



AA5.3

Indigenous Housing Survey Report

Revised Jan 2020

Indigenous Housing & Resource Collective of Tkaronto
Amplifying Indigenous Voices to Inform the HousingTO 2020 – 2030 Action Plan

July 2019

Indigenous Housing & Resource Collective of Tkaronto

Amplify Voices
Engage Community
Improve Outcomes

The IHRCT would like to thank the City of Toronto for requesting, and being open to, this feedback

“Interpersonal connections in communities and organizations are a source of strength” – ***A Place in the Circle***, 2018.

“Indigenous housing should be designed, constructed, and delivered by Indigenous communities and organisations (sic) themselves in order to generate the best possible outcomes for urban Indigenous people” – ***Response to the National Housing Strategy***, Ontario Federation of Friendship Centres, Jan 2018

“Declining housing affordability and sustainability has had a profoundly adverse impact on a substantive proportion of the Aboriginal population who are already vulnerable and at greater risk of homelessness due to unique and intersecting barriers to accessing housing that meets their specific needs.” - ***Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust Provincial Engagement Report***, Sept 2008

Summary

This survey was our way of developing a snapshot of barriers to social participation faced by our community that can be addressed through various types of social/affordable housing solutions.

We surveyed 137 respondents in total. Some from some small community events, but the majority of responses were collected at the IRSS Legacy Celebration, July 29-30th, 2019.

Generally speaking, one noted need to address the housing crisis is to decrease gridlock across the entire spectrum of housing. Decreasing gridlock is one way to decrease demand on social housing.

One way to do this is to create housing solutions that help improve the outcomes of its' inhabitants, focusing on social determinants of health to do so.

We are advocating for holistic strategies, respecting the interconnectedness of housing, mental and physical health, social isolation, culture, and general wellbeing.

Our community has shown significant interest in safe housing that is in close proximity to our service organizations.

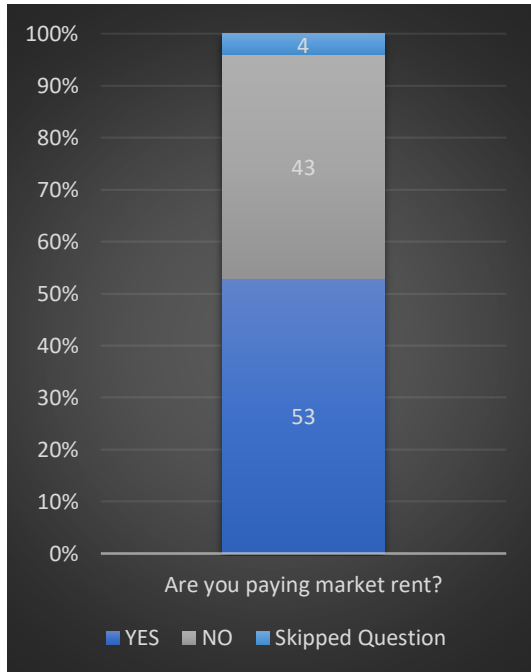
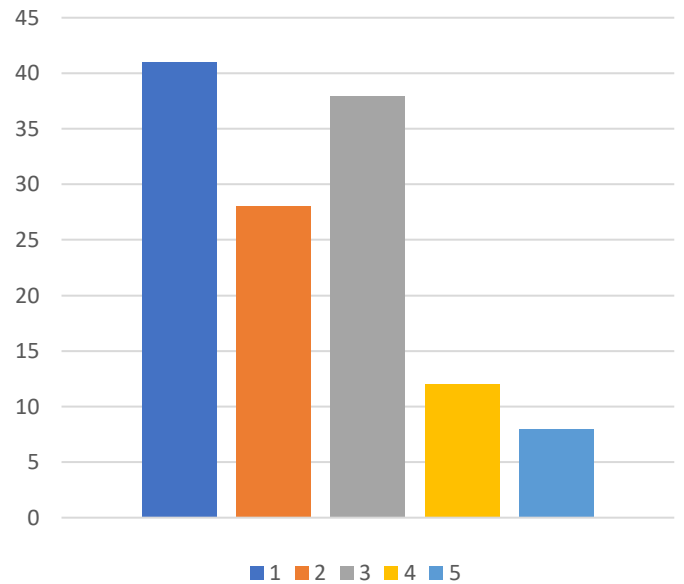
We hope that in addition to advocating for 30%+ set-aside units, that you might see fit to also advocate for higher concentration in proximity to our organizations and the upcoming Indigenous Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

I identify as _____

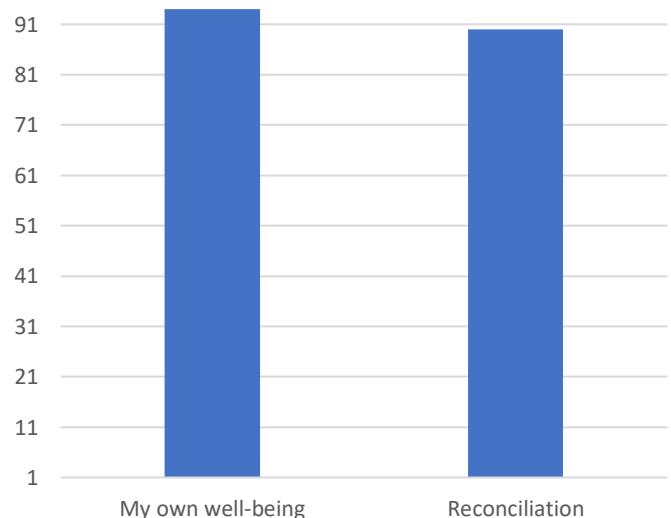


■ Status First Nations ■ Non-status First Nations
■ Métis ■ Inuit

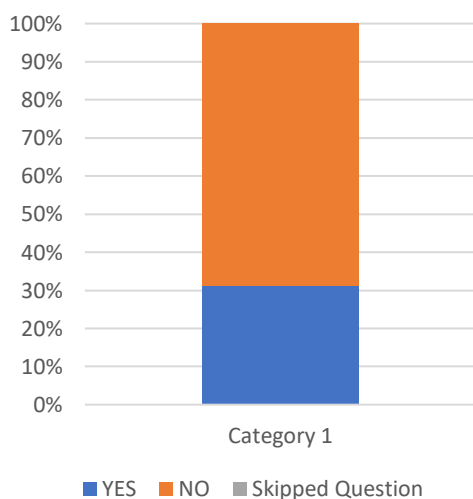
To avoid overcrowding, your family would need how many bedrooms?



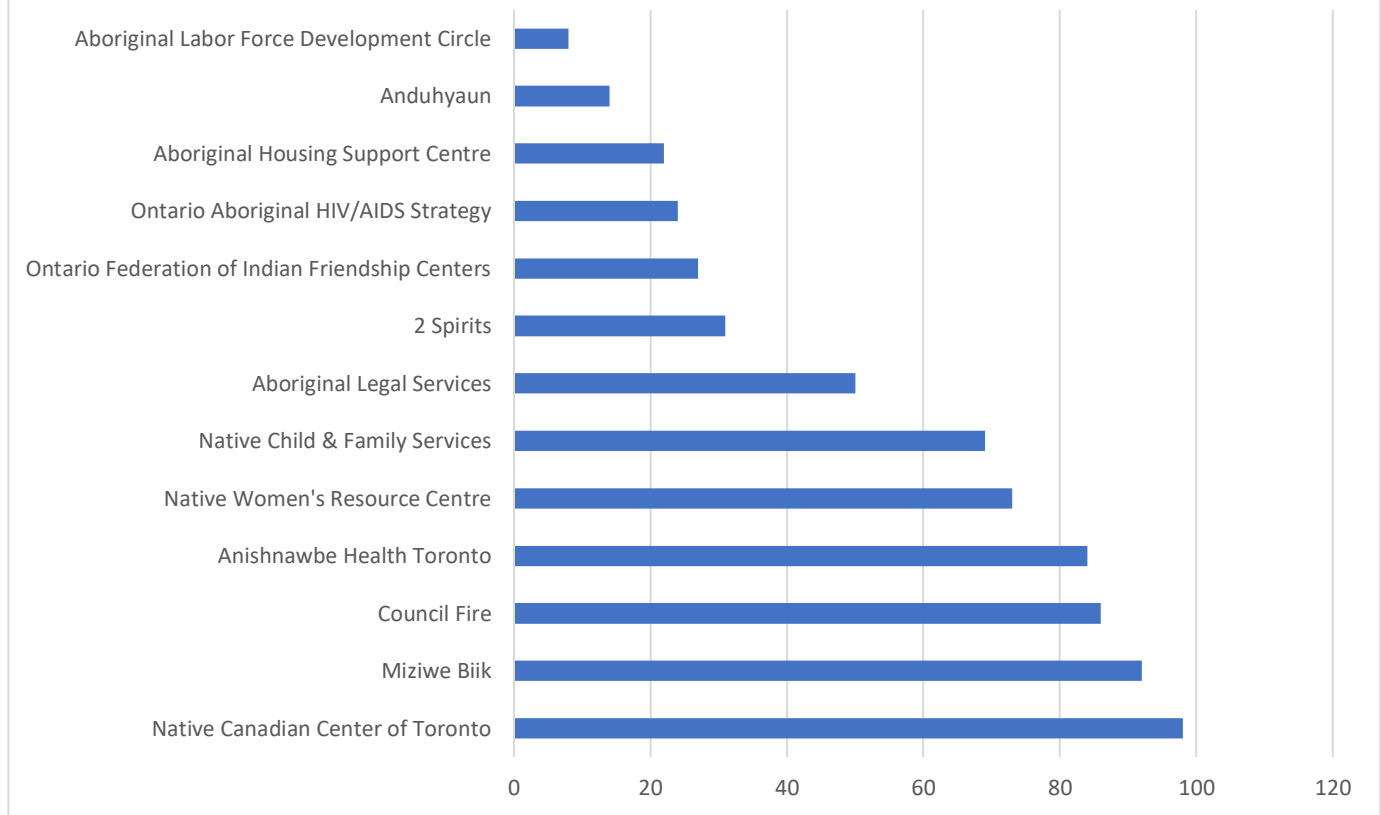
On a scale of 1 - 100, how important are social connection/ceremonies/community presence to _____



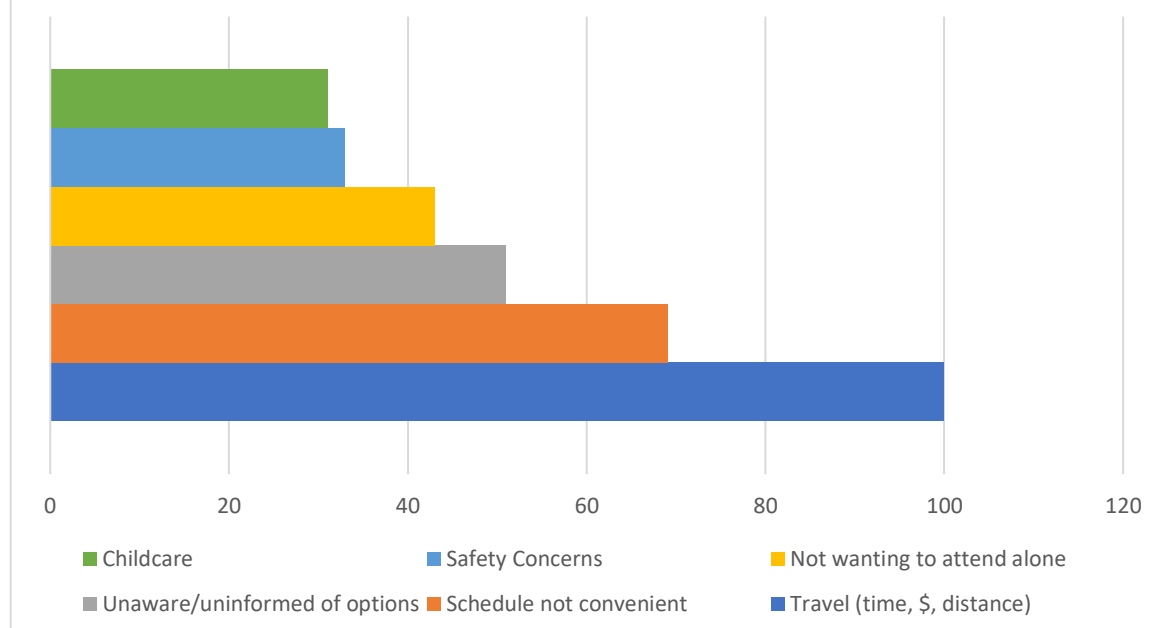
Are you on any waitlists for social/affordable housing?



Which organizations have you connected with in the past 2 years?

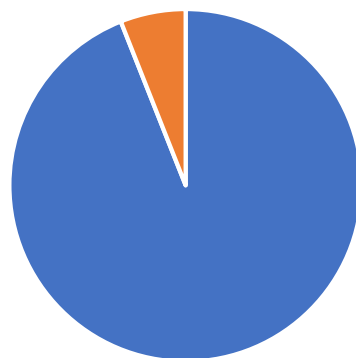


Barriers to accessing organizations/cultural services/ceremonies



We are volunteers collecting feedback from the Indigenous community on affordable housing to help inform the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan (City of Toronto's official strategy to combat the housing crisis over the next 10 years).

We would like to see new, accessible, affordable housing communities (rather than scattered units throughout the city), with common areas for things like ceremonies, community kitchens, community gardens and other amenities relevant to our people and culture. We would also like these community living hubs to be located close to, or a convenient distance from, our community service providers. Do you feel that this type of Indigenous community living would be beneficial for yourself or your family?



■ YES ■ NO

Final thoughts...

All of the community members surveyed have connected with an Indigenous organization in the past 2 years. In fact, respondents checked a minimum of 4, with an average of 5 organizations per respondent.

We know from the Our Health Counts study that 87% of Indigenous adults in Tkaronto fall below the LICO. If 53% are paying market rent, but only 30% are on waitlists for affordable/social housing/housing supports, that leaves a gap in people who need housing and people who are actually applying for housing.

We spoke with a number of respondents who reported they abstain from applying simply because they do not want to live in places like Regent Park where our vulnerable women and children are routinely targeted for sex/drug trafficking.

We appreciate the opportunity to be heard and welcome any future opportunities to be involved.

Chii Miigwech, She:kon, Thank you,

Emma Dack & Katrina Hall

Indigenous Housing & Resource Collective of Tkaronto

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