

# Our Plan Toronto Indigenous Engagement Summary

Prepared by: Dillon Consulting Limited

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Photo: Sadie Hamilton

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## Executive Summary

Indigenous engagement for Our Plan Toronto focused on **building relationships with Indigenous rights holders, businesses, and organizations and understanding Indigenous planning perspectives**. The City of Toronto saw Our Plan Toronto as a key opportunity to support Indigenous self-determination through Indigenous inclusion and reflection. The City of Toronto placed an important emphasis on reflecting and amplifying Indigenous voices in the planning process. Indigenous engagement has included meetings with rights holders, interviews with Indigenous organizations, focus groups, the Community Leaders Circle (CLC) and participation at the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) and the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC).

Outreach and communications included the development of a contact list, emails, phone calls, and an e-bulletin to share information about the project and invite people to participate in engagement activities. A working list of Indigenous rights holders and Indigenous organizations that have been contacted for involvement in this engagement process is included on the project webpage.

### Summary of Indigenous Engagement & Communications Activities

#### Engagement included:

- 12 meetings with rights holders
- 12 one-on-one interviews with Indigenous organizations
- 2 Focus Groups
- Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)
- 2 Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) meetings
- 5 meetings with the Community Leaders Circle (CLC)
- 4 meetings with Urban Indigenous Organization
- Metis Council Region 8 meeting
- Coordination with Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO)
- Meetings and coordination with the City's AMBE Maamowisdaa Employee Circle.

#### Outreach and communications included:

- Introductory letters via Email
- Email and Phone Calls
- Regular E-bulletins
- Project email contact via [opreview@toronto.ca](mailto:opreview@toronto.ca)

## Key Themes of What We Heard

Based on the input received during Indigenous engagement for Our Plan Toronto, the following are key themes that emerged. The discussion points raised most frequently were:

- The inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Inclusion and recognition of Indigenous history and the history of the land in the Official Plan
- The importance of meaningful land acknowledgements and taking steps toward meaningful action
- Land acknowledgments need expansion to provide more meaningful history and be accurate to what happened to help people understand difficult history
- Focus on relationship building with Indigenous organizations, residents and communities
- Increasing Indigenous Peoples' roles in land use decision making
- Engage and understand the Indigenous history and community interests during decision making processes
- Desire to move beyond consultation to negotiation and equal partnership with Indigenous communities
- Embed Indigenous perspectives and traditional knowledge in planning and development
- Identify Indigenous approaches and perspectives for environmental policies
- Create public spaces with an Indigenous presence
- Our relationship with the natural environment needs more consideration in how we develop
- Need for more Indigenous roles in environmental protection, stewardship, and conservation
- Provide affordable housing for Indigenous people close to services and amenities
- Support Indigenous business and employment opportunities
- Recognize that everything is connected to everything; these connections requires us to plan holistically
- Consider the well-being of future generations while understanding what was once on the land has shaped where we are today
- Official Plan goals need components of measurability and accountability to move towards meaningful change

## Summary of Recommendations

Based on the input received during Indigenous engagement for Our Plan Toronto, the following recommendations are identified for consideration by the City as they work through the review and update of OP policies:

- Include Indigenous language and world views in the Official Plan
- Prioritize Indigenous perspectives and recommendations on the natural environment
- Work with Indigenous rights holders to identify a meaningful role in decision making
- Prioritize environmental policies that protect and promote green spaces, protection of waterways, wildlife habitats and trees
- City Planning should consider hiring permanent Indigenous team members who are focused on building relationships with rights holders and Indigenous people living and working in Toronto. People who can reflect Indigenous perspectives in planning, inform and guide planning policy / initiatives and support efforts toward planning that is “by Indigenous, for Indigenous”
- Recognize capacity issues within communities to review planning reports and reasons for non-participation; develop approach to building capacity
- Recognize that Indigenous participation in planning is key to self-determination
- Learn from previous consultations and bring forward past recommendations that are relevant to the Official Plan
  - Spend time reviewing previous Indigenous consultation reports and documents to inform recommendations
- Protect Indigenous rights to harvest, collect medicines, plants, and hunt
- Increase efforts to engage Indigenous rights holders and Indigenous people living and working in Toronto to bring forward Indigenous perspectives in planning
- Strengthen relationships and continue building trust with rights holders and Indigenous organizations, amplify Indigenous voices and integrate Indigenous perspectives into policy and planning decisions

## Report Organization

This report is organized into five Sections. Section 1 of this report presents the background, purpose, study process, as well as information on the Provincial Policy Statement and the Reconciliation Action Plan. Section 2 presents the Indigenous engagement approach and considerations. Section 3 provides an overview of

engagement and communication activities undertaken during Phase 1, 2, 3, and 4. Section 4 summarizes the input received and identifies the key themes and priorities that emerged. Section 5 outlines recommendations for City review, next steps of the project and outlines future Indigenous engagement on Our Plan Toronto.

Dillon Consulting Limited is the independent engagement and facilitation team retained by the City of Toronto (City) to support consultation and communications for the City's Official Plan Review. This summary report was prepared by the Dillon team and is intended to reflect the key engagement activities and discussion points from engagement. It is not intended to be a verbatim record of all input received.



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Our Plan Toronto is the Official Plan review process that is provincially required to satisfy the Municipal Comprehensive Review and Growth Plan conformity exercise. 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.

As part of the Our Plan Toronto process, the City has 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. This includes an examination of our history and 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, in partnership with Dillon Consulting Limited, have placed an important emphasis on reflecting and amplifying Indigenous voices in the planning process. As part of the Indigenous engagement process, the City and Dillon team coordinated with the City's Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO). The IAO provided support to the initial engagement planning process (and throughout the process) including providing an understanding of how they have engaged Indigenous organizations in the past and current relationships with Treaty rights holders.

## 1.2 Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is an important planning document that guides land use decisions and planning in the province of Ontario. In 2020, the PPS was updated to include significant changes to the language to mandate relationship building and the constructive and cooperative relationships that Municipalities should create with Indigenous Peoples. The PPS recognizes the unique relationship Indigenous communities have to the land and its resources, and the importance of traditional knowledge and Indigenous perspectives on land use matters. The PPS section 1.2.2 states that planning authorities shall engage with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters. This statement makes it clear that planners must engage with Indigenous communities on land use planning. With the PPS in mind, Our Plan Toronto used a relationship-based approach in the outreach and engagement

with Indigenous treaty rights holders, businesses and organizations. Indigenous relationship-building has been a core element of the Our Plan Toronto process.

### **1.3 Reconciliation Action Plan (2022-2032)**

The City of Toronto's first Reconciliation Action Plan was approved by City Council on April 6, 2022, and will guide its actions to advance truth, justice and reconciliation for the next 10 years. It builds on the City's existing commitments to Indigenous Peoples and takes them even further through 28 meaningful actions across the following five themes:

- Actions to restore truth
- Actions to right relations and share power
- Actions for justice
- Actions to make financial reparations
- Actions for the Indigenous Affairs Office

The plan was developed over three years with input from First Nations, Inuit and Métis community members, organizations, Elders, Knowledge Carriers, youth, and Indigenous employees and allies in the Toronto Public Service. City of Toronto staff was informed by the adopted Reconciliation Action Plan in drafting the draft Indigenous planning principles for Chapter 1 of the Official Plan.

## 2 Engagement Approach

The Indigenous Engagement approach began by identifying the interests and preferred communication approaches supported by treaty holders and organizations working in Toronto to support Indigenous populations. Based on initial input through interviews with Indigenous community members and organizations, the engagement tactics were identified that best suit the needs of the communities.

Following initial engagement to understand preferred approach and methods of engagement, a relationship building approach to engagement was developed to begin to understand the history, various perspectives and interests in the Official Plan. The approach included research on rights holders contacts and organization contacts, initial contact through letters and phone calls, introductory meetings with treaty rights holders, focus group sessions, e-bulletins, presentations at Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee and Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, and inclusion of Indigenous organizations in the Community Leaders Circle. The relationship building approach to engagement intends to help form relationships with individuals and organizations and foster those relationships the Our Plan Toronto process continues.

### 2.1 Guiding Principles

Several guiding principles were developed as part of the engagement plan to guide the engagement and communications with Indigenous rights holders and organizations.

These included:

- Uphold and follow through with commitments to relationship building and discussions surrounding implementation of rights, interests and self-determination
- Present information on the Official Plan in a clear and relatable way, as the majority of participants will have limited familiarity with the document and with City Planning policies
- Offer multiple channels for engagement tailored to the needs of urban Indigenous community members. Conduct outreach and design events in a manner that is inclusive and considers the diversity of the Indigenous population
- Create space for truth, honour reconciliation, and hold conversations around restorative justice with respect to space in the urban environment
- Communicate with participants often and with a focus on early engagement and reporting back on what was heard, supporting ongoing consultations throughout the Official Plan Review process and beyond

- Allow for adaptability of engagement methods to integrate additional feedback on preferred processes as the engagement unfolds

## 2.2 Amplifying Indigenous Voices

As part of Our Plan Toronto, Indigenous voices, values and perspectives were prioritized and amplified through the engagement process. In the lead up to the development of the engagement plan, Indigenous organizations who participated in the interviews were asked how the City can ensure that a range of Indigenous voices are heard, and that relationships are built through the engagement process. The following key considerations emerged from these conversations:

- Apply knowledge and learnings from past planning and research reports to all engagement with Indigenous communities, so as to build on this towards deeper understanding and identification of specific policies for the Official Plan
- Go out to the community and reach them where they are through whenever possible, through smaller events and meetings that are convenient and accessible
- Build relationships with participants as individuals as well as with organizations, getting to know them so as to foster those relationships beyond the life of the Our Plan Toronto process
- Offer sufficient time and space for meetings – tight time frames can be challenging to deal with and would constrain the range of voices that can be heard
- Grow outreach and consistent partnerships with a range of small and grassroots based Indigenous organizations, as well as larger service providers

## 2.3 Culturally Sensitive Approaches

In order to make engagement meaningful and aligned with Indigenous practices on holding community conversations, the following key considerations will be integrated to support a trauma-informed approach and strive for the overall well-being of participants in meetings and events.

- Apply knowledge and learnings from past planning and research reports to all engagement with Indigenous communities, so as to build on this towards deeper understanding and identification of specific policies for the Official Plan. Come prepared to meetings
- Open meetings with a land acknowledgement that is personalized and offers a tribute to how the learning from the session will support truth and reconciliation

- Plan for and offer honoraria and compensation for time invested by participants in meetings, particularly for Elders who would be involved in engagement processes. An Elder should be present to open and close all meetings, and should be engaged in the meeting design as much as possible
- Recognize that past and ongoing trauma can emerge triggered by a range of different kinds of conversations, and be prepared to offer mental health supports in the moment as well as following the meeting through the guidance of Elders and experienced community members
- When engaging with sensitive or vulnerable populations, seek the involvement of an Elder and other experienced professionals with knowledge of the community and who are trained accordingly
- Provide active facilitation, recognizing that there may be contrasting view points on various issues and it is important to make space for conversations and allow all voices to be heard. It is not good practice for a facilitator to interrupt or to move to another speaker prematurely
- Ask about and be prepared for ceremonial practices at the opening and closing of meetings. When engaging in person, offer room/space for participants to smudge, and work with community-based organizations to have traditional medicines on hand and easily accessible
- Include a tobacco offering as a token of appreciation, based on discussion and guidance from Elders and/or event organizers
- Offer food and support attendance by offering on-site childcare services, transportation vouchers/transit passes, etc. whenever possible

### **3 Communications & Engagement Activities**

The following section outlines the key engagement activities completed in Phase 1, 2, 3, and 4. Indigenous relationship-building has been and continues to be a core element of the Our Plan Toronto process. The City of Toronto is committed to supporting Indigenous self-determination and supporting the deeper integration of First Nation, Inuit and Metis perspectives into the policies of the Official Plan. In order to do this, engagement with both urban Indigenous residents as well as the First Nation communities' traditional territory which Toronto occupies are key.

The purpose of the engagement was continue to engage First Nation communities, Indigenous organizations and the general Indigenous public living in Toronto on the Municipal Comprehensive Review to receive feedback on information gathered throughout the Our Plan Toronto engagement and to amplify Indigenous self-determination within the City of Toronto planning policies.

#### **3.1 Indigenous Rights Holders Meetings**

The Our Plan Toronto engagement team spent time reaching out to Indigenous rights holders and care takers to set-up meetings and understand interests in Our Plan Toronto. This effort was informed by input from the City's Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) at the City. As part of the engagement in Phase 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Our Plan Toronto, three meetings were held with the Mississauga's of the Credit (MCFN), five meetings with Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations), one meeting with the Mississauga's of Scugog Island (MSIFN), two meetings with Curve Lake and one meeting with Chippewas of the Rama.

These meetings were centered on the history, rights, interests of rights holders, as well as updates on Draft Chapter 1 and a chance to share feedback and perspectives for Our Plan Toronto. Building relationships that go beyond Our Plan Toronto was also a focus for these meetings that can be applied more broadly to City Planning initiatives led by the City of Toronto. Outreach to and engagement with Indigenous rights holders is ongoing.

#### **3.2 Indigenous Organizations**

Developing relationships with Indigenous organizations, businesses and service providers is a key aspect of the City's efforts to support Indigenous self-determination and embed Indigenous perspectives in the policies of the new Official Plan. During Phase 1, the Our Plan Toronto team developed a list of organizations to reach out to

discuss the best approach for engagement on Our Plan Toronto. This effort included designing interview surveys to be completed in Phase 2 with Indigenous organizations.

During Phase 2, the project team developed and administered the survey over the phone through one-on-one interviews with Indigenous organizations. The survey focused on identifying the best approaches to consulting with organizations and the Indigenous population living and work in Toronto. Interviews were held with 12 organizations over the course of August and September 2021.

During Phase 4, the project team held meetings to discuss the draft Chapter 1 of the Official Plan. This gave organizations an opportunity to provide feedback and share perspectives on the draft directions and principles that had been developed to date. Meetings were held with 4 Indigenous organizations from March to April 2023.

### **3.3 Community Leaders Circle Meetings**

Comprised of representatives and leaders of over 30 community-based and city-wide organizations, the Community Leaders Circle (CLC) was established to share perspectives and help lead outreach to communities and audiences across Toronto. A launch meeting with the CLC members was held on June 3rd, 2021 with a total of 25 participants. The input from the CLC is crucial to ensuring that the outcomes of the Our Plan Toronto process meaningfully contribute towards eliminating disparities created by current planning policies.

Five Community Leaders Circle Meetings (CLC) were held with members of over 30 community-based and city-wide organizations. The CLC was established to share perspectives and help lead outreach to communities and audiences across Toronto and included representatives from Indigenous organizations. The CLC helps to reduce the barriers in participating in the City planning process and consultation program. The meetings were held virtually on WebEx or Zoom with interactive polling and MURAL board tools to facilitate the discussions.

### **3.4 City Committees**

The City planning team met with the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) on June 18, 2021 to present on the purpose of Our Plan Toronto and to receive input on approaches to consulting with Indigenous rights holders, Indigenous organizations and urban residents. The City planning team went back to the AAAC on June 13, 2022 to present the draft policies for the Official Plan and the draft Chapter 1 which includes Indigenous Planning Perspectives.

The City planning team met with the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) on June 24, 2021 to present on the purpose of Our Plan Toronto and to receive input on approaches to consulting with Indigenous organizations and urban residents. Another meeting with TASSC was held on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 to present the Draft Indigenous Planning Perspectives and to receive feedback on the direction of Chapter 1.

A meeting was also held with the Ambe Maamowisdaa Employee Circle (AMBE circle) on November 30, 2022 to present the draft Chapter 1 including Indigenous Planning Perspectives as part of the Official Plan Review.

### **3.5 Inter-divisional Workshop**

The project team facilitated an inter-divisional workshop with divisional representatives from the Municipal Licensing and Standards; City Planning; Solid Waste Management; Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Building; Toronto Fire Service; Toronto Water; Office of Emergency Management; Environment and Energy; Indigenous Affairs; Seniors and Long-Term Care; Economic Development and Culture and Legal Services departments. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a brief overview of Our Plan Toronto and receive feedback on the draft version of Chapter 1 – focusing on the Plan’s vision and principles.

### **3.6 Focus Groups**

Based on feedback through the survey interviews, the first Indigenous organizations roundtable meeting was held on December 7, 2021. At this meeting participants learned more about Our Plan Toronto and provided input on the issues and priorities of Indigenous people living and working in Toronto.

### **3.7 E-Bulletins**

To engage with the Indigenous rights holders, businesses, and organizations online, the engagement team sent out a series of consultation notices and project updates through e-bulletins. These communications were sent to the contact list developed in Phase 1 and provided updates on Our Plan Toronto, upcoming engagement events, other ways to engage, and an offer to meet with the City of Toronto team. Contact information was provided.

### **3.8 Communications Received**

The City planning team received communications regarding Our Plan Toronto from the Mississauga’s of the Credit and Six Nations.



On December 15, 2020, a letter was received from the Mississauga's of the Credit with key elements for inclusion in the Official Plan. This included an acknowledgement that they are the traditional and continuous stewards of the land, water, and resources, acknowledgement of treaty rights and cultural heritage, and ongoing engagement. On February 16, 2022, Six Nations sent a draft Value Statement to incorporate into the Official Plan including the Indigenous connection to the land and protection of the natural environment. The project team also received written comments in Phase 4 from Na-Me-Res on the draft Chapter 1 document with suggested revisions to the Indigenous planning perspectives.

## 4 What We Heard

### 4.1 Highlights of Overall Input Received

**Table 1** highlights the key themes of input received during the Indigenous engagement.

Table 1: Themes of Input

Theme	Examples of Topics Raised
<b>Indigenous Rights</b>	Prioritize meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities, and accommodate Indigenous rights holders in decision making and planning processes. Land back movement awareness and the return of Indigenous sovereignty over traditional territories. Self-determination, self-governance and access to land and water.
<b>Relationship Building</b>	Focus on supporting Indigenous relationship building, and increasing Indigenous roles in decision making. Reflect Indigenous knowledge, practices and world views in policies.
<b>Engagement</b>	Continue to engage and understand the Indigenous history and interests during decision making process. Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers need to be engaged and present during decision making process. Engage with urban Indigenous populations living and working in Toronto.
<b>Indigenous voices</b>	Embed Indigenous perspectives and traditional knowledge in planning and development. The history of the land, treaties, Indigenous communities, rights holders, archeological history, and recognition of Nations before settlement needs to be included in the Official Plan. Recognize Indigenous voices equally with non-indigenous perspectives throughout the Official Plan. Official Plan should be guided by Indigenous perspectives.
<b>Placemaking</b>	Create public spaces with Indigenous presence that supports Indigenous culture, art, ceremonies, activities, gatherings, and murals. Creates spaces for Indigenous groups and communities to use in the city.
<b>Environment and Climate Change</b>	Toronto should become a greener city with more consideration of the city’s relationship to the land. Need for more Indigenous roles in environmental protection, stewardship, and conservation. Provide natural spaces for Indigenous people living in Toronto to practice rights and rituals. Impacts of development on environment.

Theme	Examples of Topics Raised
<b>Housing and Intensification</b>	Provide affordable housing for Indigenous people. Autonomy for Indigenous organizations to provide and run their own affordable housing. Locations of Indigenous housing need to be close to Indigenous communities, services, and natural areas to support health and wellbeing.
<b>Neighbourhoods and Complete Communities</b>	Provide more access to nature, green space, services, and resources to support complete communities for Indigenous people. The idea of a complete community can't be achieved without care for the natural environment.
<b>Future of Work and Employment</b>	Locate jobs close to Indigenous communities. Support Indigenous business and employment opportunities through commercial interests and procurement.

## 4.2 Input by Theme

The following sections summarize the input received within several key themes: Indigenous rights and heritage, engagement and decision making, environment and climate change, Chapter 1 of the Official Plan, inclusion in the Official Plan, place-making and place-keeping, housing and intensification, neighbourhoods and complete communities, and the future or work and employment.

**The points documented below summarize the input, feedback and discussions from the Indigenous engagement that took place during Phases 1 to 4 of Our Plan Toronto between May 2021 and May 2023. It is important to note that different Indigenous rights holders and organizations hold different opinions and perspectives. Perspectives are not always shared by different communities and this may be reflected in the comments below. This is intended to be a summary of all of the input received, and does not reflect the input from one particular Indigenous community or organization.**

### 4.2.1 Engagement and Decision Making

- Embed Indigenous perspectives, traditional knowledge, family-centered approach, and forward thinking and action-oriented approach in planning and development
- Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers need to be engaged and present during decision making process
- Connection and engagement with urban Indigenous residents in the City of Toronto is missing
- Provide trauma-informed practices that support mental health awareness
- Provide funding for roles to support Indigenous capacity building

- Urban Indigenous people who work and live in Toronto need to be engaged
- Engage early and often during the decision-making process
- Engage Indigenous organizations and business through social media, newsletters, pop-ups, small groups, focus groups, surveys, one-on-one interviews and events
- Chapter 1 goals are honourable aspirations and should be measurable so that targets can be tracked

#### **4.2.2 Indigenous Rights and Heritage**

- Rights holders and Indigenous peoples living in Toronto need to be involved in planning and decision making related to land and water
- Prioritize the meaningful engagement and accommodate Indigenous rights holders in land use planning
- Address and be aware of land back movement issues to re-establish Indigenous sovereignty over traditional territories
- Need to improve the process and the importance of archaeology and heritage planning
- Prioritize Indigenous approach to cultural heritage planning on archeology

#### **4.2.3 Environment & Climate Change**

- Concerned with the proximity of development to water and how to protect and care for water
- Support Indigenous procurement in financing green development and green energy projects
- Rights holders want a larger role in being able to decide whether development is going to impact the environment, habitat, non-human beings (wildlife), water or treaty rights
- Indigenous people should be engaged with on environmental conditions reviews prior to the initiation of environmental studies
- Urbanization affects Indigenous rights to harvest, collect medicines, plants, and hunt
- Need natural spaces for Indigenous people living in Toronto to practice rights and hold ceremony
- Concern around pollution and the impact that growth may have on air quality, noise, and waste
- Move development away from flood plains and re-naturalize rivers, streams, and waterbodies
- Require more permeable surfaces and reduce impermeable surfaces
- Improve on the tree replacement program

- Need for environmental protection, stewardship, conservation and relationship with the natural environment and biodiversity
- Think holistically, everything is connected to everything including relationships between the socio-economic, natural environment, and economy
- Respect for the land must be considered when planning for and building a complete community
- Parkland and tree preservation must be considered when thinking of actions for meeting net zero and climate change targets

#### **4.2.4 Indigenous Planning Perspectives**

- A greater understanding of the ways that land goes through many states through time, and layers of history exist – what is now urban was once forest or ravines
- Expanding land acknowledgements to include historically significant areas such as the Toronto Carrying Place and Davenport Trail
- Developing land in squares and rectangles goes against Indigenous people’s way of building homes and living on land
- Reflect Indigenous knowledge, practices and world views in policies and land use planning decisions
- Include Indigenous rights holders, organizations and peoples in decision making and planning processes
- Our relationship to the land must be respected in the ways we build community
- Reflect Indigenous language in public spaces
- Hope that the proposed Chapter 1 Indigenous planning perspectives becomes a model for other municipalities

#### **4.2.5 Relationship Building**

- Focus on supporting Indigenous relationship building, reconciliation, and increasing Indigenous roles in decision making
- Support Indigenous capacity building to provide meaningful role in land use matters
- Commit to continued relationship building with Indigenous communities with honesty, respect, and reciprocity
- Reflect Indigenous knowledge, practices and world views in Official Plan policies
- Sharing circles are important to regularly reflect and continue in ongoing relationship building

#### **4.2.6 Inclusion in Official Plan**

- The Official Plan should open with a land acknowledgement
- The land acknowledgement should be meaningful in the Official Plan and include acknowledgement of Traditional Territories, Indigenous peoples, Indigenous heritage, pre-contact history, acknowledgement of ancestral resting places and recognition of the Nations before them
- Official Plan should include guidance on Indigenous consultation and engagement
- Include Indigenous languages in communications and the Official Plan
- Reconciliation should not be nested under equity because reconciliation is fundamentally different and should stand alone

#### **4.2.7 Place-making and Place-keeping**

- Create more public spaces that support Indigenous culture, art, ceremonies, activities, gatherings, and murals
- Provide Indigenous presence in public spaces, places and libraries
- Support Indigenous culture, practices, and place-making in communities
- Need for more Indigenous identifiers and recognition of indigenous culture in communities and in public spaces

#### **4.2.8 Housing & Intensification**

- Require more affordable housing for Indigenous people, including units with 3 and 4 bedrooms
- Quality of Indigenous housing needs to be improved
- Locations of Indigenous housing in the city needs to be aligned with where Indigenous communities and services are located as well as in proximity to natural areas to support health and wellbeing
- Traditional knowledge needs to be reflected in why and where development and intensification is located
- Official Plan Policy should require that developers consult with Indigenous communities before a proposal goes forward, before they have designs, and at the very initial points of having an idea for a development or a project
- Consult with Indigenous housing organizations and provides for housing affordability, safety, health and improve wellbeing of Indigenous people

#### **4.2.9 Neighbourhood & Complete Communities**

- More access to nature and green spaces is needed in urbanized areas to support complete communities for Indigenous people

- Communities with Indigenous populations need to have Indigenous related services and resources located around them in order to support Indigenous informed complete communities
- Support for Indigenous community hubs where housing, culture, and services are centralized

#### **4.2.10 Future of Work & Employment**

- Improve access to employment opportunities for Indigenous people by locating employment close to Indigenous housing
- Indigenous organizations need space like offices and storefronts
- Support for Indigenous businesses
- Advance economic reconciliation through Indigenous procurement opportunities and commercial interests in economy and environment like green investments

## 5 Next Steps

The feedback received during Indigenous engagement for Our Plan Toronto is being used to inform the draft Indigenous planning perspectives, vision, and principles for a successful city within Chapter 1 will be presented to Planning and Housing Committee, Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, and City Council in Fall 2023. Next steps include the continuation of relationship building with rights holder communities and urban Indigenous organizations beyond Our Plan Toronto.

For more information please visit: [www.toronto.ca/ourplan](http://www.toronto.ca/ourplan)