

2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Mid-Term Update / Tkaronto Prosperity Plan

April 16, 2021

Joint Presentation to the Aboriginal Affairs
Advisory Committee

Poverty Reduction Strategy Office and Toronto
Aboriginal Support Services Council



Poverty Reduction Strategy

- The Poverty Reduction Strategy contains recommendations to address immediate needs, create pathways to prosperity, and drive systemic change across 6 themes:
 - Housing Stability
 - Service Access
 - Transportation Equity
 - Food Access
 - Quality Jobs and Liveable Incomes
 - Systemic Change
- For each term of Council, staff prepare an action to plan to advance work on poverty reduction.
- The current 2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plan contains 89 activities to be carried out by the end of this term of Council.

Mid-Term Update Cycle

- Staff will be providing a regularly scheduled update on the status of these activities at the June 1 Executive Committee.
- Through this presentation, we are giving the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee the opportunity to provide feedback early in the update process
- Feedback we hear will inform the June 1 staff report to Executive Committee.

Housing Stability Highlights

- Actions related to housing are being carried out through the City of Toronto's HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan, adopted by Council on December 17, 2019.
- The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan sets out 13 key strategic directions and 76 actions
- Updates on HousingTO are provided regularly to the Planning and Housing Committee

Service Access Highlights

- In partnership with community-based organizations, the City of Toronto continues to provide modified, safe community services and emergency supports for vulnerable and marginalized residents through the pandemic
- Over **400** community agencies engaged as part of the Community Coordination Plan
- Worked in collaboration with the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)-led COVID-19 Community Response Table and the TASSC Friends and Partners Sharing and Synergies Circle

Transportation Equity Highlights

- The Fair Pass Transit Discount Program provides a \$1.10 discount on single rides on the TTC and a \$32.75 discount on monthly passes. Currently low-income residents in receipt of social assistance or a child-care fee subsidy are eligible.
- Due to COVID-19 emergency redeployments and responses, new applications to the Fair Pass.
- Renewals for existing clients continued to be processed automatically.
- Through the Fall of 2020, staff worked to improve the previous back end process to a new process that is less vulnerable to disruption.
- On December 15, new applications to the Fair Pass were restarted through the Human Service Integration Project's Application Support Centre.
- Eligible residents are able to apply online at www.toronto.ca/transitdiscount
- Residents can also apply by contacting the Application & Support Centre at **416-338-8888 (select option 6)**

Food Access Highlights

- Priority is on providing emergency food supports and coordination as part of COVID-19 emergency responses.
- As of March 19, **54,359** food hampers have been delivered by the Red Cross to socially isolated residents who are unable to access other food security supports
- Upcoming Policies and Reports:
 - Report on Black Food Sovereignty is scheduled for the April 12 meeting of the Board of Health
 - An update on the COVID-19 Food Access Response and the development of a Food Equity framework will be presented at the June 1 meeting of Executive Committee.

Quality Jobs and Liveable Incomes Highlights

- On January 27, City Council adopted the *Advancing the Community Benefits Framework* report with recommendations to increasing inclusive hiring and social procurement in City-led projects.
- Resources to implement the Community Benefits Framework were invested as part of the 2021 Operating Budget.
- The City has also secured external funding to advance work to improve equitable access to public sector procurement opportunities across Toronto's public sector anchor institutions.

Systemic Change Highlights

- A critical element of the Poverty Reduction Strategy is the Tkaronto Prosperity Plan, which is under development right now
- This project is intended to empower the Indigenous community to identify their priority areas of action to achieve real results and systemic change for Indigenous residents.
- This will include specific resource asks which would be put forward in future Budgets as part of the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy.



TARP 2.0 / Tkaronto Prosperity Plan

- TASSC has two projects to be completed in 2021:
 - TARP Retrospective Study
 - Tkaronto Indigenous Prosperity Plan
- Combining the two projects into one set of activities would:
 - reduce the demands on the Indigenous agencies and the community,
 - accelerate the completion of the Prosperity Plan, and
 - integrate the findings from the TARP Retrospective into the Prosperity Plan.



TARP 2.0 / Tkaronto Prosperity Plan

Projects' Objectives:

- To explore the work of TARP over the last decade.
- To develop the Tkaronto Indigenous Prosperity Plan in partnership with all divisions of the City, provincial and federal governments, private, philanthropic, non-profit, community allies and contributors.
- To support self-determination and change-making that benefits inclusion, visibility and well-being.
- Explore with an Indigenous lens as defined by the Indigenous community and create actionable directions specific to the unique needs of the community:
 - Housing Stability
 - Service Access
 - Transportation Equity
 - Food Access
 - Quality Jobs and Liveable Incomes
 - Systemic Change



TARP 2.0 /Tkaronto Prosperity Plan

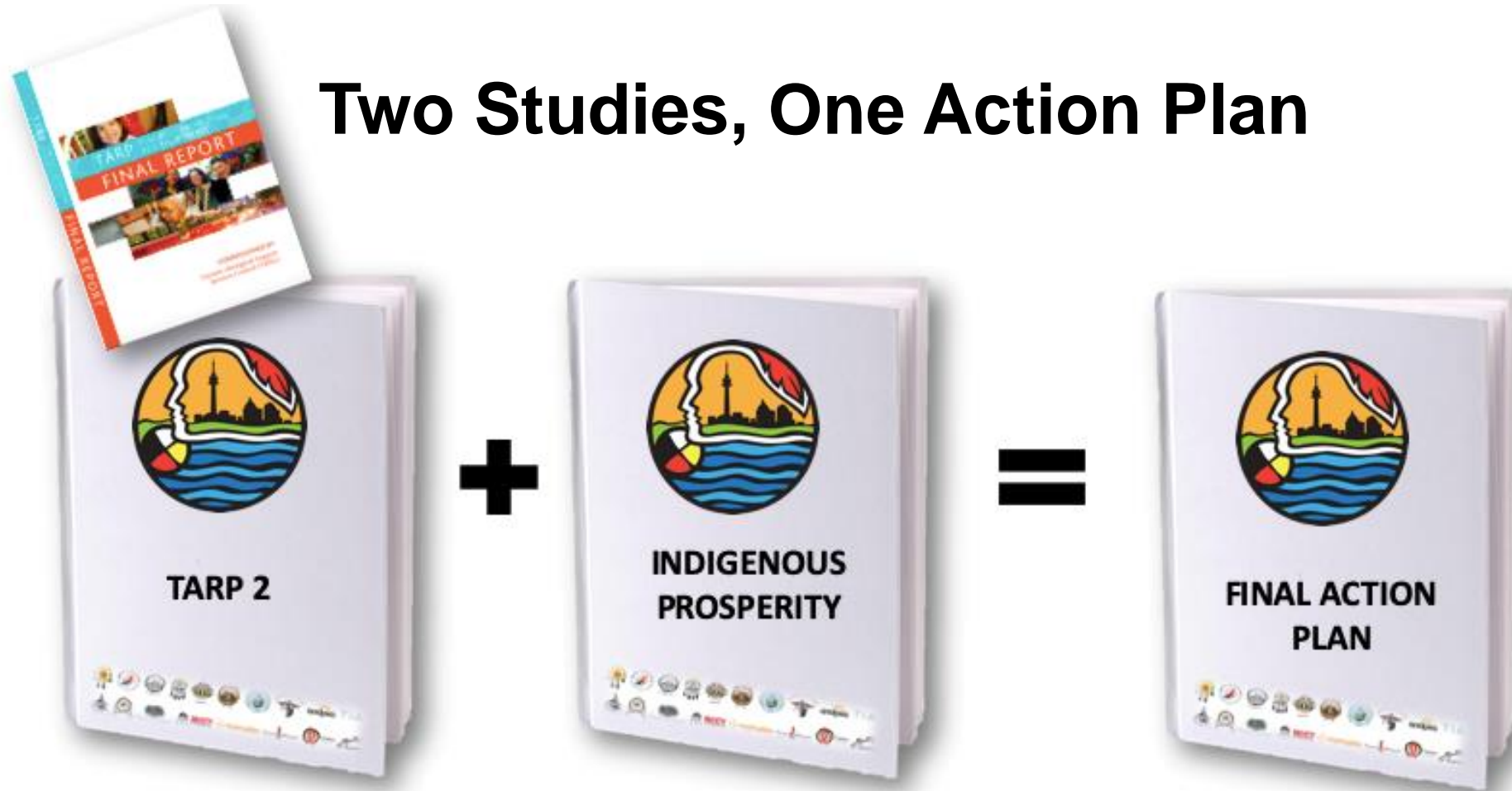
Projects' Outcomes:

- The urban Indigenous social serving sector, the private sector, all levels of government, philanthropy come together to co-develop solutions.
- Engage the Indigenous communities and be accountable to them.
- Provide Indigenous organizations and communities with information to build the Indigenous urban community.
- Determine how to model future initiatives to respond to the needs of Indigenous people and help folks to move through a trajectory from poverty to prosperity.
- Inform funding sustainability and continued critical social supports for Indigenous beneficiaries.
- The Tkaronto Indigenous Prosperity Plan will include key actions toward poverty alleviation for urban Indigenous people in Toronto.



TARP 2.0 / Toronto Prosperity Plan

Two Studies, One Action Plan





Thank You

For more information, or if you have any further questions, feel free to contact us at :

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