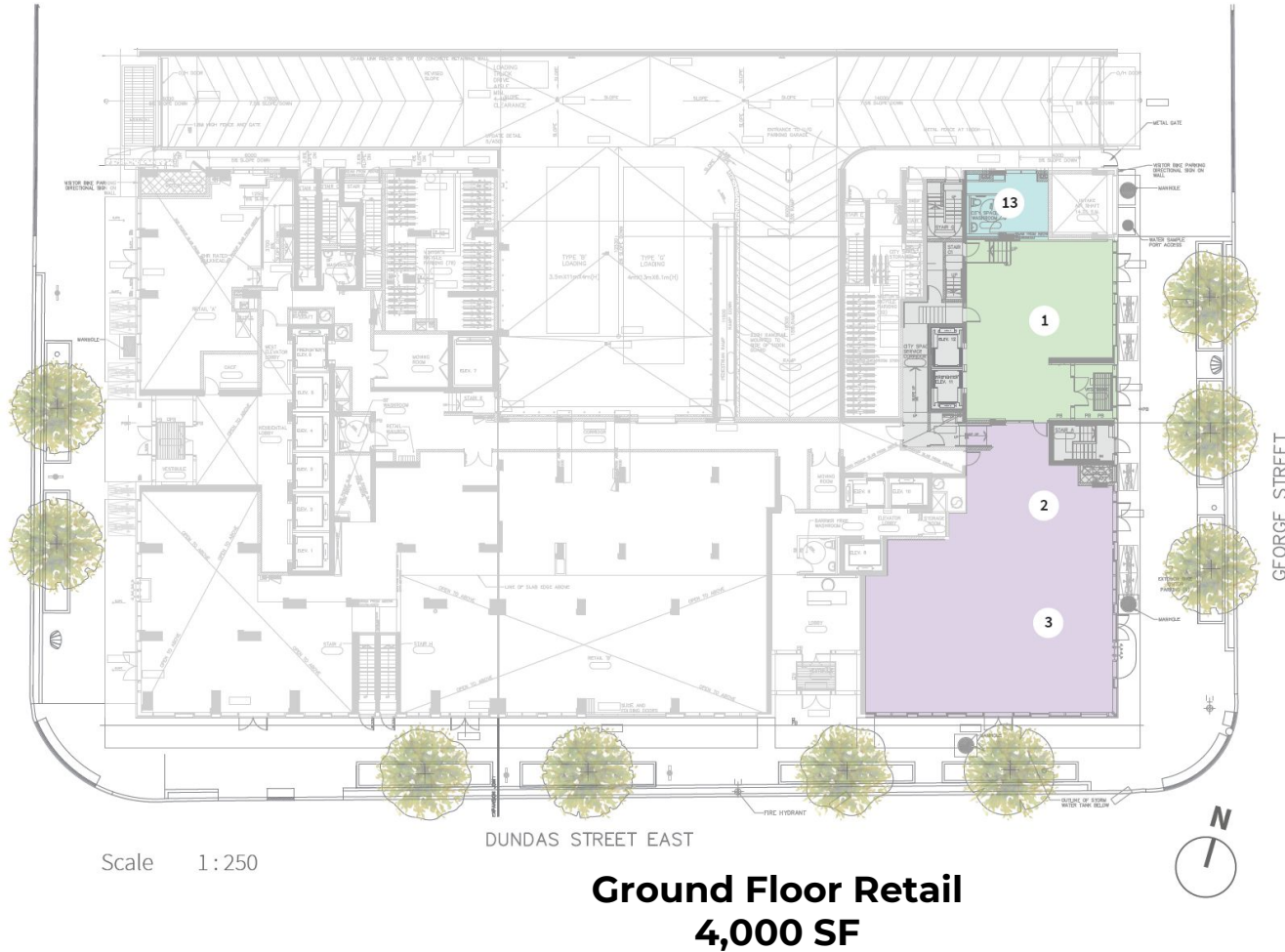
- This location is a 7 minute walk from Yonge St. and Dundas St., Canada's busiest intersection
- Many Indigenous service organizations are within a 5-10 minute walk of the location
- On the doorsteps of Ryerson University
- Will be the economic and cultural catalyst for the Indigenous District



*Indigenous Centre for
Innovation &
Entrepreneurship*

Ground Floor

- 1** Lobby & Gallery
- 2** Micro-retail
- 3** Commissary Kitchen & Restaurant
- 13** Washrooms



*Indigenous Centre for
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Entrepreneurship*

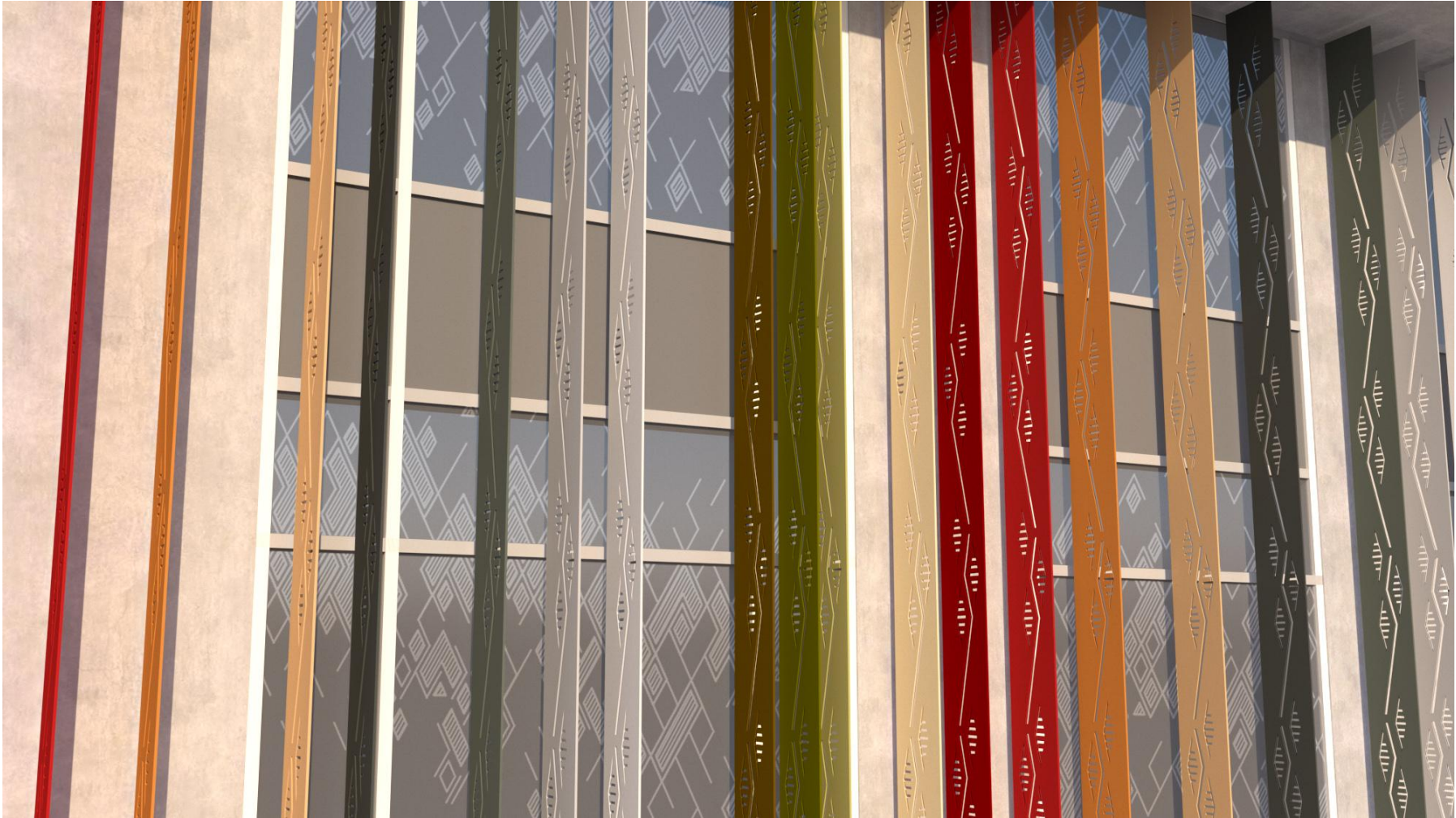
Second Floor

- 4 Pre-function
- 5 Events/Gathering
- 6 Flex/Training
- 7 Maker Space/
Studio
- 8 Library/Media/
Culture House
- 9 Meeting/Break-out
- 10 Huddle Rooms
- 11 Family/Daycare
- 12 Pantry/Kitchen
- 13 Washrooms



**Second Floor
12,000 SF**





Sweetgrass



CMYK
37 53 68 83

Sterling Forest
518

Meadow View
383

Squire Hill Buff
1068

Red Willow



CMYK
37 53 68 83

CMYK
24 79 100 73

CMYK
7 70 99 38

CMYK
6 13 41 4

Birch Bark

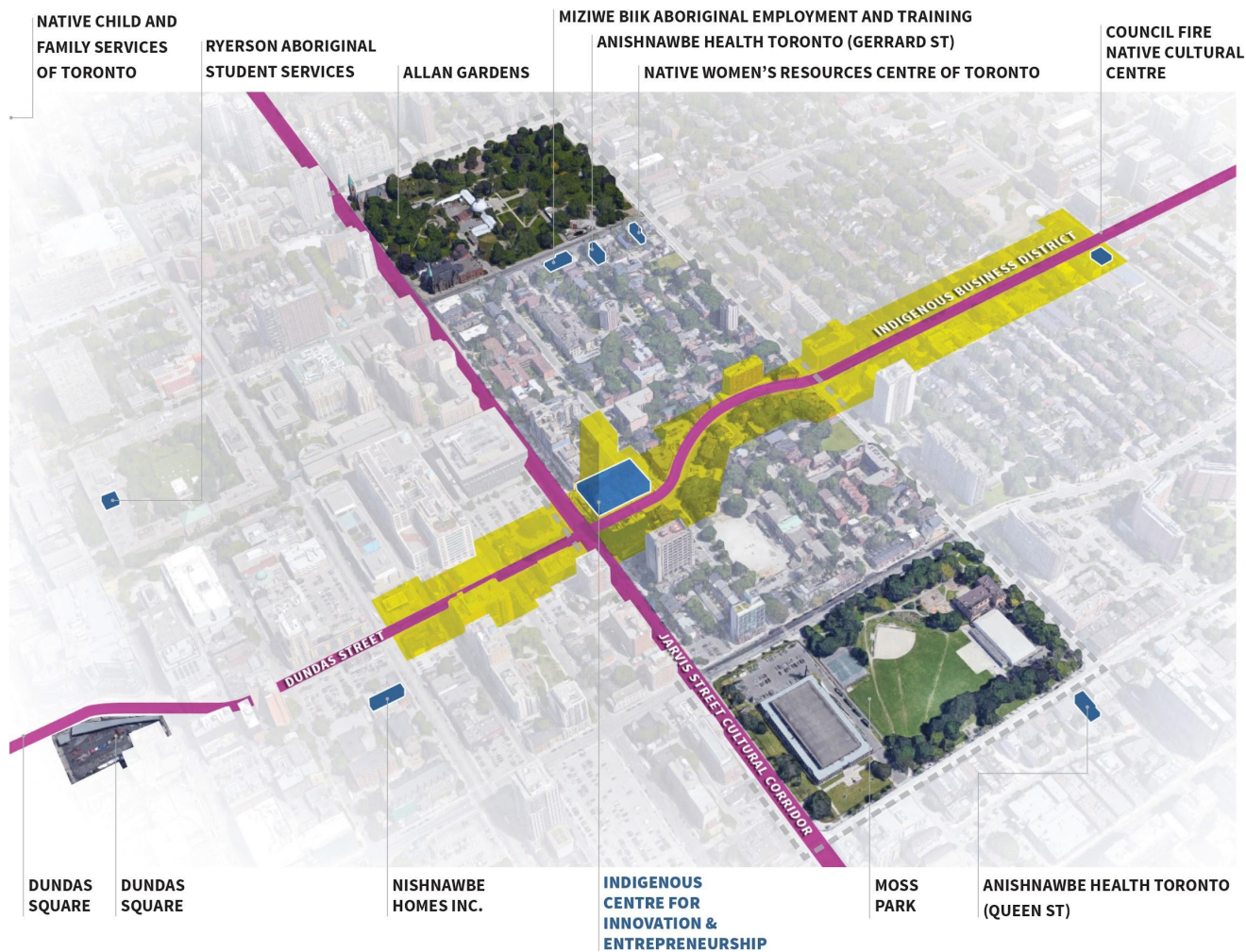


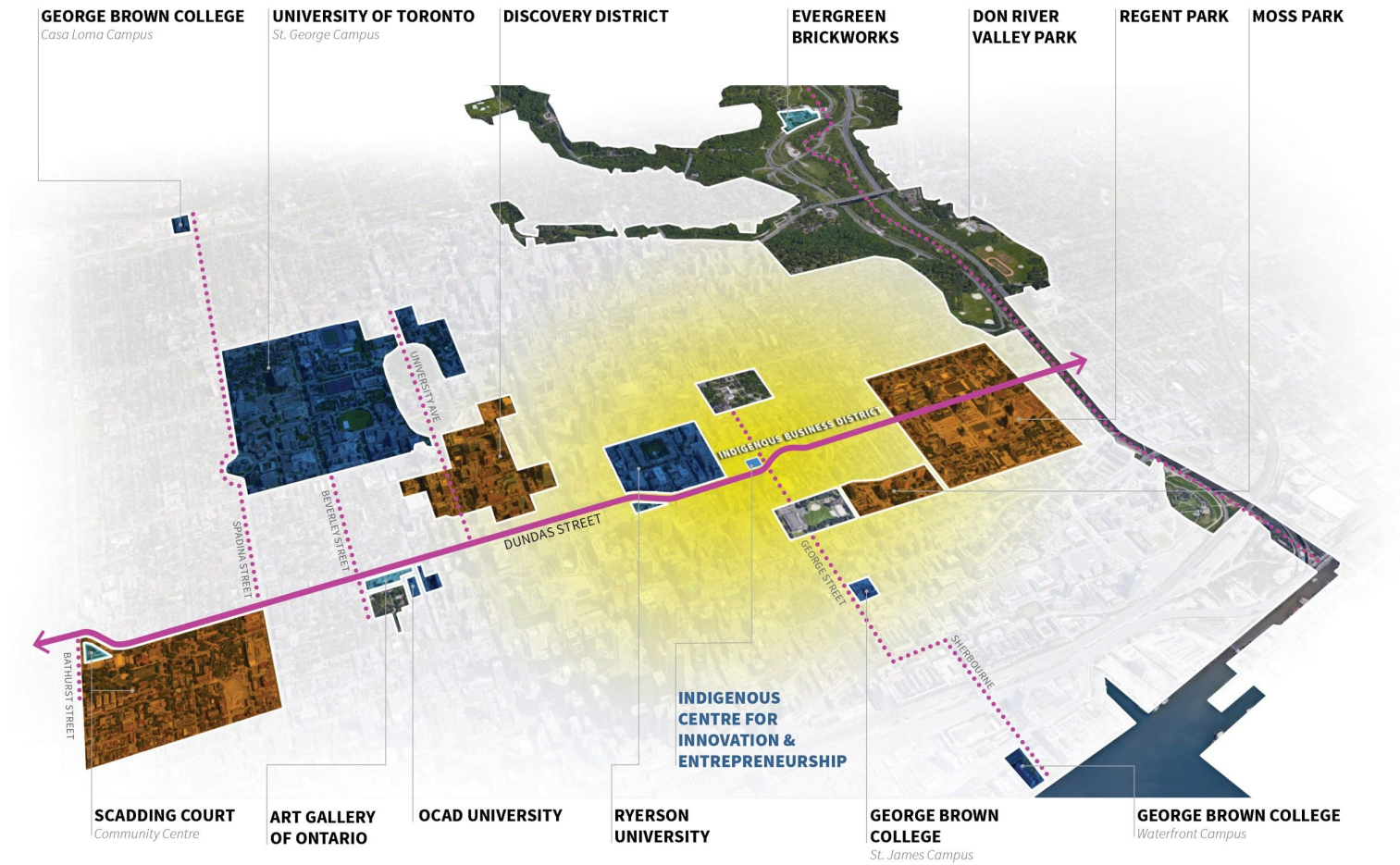
Deep River
1582

Rainy
Afternoon
1575

Healing Aloe
1562

Aloe Vera
844





Infrastructure Corridor

Who we have spoken to?

- Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
- Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
- Metis Nation of Toronto & York Region
- Indigenous Place Making Council
- Federal Liberal Indigenous Caucus
- Six Nations Council
- Indspire
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council
- Canadian Council for Aboriginal Businesses
- Smart Cities Challenge Public Consultation: Innovation & the Indigenous District



The Indigenous Business District



Looking East on Dundas and George Street

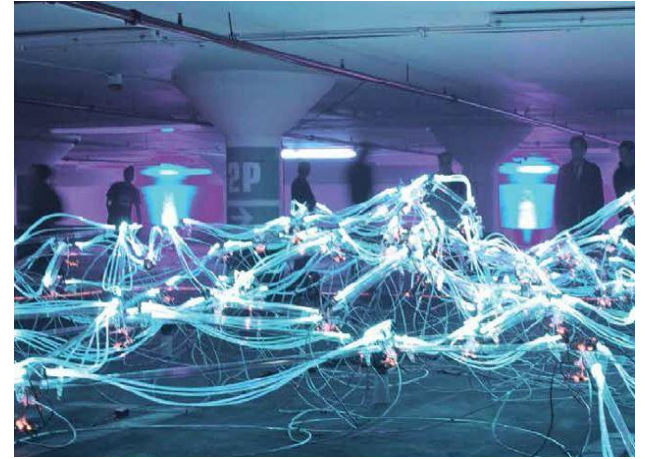
The Indigenous Business District will:

- **Cultivate the components and accelerate** the transformation the Dundas Street corridor into a world centre for Indigenous innovation and leadership.
- **Act as a tool to engage and encourage** other knowledge hubs throughout the region and country through the creation of physical and virtual corridors
- **Give small and medium-sized (SME) businesses** access to Indigenous-led innovation, and technology and talent through virtual and physical co-working locations
- **Be a leader in the creation** of Canada's first-ever Indigenous Business District, serving as a scalable model for private, public, university, and civil society partnerships



The Indigenous District is an ideal Smart Cities Challenge

- The Federal Government has issued a call to municipalities to compete for funding for a Smart Cities Initiative that would utilize data and technology to solve a city challenge
- If chosen, the Indigenous District and the Indigenous Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship can be realized into a truly transformative, first-of-its-kind concept in Canada.
- We have the opportunity to be a leader on the national stage, giving expression to reconciliation and building up an expanded culture of Indigenous entrepreneurship and social inclusion.



The Indigenous District as a Smart Cities Challenge

- On January 25th, over 120 people attended a consultation on the creation of an Indigenous District as Toronto's Smart Cities Challenge initiative
- Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business submitted a submission to the City of Toronto for the project



What's next for the ICIE?

- Further consultation with stakeholders
- Development of an ICIE program
- Development of a fully costed ICIE operational plan
- City Council approval of the ICIE
- Creation of a Steering Committee and Community Advisory Committee
- Tenants election
- Design and build

We want to hear from you!

- Have any questions, feedback or ideas? We would love to hear from you!
- Email my office at: councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca or call: 416-372-3903