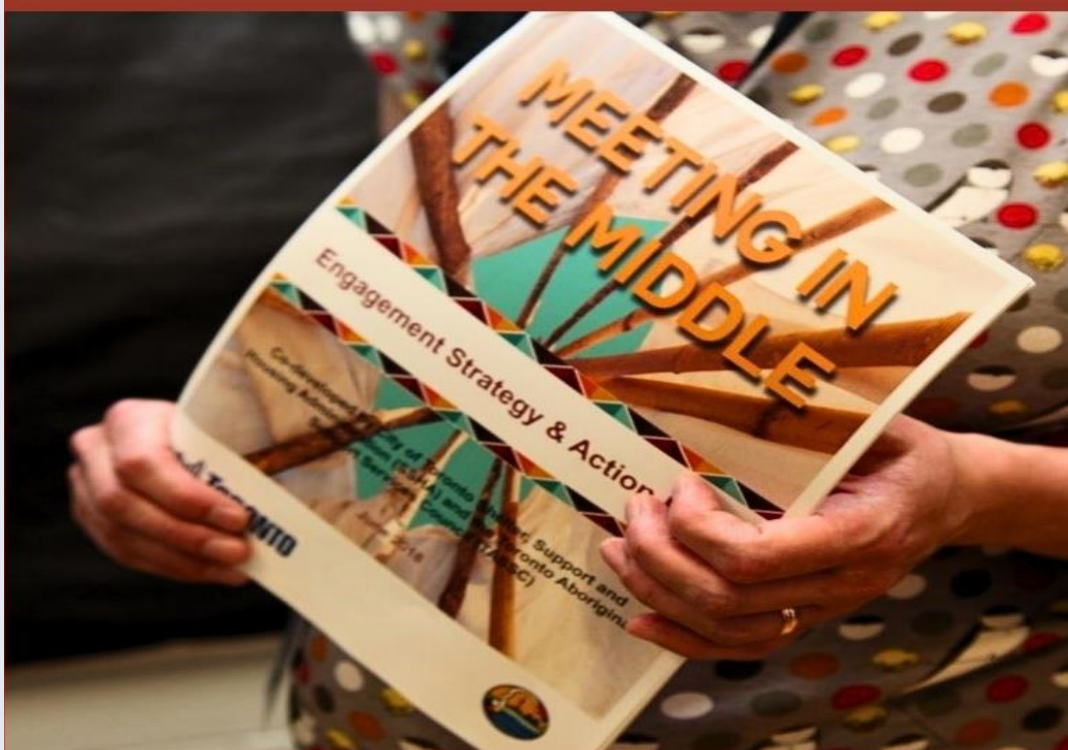


Toronto Shelter and Support Services Key Partnerships and Actions to Address Indigenous Homelessness

Presentation to Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee
April 29, 2025





Building Partnerships to Address Indigenous Homelessness

Co-Creating the Meeting in the Middle Engagement Strategy and Action Plan





Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board

The Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) is made up of Indigenous organizations providing housing and homelessness supports services.

TICAB assists the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (the Toronto Indigenous Community Entity administering federal Indigenous Homelessness Partnering Strategy/Reaching Home funding) in decision-making to ensure the needs of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in Toronto are met.

TICAB Member Agencies

- 2-Spirited People of the First Nations
- Anduhyaun Inc.
- Gabriel Dumont Non-Profit Homes
- Miziwe Biik Development Corporation
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Native Child & Family Services of Toronto
- Native Men's Residence
- Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
- Nishnawbe Homes
- Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society
- Toronto & York Métis Council
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council
- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit
- Wigwamen Inc.



MITM was co-created to foster better relationships between the City of Toronto Shelter and Support Services and Indigenous organizations.



***"We've listened to each other ...
it was a meeting of the minds."***



***"...two sides coming
together ...one side has a lot
of work to do - education,
awareness, understanding to
come back to the middle."***



***"This will not be a straight
path ... but the opportunity is
huge if we can get there."***

7 Commitments and Actions:

1. Learning & Development
2. Integrating Holistic Approaches
3. Supporting Capacity Building
4. Meaningful Engagement
5. Employment Practices
6. Opportunities for Collaboration
7. Action & Accountability





Together we have...

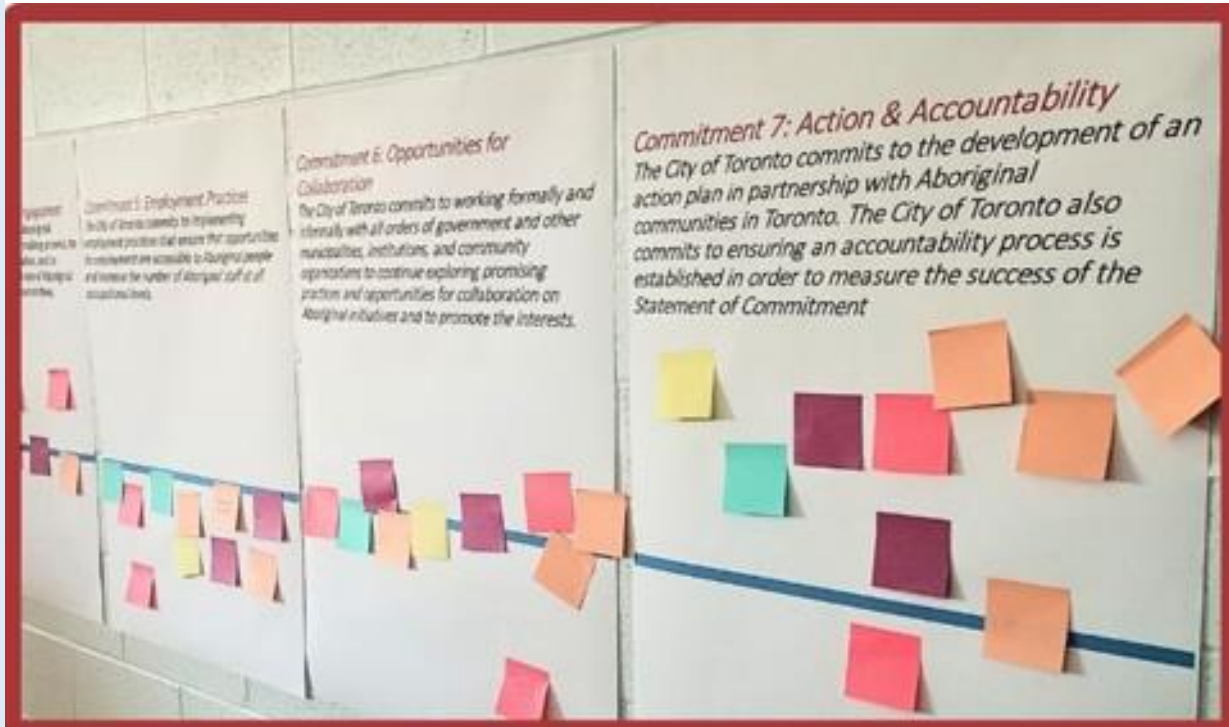
Collaborated on the Street Needs Assessment and Homelessness Solutions Service Plan.

— & —

Established a partnered subcommittee to ensure Coordinated Access is responsive to Indigenous organizations and people experiencing homelessness.



Awareness and understanding of the Meeting in the Middle commitments and actions has increased.



We have strengthened cultural learning and development for staff, with a focus on local realities of Indigenous homelessness.

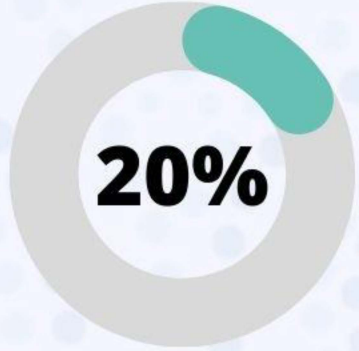


In April 2023, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto opened a 15 bed Indigenous Youth Shelter.



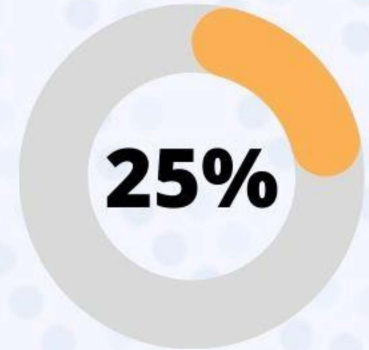
Na-Me-Res is working in collaboration with TSSS to open a 75 bed Indigenous Men's Harm Reduction Shelter.





20% of all grant funding (\$8.67 million annually) has been allocated to Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle for Indigenous-led projects.

Minimum target of matching **25%** of all housing opportunities to Indigenous people experiencing homelessness (RRHI and PATHS program).

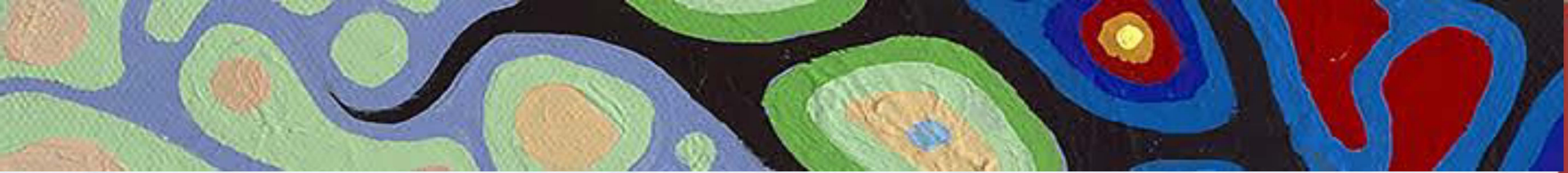


20% of future infrastructure funding for new shelter developments will be allocated to Indigenous shelter services.

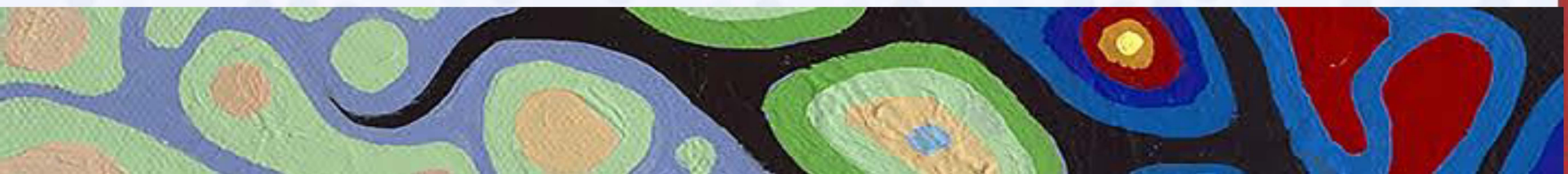
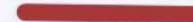
Housing Outcomes for Indigenous People

As of December 2024, there has been 593 housing outcomes matched through Coordinated Access for Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness

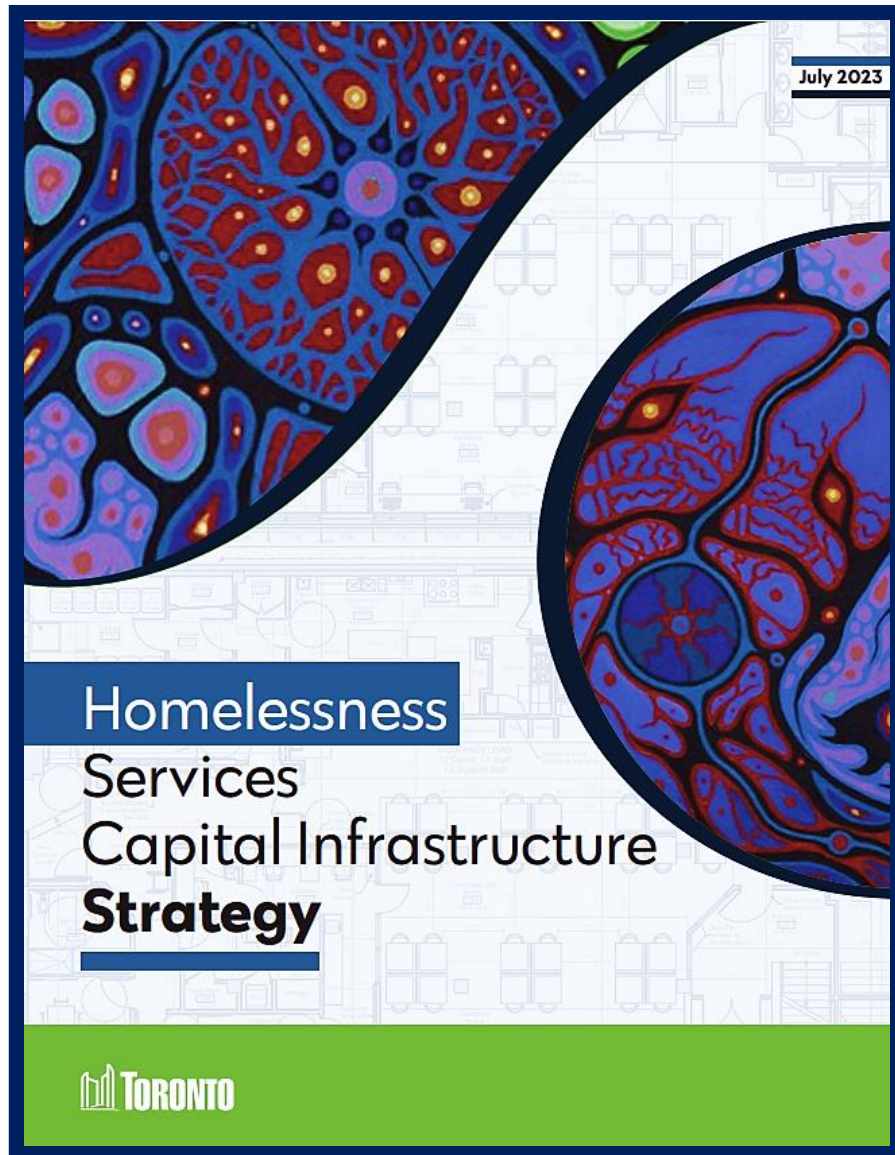
Of these total outcomes, 299 were achieved through the Rapid Rehousing Initiative and 294 through the Priority Access to Housing with Supports process



**We continue to honour our promise
to gather annually in order to
recommit to our relationship and
assess progress on implementation
of Meeting in the Middle.**



Indigenous Shelter Development



Over the next ten years: 20 new shelter sites with approximately 1,600 spaces will be developed.

This includes shelter sites that will respond to pressing needs in the sector. This includes new shelters for Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness, youth, and families.

20% of all future infrastructure funding will be allocated specifically for Indigenous sites.

Indigenous Shelter Development

TSSS worked with the Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) to co-develop the process for Indigenous shelter development and future HSCIS Indigenous shelters.

A sub-committee of TICAB members was created to develop the process for Indigenous Operator Selection.

TSSS and TICAB members met on a regular basis from June to October 2024 to create this process.

Feedback from TICAB:

1

Traditional procurement processes and applications through the City do not work well for Indigenous organizations. A distinct process is needed.

2

Mentorship and capacity development to support Indigenous organizations that are currently not shelter operators should be embedded in the process.

3

There is a significant gap in shelter spaces for Indigenous women. The first HSCIS Indigenous shelter should be an Indigenous women's site.

4

Land ownership is a necessary commitment for Indigenous shelter sites through this process. There should be no requirements imposed on the land-use.

Where We Are Today

June to October 2024:

TSSS and TICAB co-develop the process for Indigenous Operator Selection

February – March 2025

Evaluation for Indigenous Women's Shelter Operator

July 2025

TSSS Annual Shelter Infrastructure Report to Council, includes recommendation Council approve the transfer of land for new Indigenous sites to Indigenous operators

November 2024

Indigenous Expression of Interest (EOI) Launches

January 2025

The Indigenous EOI Closes

March – May 2025

Evaluation for Qualified List of Indigenous Shelter Operators

The Indigenous EOI closed in January 2025, with a total of five applications received. This included program proposals for Indigenous women, men, youth, families, and Two Spirited peoples.

Evaluation is complete for the Indigenous Women Shelter and due diligence is underway. The evaluation for all other applications has begun. Successful proponents will be added to a Qualified List for future sites as locations are secured in 2025 and onwards.



Questions?