# What We Heard Engagement Summary

June 2023







# **Executive Summary**

The Official Plan is a city planning document that acts as Toronto's road map for land use matters. It sets out our long-term vision, shared values, and policies that help guide decision-making on land development, economic growth, the environment, and more. It is an important plan that directs where different types of development should and should not go.

The Municipal Comprehensive Review and Official Plan review processes, named "Our Plan Toronto", has been shaped by the diverse voices that make up our city. Torontonians from across the city were invited to participate and lend their voice to the review, which will shape the city over the next 30 years.

What we heard during the process and the four phases of engagement has shaped the plan's draft vision, directions, and principles. This has resulted in revisions to the Official Plan that reflects the diversity of our city, and aims to eliminate disparities, take action against climate change, make Toronto the most inclusive city in the world, and take steps toward reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

Our Plan Toronto is part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review, a process to review and update the Official Plan that is required under the Planning Act of Ontario and Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area. Provincial requirements related to notices, Indigenous engagement, statutory meetings, and statutory open houses were followed.

# **How We Engaged**

- Our Plan Toronto project name and brand
- Community-wide
   Open Houses
- Neighbourhood specific Open Houses
- Project website
- StoryMap
- The Agenda episode on TVO
- Youth engagement
- One-on-one calls with stakeholders
- Attendance at City Councillor Town Halls

- · Communications to email list
- Email and telephone outreach to 20+ Indigenous rights holders, care-takers and organizations
- Social media posts and engagement through #OurPlanTO
- Advertisements on transit shelters across Toronto
- Meetings with Indigenous Rights Holders
- Meetings with urban Indigenous organizations
- Meetings with stakeholder groups and community organizations
- Meetings with Internal Division at the City
- Meetings with equitydeserving populations

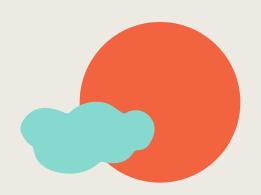
Community Leaders Circle

The Community Leaders Circle (CLC) was a fundamental component to reach marginalized communities and equity deserving groups. Spanning over 30 community organizations across the City, the CLC members were engaged through workshops and dialogue to provide insights focused on embedding equity both into the Our Plan Toronto process as well as into the Official Plan policies. The CLC was also mobilized for additional outreach and engagement in their respective communities, resulting in multiple additional focused consultations co-designed and/or led by CLC members. CLC participants were compensated for their time through an honorarium, to reduce financial barriers to participation.

Presentation to City Committees

- Planning and Housing Committee
- Economic and Community Development Committee
- Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee
- Confronting Anti-Black Racism Committee
- Film, Television, and Digital Media Advisory Board
- Toronto Accessibility Accountability Committee
- Seniors Strategy Accountability Table

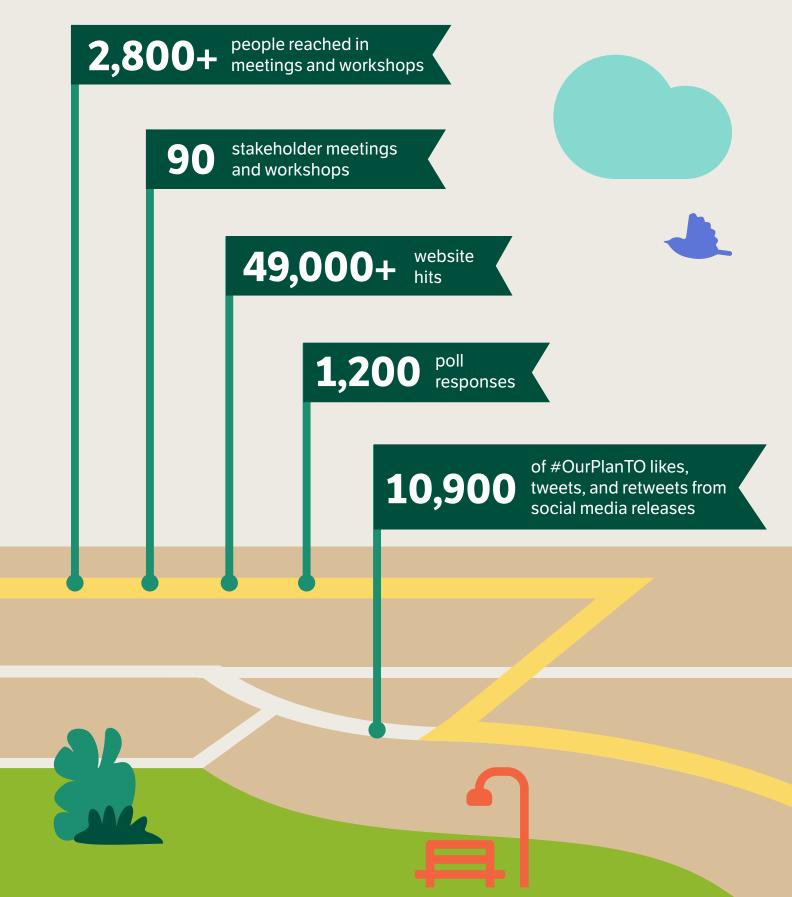
To help raise awareness and encourage participation, we placed advertisements about Our Plan Toronto on approximately 150 transit shelters, spread across all corners of the city.







# **Engagement by the Numbers**



# What We Engaged On

#### Phase 3

#### **Presented:**

- Draft vision statements and principles for Chapter 1
- Draft and recommended policies for environment and climate change, employment, and Major Transit Station Areas

#### Phase 4

- Presented Draft Chapter 1 focusing on Indigenous planning perspectives
  - Gauged support for draft Official Plan vision, directions and principles, including obtaining any refinements

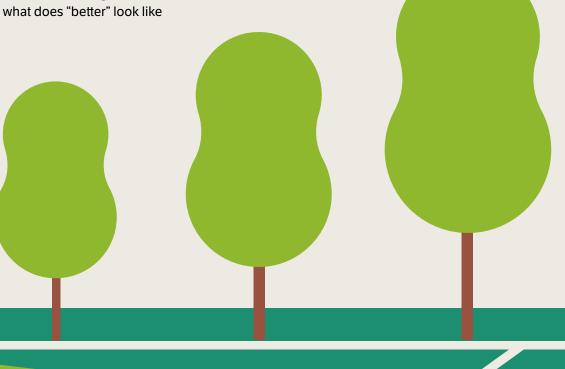
#### Phase 2

- What's working in communities
- · Priorities for the Official Plan
- Focus on building back better,

  what does "better" look like

#### Phase 1

- The biggest challenges facing Toronto as we grow
- Values for future growth
- Breaking down inequities



# **Indigenous Engagement**

As part of the Our Plan Toronto process, the City consulted on and looked at how to address the many disparities that exist across our city in an effort to become a more equitable, welcoming, and healthy city for all. In addition applying an equity lens to the engagement process, Our Plan Toronto examined our history through reflection on Indigenous priorities in a manner that supports Indigenous self-determination.

The City of Toronto saw Our Plan Toronto as a key opportunity to support Indigenous self-determination through Indigenous inclusion and reflection. To do this, the City of Toronto placed an important emphasis on amplifying Indigenous voices in this planning process.

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2020 recognizes the important role that Indigenous communities have in land use planning, and requires municipalities to consult with and build relationships with Indigenous communities through meaningful engagement. With this in mind, Our Plan Toronto used a relationship-based approach in the outreach and engagement with Indigenous rights holders, businesses and organizations, to form relationships with individuals and organizations to foster those relationships beyond the life of the Our Plan Toronto process.

For more information, read the Indigenous engagement summary available on the Our Plan Toronto web page: toronto.ca/ourplan

#### **Engagement by the numbers**

**35** 

12

96

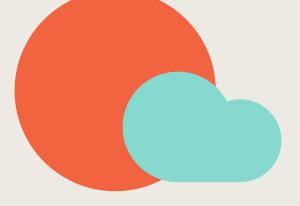
meetings

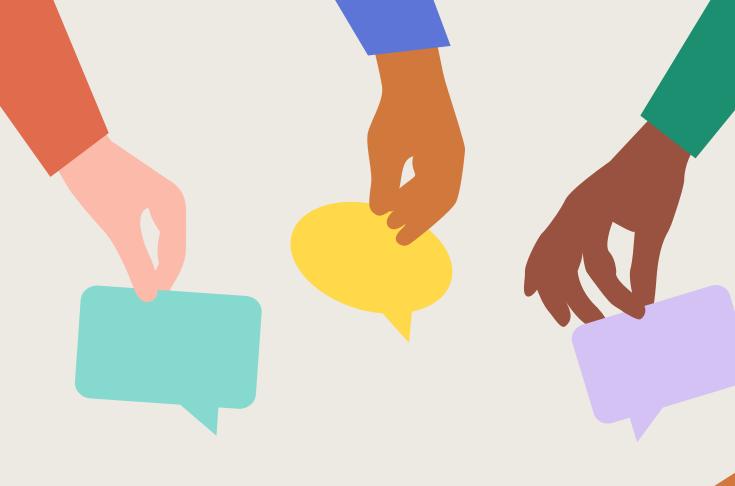
one-on-one interviews

participants

### **How We Engaged**

- Introductory letters
- Phone calls and emails
- E-bulletin with updates and notifications
- Meetings with Rights Holders
- Meetings with urban Indigenous organizations
- Focus groups
- One-on-one interviews with Indigenous organizations
- Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)
- Community Leaders Circle
- Ambe Maamowisdaa Employee Circle





# **What We Heard**

### **The Key Themes**

- · Equity, inclusion, and relationship building
- Aligning priorities and conversations
- · Community-led solutions
- Learning from the past and implementation

# The most frequently raised issues included:

- Housing affordability
- · Scale of intensification
- Environment and climate change
- · Indigenous interests and rights
- Supporting businesses and jobs
- Complete communities and universal design

For more information, read the engagement summaries for each phase, available on the Our Plan Toronto web page: toronto.ca/ourplan



# **How We Used Your Feedback**

Feedback gathered throughout the engagement process was used to draft the Official Plan Vision Statement that sets out what we want the City to look like in 2051.

#### The Official Plan will:

Seek to **eliminate disparities** experienced by Torontonians.

Challenge orthodoxies and **systemic impacts** of land use planning.



Prioritize **climate change action** and sustainability towards net zero by 2040.

Be the road map for Toronto to become **the most inclusive city** in the world.



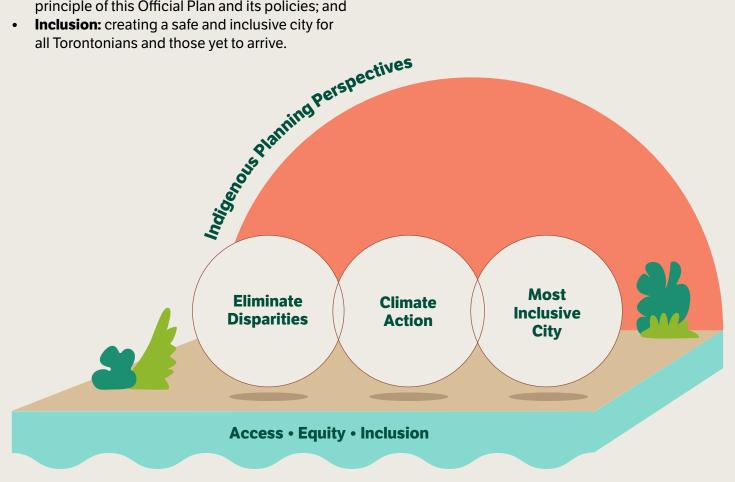




# **The Official Plan**

## **Principles for successful** and inclusive city:

- Access: improving access to many facets of daily life;
- Equity: centering equity as an organizing principle of this Official Plan and its policies; and
- **Inclusion:** creating a safe and inclusive city for all Torontonians and those yet to arrive.



#### **Final Note**

Thank you to those who participated in Our Plan Toronto, through public meetings, interviews, stakeholder meetings, Community Leaders Circles, Indigenous organizations and rights holder meetings, survey and polling, emails, social media, the website and our digital resource StoryMaps. Your insights, perspectives, feedback and input have shaped the future of Toronto with the goals to be a more equitable and inclusive city.

Learn more: toronto.ca/ourplan

Follow @CityPlanTO and hashtag #OurPlanTO on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.