

# The Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization

Presentation to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee  
Presented by: Waterfront Secretariat, City Planning  
May 18, 2022



# Team

- Waterfront Secretariat, City Planning
- Indigenous Engagement Lead:
  - Johnston Research Inc. - Andrea LK Johnston
- Other Consultation Teams:
  - Dillon Consulting
  - KPMG

# Purpose

- To introduce, and receive feedback on, the next phase of waterfront revitalization, specifically:
  - the Indigenous engagement partnerships process;
  - the priorities of the renewed vision for the next phase of waterfront revitalization; and
  - opportunities to advance the Reconciliation Action Plan through waterfront revitalization.



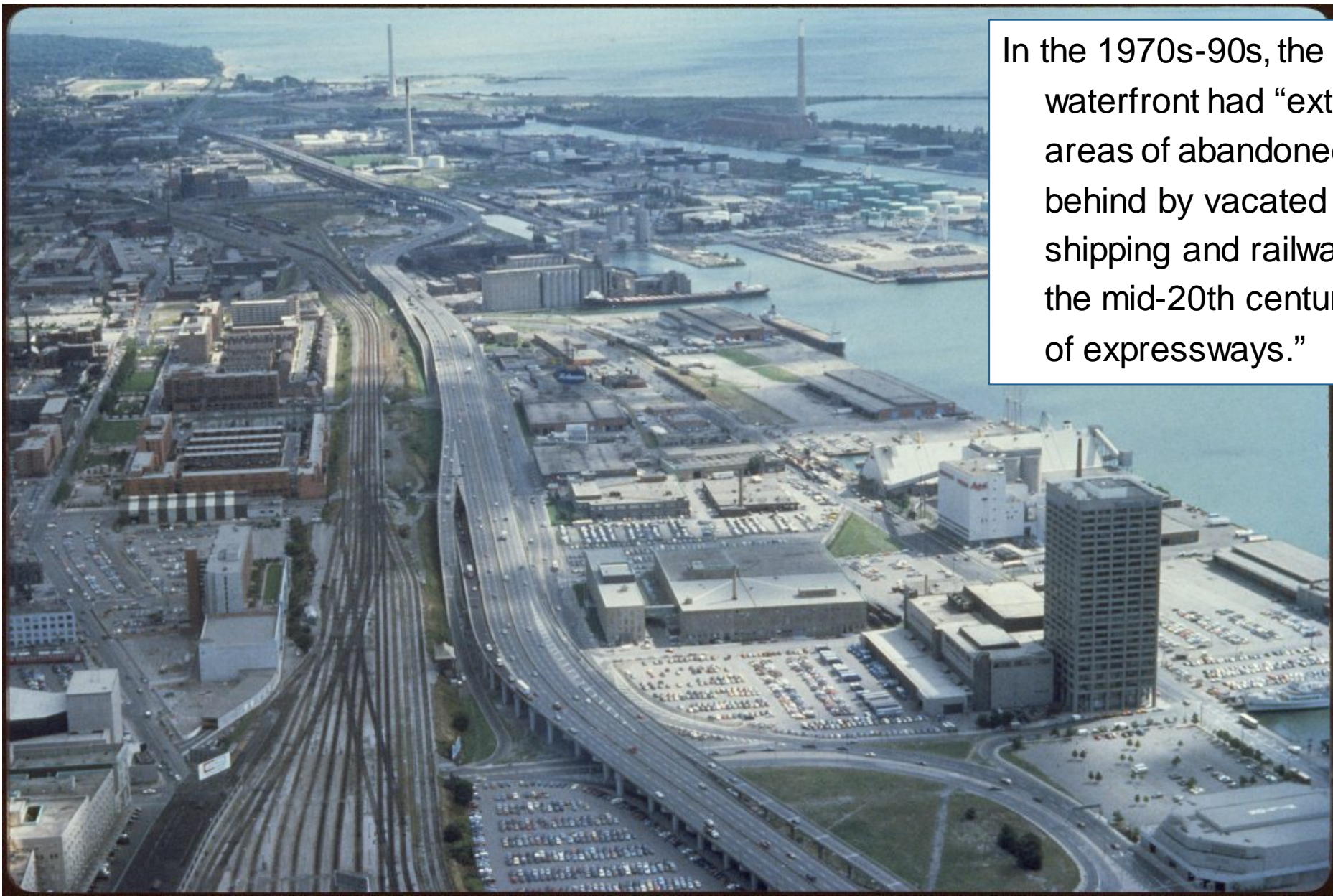
# Agenda

1. What is Waterfront Revitalization – A History and Context
2. A Renewed Vision - Next Phase Priorities and Reconciliation Action Plan Opportunities
3. Overview of the Indigenous Engagement Partnerships & Process
4. Next Steps



# What is Waterfront Revitalization?

From 2000 to Today

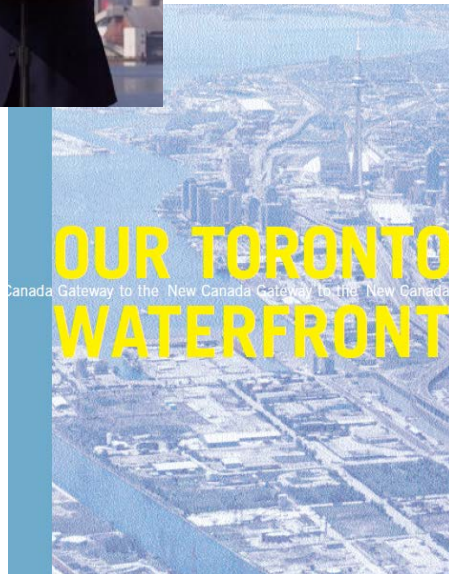
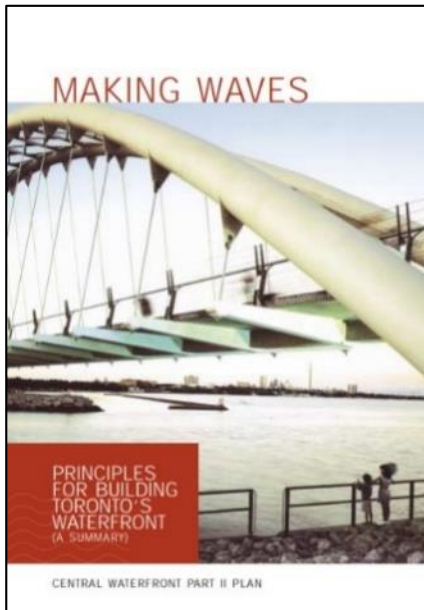


In the 1970s-90s, the urban waterfront had “extensive areas of abandoned land left behind by vacated industry, shipping and railways, and by the mid-20th century incursion of expressways.”

City of Toronto Archives, Series 1465, File 41, Item 5



# A Vision for Toronto's Waterfront



- The Waterfront Revitalization Task Force, led by Robert Fung, outlined a vision for Toronto's waterfront in 2000.
- The guiding vision set a new direction for the waterfront to become a “model to the world of how economic development, environmental protection, and cultural and recreational growth can complement each other... A place to play, live and work.”





The Central Waterfront Secondary Plan (CWSP) has been the guiding document for waterfront revitalization and highlights four core principles:

1. Removing Barriers/Making Connections
2. Building a Network of Spectacular Waterfront Parks and Public Spaces
3. Promoting a Clean and Green Environment
4. Creating Dynamic and Diverse New Communities



# Timeline

1992



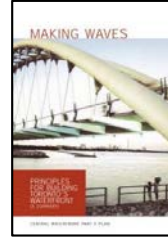
Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Task Force Report



2001



Central Waterfront Secondary Plan



2005



East Bayfront Precinct Plan



2015



Start of Port Lands Flood Protection Project



2016/17

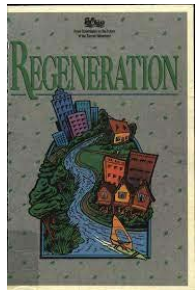


Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization

2021



Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront



2000



Incorporation of Waterfront Toronto



2003



West Don Lands Precinct Plan



2005



Pan Am + Para Pan Am Games



2017



Port Lands Planning Framework + Villiers Island Precinct Plan



# A History of Success

- Over the past 20 years, significant economic, social and environmental outcomes have been realized through waterfront revitalization.
- Through an initial tri-government investment of \$1.5 billion (2001) and a second investment of \$1.25 billion (2016)
- **\$2.75 billion** in tri-government investments have created:





# A Renewed Vision

Next Phase Priorities

# Priorities for Next Phase

A renewed vision for the next phase of waterfront revitalization will integrate and advance the following priorities:



**Strategic Economic Development**



**Truth, Justice and Reconciliation, including  
Indigenous Engagement**



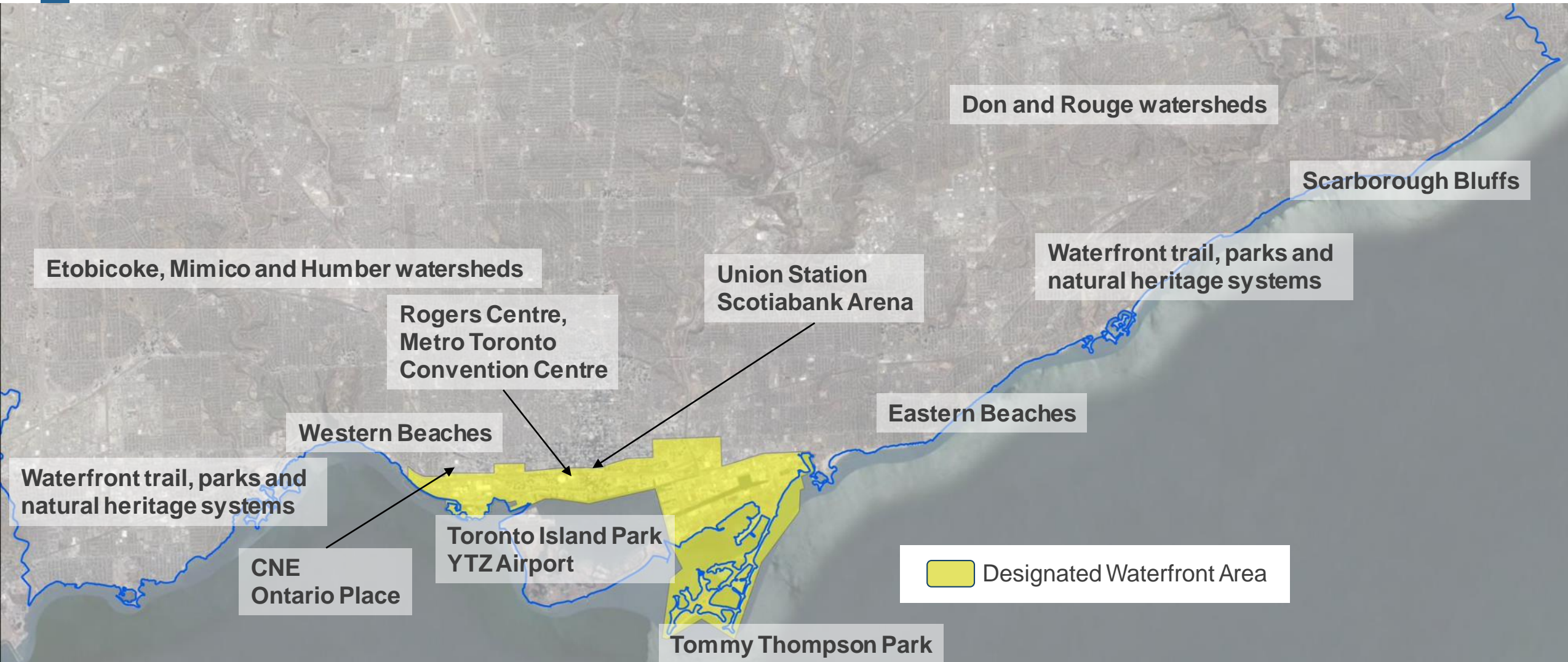
**Equity and Inclusion, including Housing**



**Climate Resilience and Sustainability**



# The Wider Waterfront



# Truth, Justice and Reconciliation, including Indigenous Engagement

The Reconciliation Action Plan and broader Indigenous engagement can be advanced through ongoing and new projects.

## Examples of Initiatives in Progress

- Anishnawbe Health Toronto Community Health Centre and Miziwe Biik Training Institute
- Miziwe Biik and City of Toronto Affordable Rental Housing Partnership
- Villiers Island, affordable housing
- Toronto Island Master Plan – Placekeeping
- Quayside, Indigenous arts and culture hub
- Port Lands Flood Protection monitoring



Anishnawbe Health Toronto Community Health Centre and  
Miziwe Biik Training Institute  
West Don Lands

# Reconciliation Action Plan

## Summary – Potential Opportunities for Actions along the Waterfront

Themes	Actions
Actions to Restore Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance Indigenous Education</li></ul>
Actions to Right Relations and Share Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve Relationships with Indigenous Organizations and Collectives</li><li>• Improve Relationships with Treaty and Territorial Partners</li><li>• Enhance Indigenous Civic Engagement</li><li>• Advocate for Indigenous Peoples to Provincial and Federal Governments</li></ul>
Actions for Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote Prosperity</li><li>• Support Indigenous Health and Well-being</li><li>• Increase Access to Affordable Housing</li><li>• Support Indigenous Placekeeping</li><li>• Celebrate Indigenous Arts and Culture</li><li>• Support the Revitalization of Indigenous Languages</li><li>• Improve Access to Traditional Foods and Medicines</li><li>• Return Land and Stewardship Rights</li></ul>
Actions to Make Financial Reparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve Indigenous Economic Development</li><li>• Establish a Commitment to Reconciliation with Businesses and Organizations</li><li>• Enhance Indigenous Recruitment and Retention within Toronto Public Service</li></ul>



# Indigenous Engagement Partnerships & Process



# Engagement Schedule



Vision and Priority Outcomes



Project Identification and Implementation Plan



Public Meetings

Report

Public Meetings

Report

Indigenous Engagement

Stakeholder Consultation

# Stakeholders & Rights-holders

## Internal Stakeholders

- Indigenous Affairs Office
- City Manager's Office
- Housing Secretariat
- City Planning
- Economic Development
- Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Shelter, Support & Housing Administration
- Transportation Services
- Transit Expansion

## External Partners

- Waterfront Toronto
- CreateTO
- Toronto Region & Conservation Authority
- Tri-Government Working Group (TWG)  
provincial and federal counterparts

## First Nations

- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Huron-Wendat First Nation
- Six Nations of the Grand River

## Urban Indigenous communities and organizations

- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council
- Toronto York Region Métis Council
- Toronto Inuit Association
- Anishnawbe Health Toronto
- ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency
- Anduyhaun
- Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Native Women's Resource Centre
- Two Spirited People of the First Nations
- Miziwe Biik Employment and Training

# Discussion Questions

1. How can we best engage with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities?
2. In what ways can traditional Indigenous knowledge be meaningfully integrated into the engagement process? Into waterfront revitalization projects?
3. What are your thoughts on the following priorities for Toronto's waterfront?
  - a) Truth, Justice and Reconciliation, including Indigenous engagement
  - b) Strategic Economic Development
  - c) Equity and Inclusion, including through Housing
  - d) Climate Resilience and Sustainability

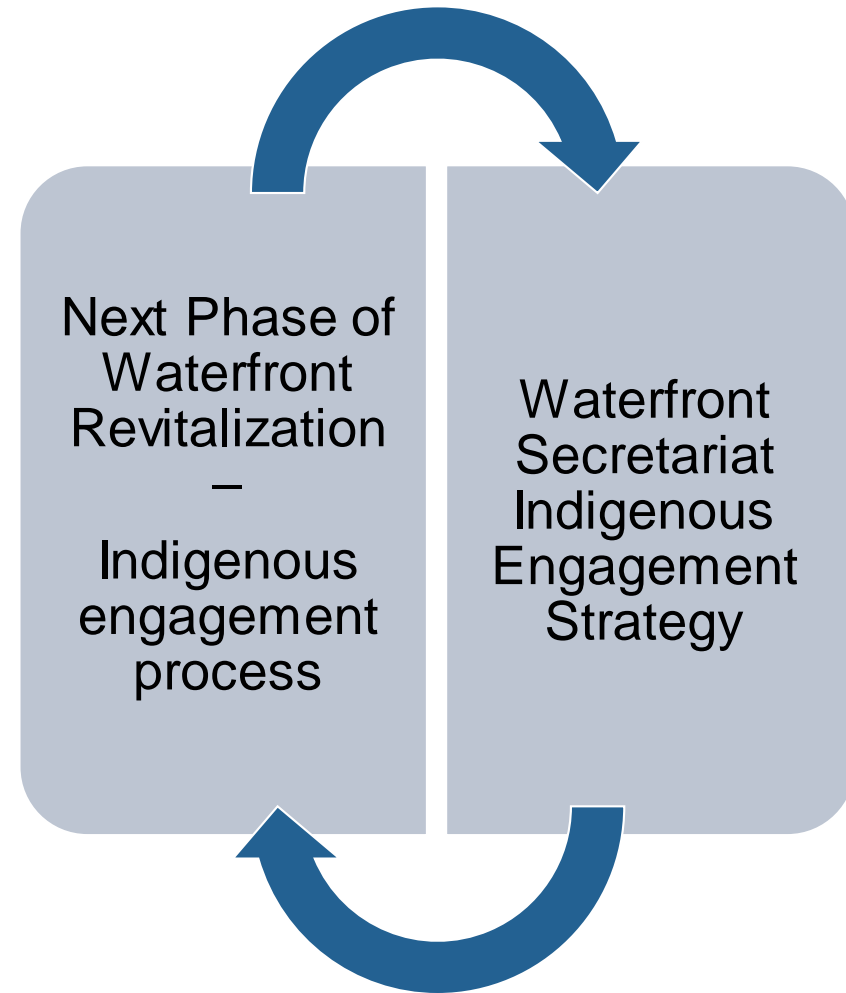
# Discussion Questions

4. What are the specific areas or initiatives along the waterfront that are especially important?
5. What other goals or types of waterfront revitalization projects could support First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities?
6. How will we know if we're doing well and if changes need to be made along the way?



# Improving Long-term Indigenous Engagement

- The input and learnings from the Indigenous engagement partnerships process for the next phase of waterfront revitalization, led by Johnston Research Inc., will inform recommendations and a strategy for longer-term Indigenous engagement that is better coordinated across waterfront projects.



# Coordinating to learn from what we've heard

There are opportunities to incorporate and build upon lessons and input from other Indigenous engagement processes across the City and its partners.

Project	Lessons
Indigenous Affairs Office, IACOP & Reconciliation Action Plan	The Waterfront Secretariat has identified key actions in the Reconciliation Action Plan to advance through the next phase of waterfront revitalization and continues to discuss with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities throughout 2022.
Indigenous Placemaking Advisory Circle	The City established an Indigenous Placemaking Circle through Parks, Forestry and Recreation to provide regular input and expertise on placemaking and placekeeping aspects of projects.
Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Toronto Island Master Plan	Thematic opportunity areas that are relevant to the waterfront include: education, youth, signage and storytelling, language/naming, art and public realm, sacred and ceremonial spaces, food systems and medicines, importance and role of water and health, land protection and preservation
City Planning, Indigenous Heritage Engagement Project	City Planning has conducted Co-Development Dialogues to gather advice, expertise and regular input on Indigenous heritage, history and cultural significance for ongoing projects and will be establishing a Steering Committee and Knowledge Keepers Circle.
Other City Planning projects: PIC Core Design Guidelines, Quayside, Villiers Island	A variety of ongoing City Planning projects involve ongoing and upcoming Indigenous engagement, including regarding creative and film industries, affordable housing, and arts and cultural hubs.
Waterfront Toronto	Waterfront Toronto has established relationships and processes for ongoing Indigenous engagement on waterfront-related projects, specifically an MOU with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The City and Waterfront Toronto will be working more closely on Indigenous engagement moving forward.
SSHA, Meeting in the Middle	SSHA's engagement strategy and action plan, co-developed with TASSC, provides guidance for improving Indigenous engagement strategies in other divisions.



# Next Steps

# Next Steps

- 1) Continue meetings with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, resulting in a final report from Johnston Research Inc.
- 2) City staff to integrate what was heard into next phase of waterfront revitalization project selection and implementation process
- 3) Council has approved the creation of two staff positions within the Indigenous Affairs Office which will support this work, including staff focused on:
  - Indigenous affairs on the waterfront
  - Indigenous engagement city-wide
- 4) The Waterfront Secretariat is working with Waterfront Toronto, and other divisions and agencies, to better coordinate, share lessons and improve Indigenous engagement.



# Thank you!

For more information:

Visit [www.toronto.ca/waterfrontnextphase](http://www.toronto.ca/waterfrontnextphase)

Contact [Michael.noble@Toronto.ca](mailto:Michael.noble@Toronto.ca)

