

City Manager's Office Update on Action Items and Agenda Planning

Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting # 7

July 29, 2025

Item	Status
1. Terms of Reference Review with TASSC	Documentation to partner with TASSC to complete the Terms of Reference review, is in approvals.
2. Updated Member Bios	- Updated bios have been collected from the majority of members and posted on the City's website. - The opportunity to provide bios for members who are still interested, is available. Please reach out to amiramohamed@toronto.ca.
3. List of City Projects/Initiatives	- At the meeting on June 10, 2025, the Chair made a request for a list of City projects for the AAAC to consider as part of agenda planning. - Staff are working with divisions to assemble a list of projects for the Committee to consider for future agendas. - Targeting September 9th meeting for a first iteration. This will also inform strategic planning for 2026 meetings.
4. Additional Support/Guidance for AAAC Deputants	See separate draft message to deputants, for the committee's consideration.
5. Response to Executive Committee Motions (2025.EX21.14)	See next slides for workplan and status update.

Status Update on Response to 2025.EX21.14: Phase 1

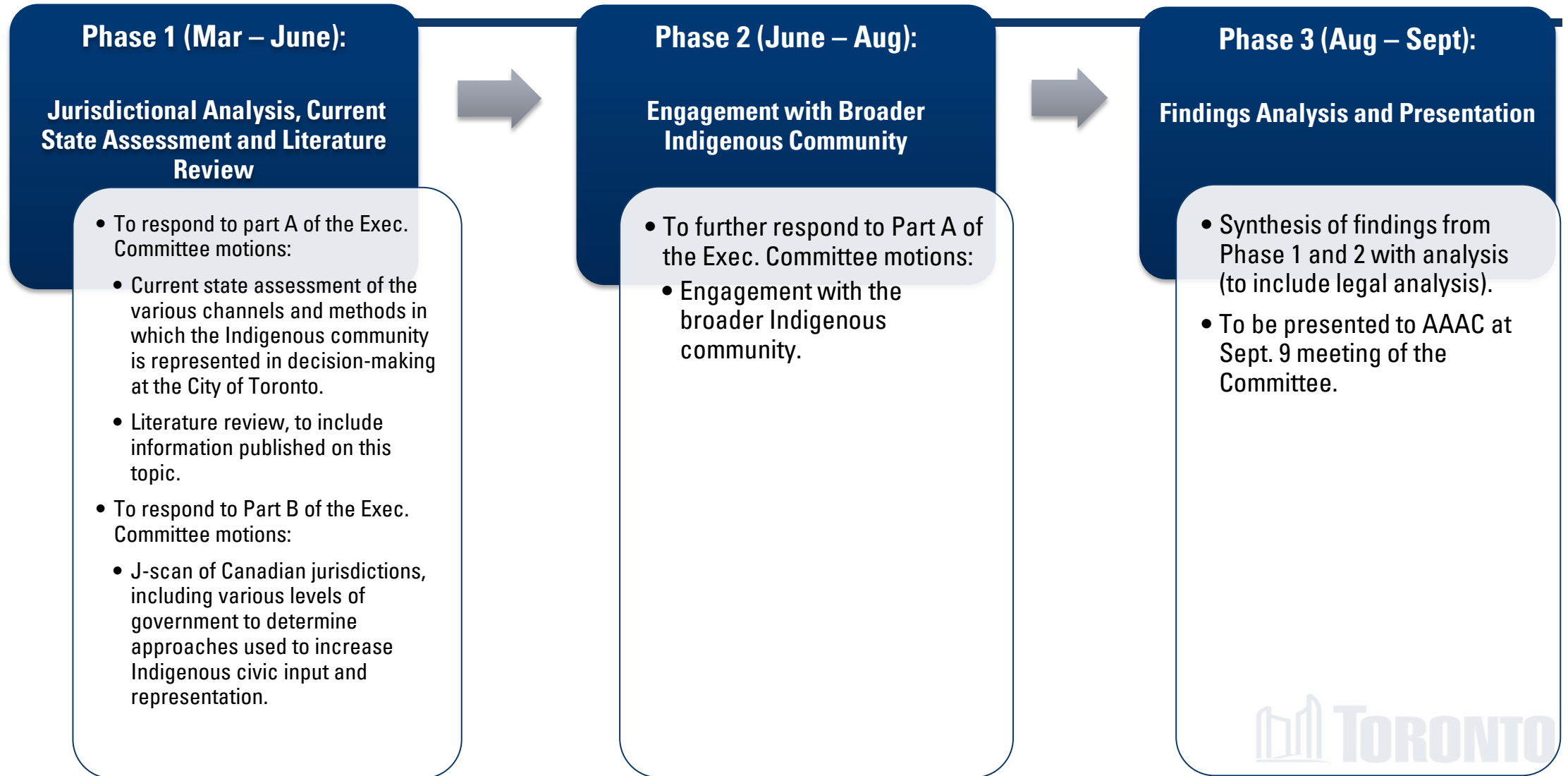
Executive Committee Direction:

2025.EX21.14

On Mar. 19, 2025, The Executive Committee:

1. Referred the Item to the City Manager and requested the City Manager to:
 - a. consider opportunities to deepen meaningful representation of the Indigenous community in City decision-making, including through existing channels such as the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, and in alignment with the City's Reconciliation Action Plan; and
 - b. undertake a scan of Canadian orders of government and measures taken to increase Indigenous civic input and representation, including through advisory bodies and other mechanisms.

Workplan



Methodology



Jurisdictional Scan

- Jurisdictions were chosen from within Canada, including various levels of government.
- A cross section of jurisdictions was chosen to represent geographical variation.
- Jurisdictions were also chosen based on comparability in size and policy scope to the City of Toronto.
- Based on publicly available information that can be found online as of June 2025.

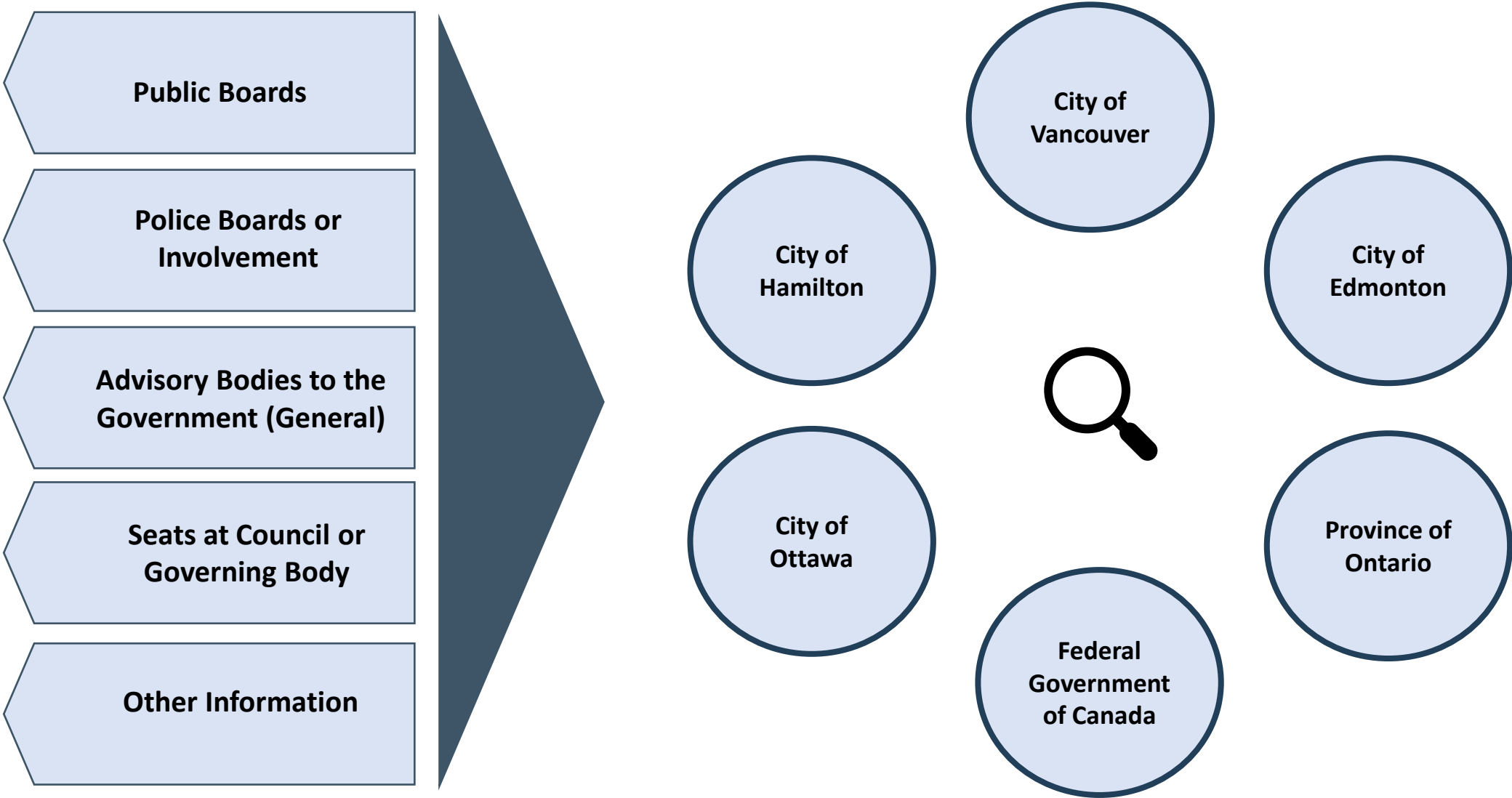
Literature Review

- Focus of the literature review was Indigenous / First Nations community involvement in decision-making in relation to government.
- Literature review here refers to studies, reports, journal articles, etc.
- Criteria used to determine sources:
 - From an Indigenous online platform
 - Had Indigenous author(s) who co-authored the literature
 - If Indigenous community was engaged for the paper
 - Had Non-Indigenous authors who had extensive experiencing working with Indigenous communities.

Current State Assessment

- Analyzed information received across divisions on how the Indigenous community is represented throughout the undertaking of divisional projects/initiatives.

Jurisdictional Scan



Emerging Themes from Jurisdictional Scan

- Of the jurisdictions included, several have considered the possibility of seats on Council for Indigenous representatives.
- In a few of the jurisdictions, there is Indigenous representation via elected officials who identify as Indigenous.
- At the provincial level in Ontario, new northern ridings that were created, led to the election of Indigenous representatives.
- Indigenous advisory bodies are common throughout the majority of jurisdictions, including for police service boards.
- For the majority of jurisdictions, there is no requirement for Indigenous representation on public boards, including police service boards. Typically, Indigenous representation is encouraged through promotion of diversity on public boards, more generally.

Literature Review: Overview

Why did we include this?

- Part A of the Executive Committee motions directs the City Manager to consider opportunities to deepen meaningful representation of the Indigenous community in City decision-making. In order to take a well-informed, evidence-based approach to this process, staff are consulting relevant literature on the topic.

Summary of Approach:

- 26 relevant articles were included.
- Selection of articles was based on the presence of one or more of the following criteria:
 - From an Indigenous online platform
 - Had Indigenous author(s) who co-authored the literature
 - If Indigenous community was engaged for the paper
 - Had non-Indigenous authors who had extensive experiencing working with Indigenous communities.
- Examples of sources include: Yellowhead Institute, National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council, AlterNative, Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network and other peer-reviewed online journals.

High-level Themes from Literature Review

- The need to address systemic racism, historical injustice, structural inequities and colonial legacies (colonial frameworks continue to produce health and policy inequities).
- Implementation gaps and under-resourcing (municipalities have endorsed UNDRIP and formed advisory bodies but still need deeper institutional change).
- Adherence to governance principles
 - One Dish One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant - calls for shared stewardship and peaceful coexistence
 - Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk) as a guiding principle - Mi'kmaq concept of Etuaptmumk, which values both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems. This principle supports shared decision-making and co-learning between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners.
- The need for self-determination and co-governance (e.g. through advisory bodies or co-managed networks), and for Indigenous communities to lead decisions that affect them
 - E.g. The 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) proposed two possible models of urban Indigenous governance: greater local political participation through Indigenous representation on political bodies at the municipal level, and co-managing urban programs and services.

Current State Assessment (City of Toronto): Initial Findings

- Several advisory bodies have been developed across divisions to inform policy/program development. The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee is the central body providing advice directly to City Council.
- Through some of these bodies, strong relationships between City divisions and Indigenous communities have been built.
- These relationships have produced shared action plans, with advisory bodies actively involved in co-planning and strategy development.
- In some instances, City Council has mandated collaborative plan creation between divisions and Indigenous partners.
- In some instances, the City funds Indigenous-led organizations to deliver their own solutions, which supports implementation and a commitment to self-determination.

Check-in with the Committee

- Should the jurisdictional scan be expanded to include other examples?
- For the jurisdictional scan and current state assessment: Is there additional information related to the topic, that the Committee would like us to include?
- Given what we've learned so far, how should we approach engagement with the broader Indigenous community on this topic?

Agenda Planning

AAAC Agenda Forecast TBC (2025)

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
Meeting #8: Sept. 9, 2025	1. Presentation from City Manager's Office with Information Update on Response to <u>2025.EX21.14</u> (TBC) 2. Presentation on Anti-Indigenous Racism Strategy 3. Potential Presentations from Parks and Recreation Division (see slide 16) 4. Standing Item: City Manager's Office Staff Update on Action Items and Agenda Planning
Meeting #9: Nov. 6, 2025	1. Presentation from TASSC on TOR Review (TBC) 2. Follow-up Presentation from Purchasing & Materials Management Division on First Nation, Inuit and Metis Procurement Policy 3. Standing Item: City Manager's Office Staff Update on Action Items and Agenda Planning (to include strategic planning for 2026)

AAAC Agenda Themes

Housing

Indigenous Representation on Public Boards (including TPSB)

Anti-Indigenous Racism Strategy

Employment and Training

Economic Development (incl. poverty reduction)

Public Health (incl. violence reduction, crisis supports, etc.)

Community Services, Programming, Arts and Culture (incl. funding and grants)

City Internal Processes/Structures

Agenda Items for Consideration

- There is one potential agenda item from Parks and Recreation Division, for the Committee to consider for a future agenda:
 - Review of Strategic Parks & Recreation Documents: The Parkland Strategy, and the Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan.
 - Matt Bentley, Senior Project Manager, is available to provide an overview and answer any questions.

**Reviewing two strategic
Parks & Recreation documents:**

The Parkland Strategy, and the Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan

Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee

July 29, 2025

Two strategic Parks & Recreation documents

Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan



Long-term plan to build and renew recreation facilities across Toronto.

Parkland Strategy

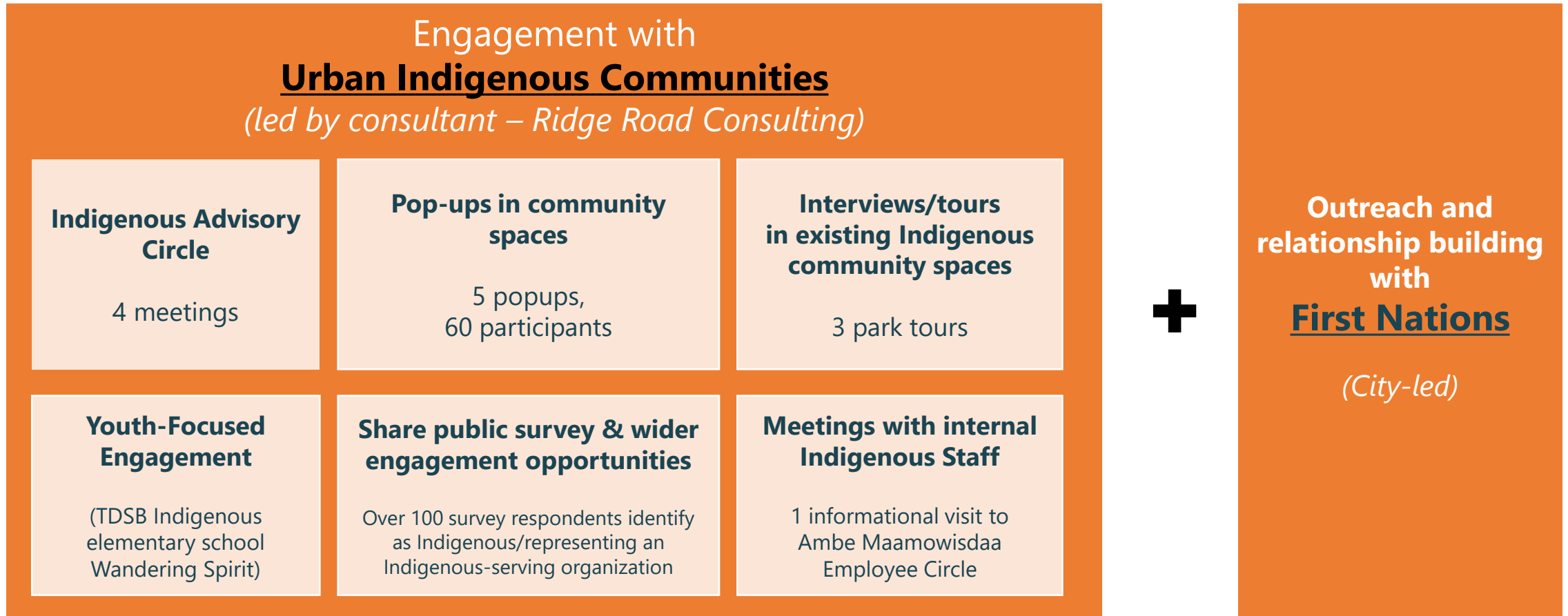


Long-term plan to guide investment in parks across Toronto

- The Parks & Recreation (P&R) Division at the City of Toronto is currently reviewing and updating 2 strategic documents related to recreation facilities and parkland
- These documents are foundational in guiding the thinking of P&R staff across teams, related to parks and recreation planning and design
- Past Indigenous engagement undertaken to develop these strategic documents was insufficient – the project team is working to rectify this, and to incorporate Indigenous voices throughout the review process (see next slide for more info)
- The objective is to bring updated strategic documents to City Council in Spring 2026
- We would appreciate the opportunity to present to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee at a future meeting to gather your feedback

Indigenous Communities Engagement to date

- As part of the process to review / update these strategic documents, the project team has undertaken significant Indigenous Engagement to date (see below), with plans for additional future engagement



Are you interested in learning more, being involved, and/or informing the process?

Thank You!

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to direct any thoughts or questions to:

Danielle DeMarsh

Senior Project Manager, Parkland Strategy

Danielle.DeMarsh@toronto.ca

Matthew Bentley

Senior Project Manager, Facilities Plan

Matt.Bentley@Toronto.ca