

Actions to Advance Indigenous Health Board of Health Update

Progress, Impact, and Next Steps in Indigenous Health Equity

March 30, 2026

Purpose of This Report

To provide the Board of Health with:

- An update on actions taken since the January 2024 Board of Health report
- Progress on advancing Indigenous health and wellness priorities
- Opportunities to strengthen and sustain Indigenous health work in 2026 and beyond

To reaffirm TPH's commitment to advancing Indigenous health through:

- Indigenous-informed approaches
- Culturally safe public health systems
- Indigenous-led partnerships and governance

Toronto Public Health's Approach to Indigenous Health



Indigenous Health Areas of Focus

Since January 2024, TPH has advanced Indigenous health priorities across multiple streams:




Indigenous Wellness
Committee & Action
Plan




Indigenous Health Data
Sovereignty And
Governance




Indigenous Cultural
Safety Implementation




Strengthening Relationships
With Indigenous Service
Providers




Mental Health,
Substance Use, And
Harm Reduction



Indigenous Funding
Approaches



Indigenous-led Vaccination
And Primary Care
Partnerships



Emergency Response
Collaboration

How the Work Has Shifted: From Consultation to Collaboration

MOVING FROM

Priorities shaped by evolving community input

Episodic consultation

Limited Indigenous governance influence

Indigenous organizations as limited contributors



MOVING TOWARDS

Indigenous-defined priorities

Co-development

FNIM Community feedback amplified

Trust-based partnerships and collaboration

Commitment to Community and Partnership



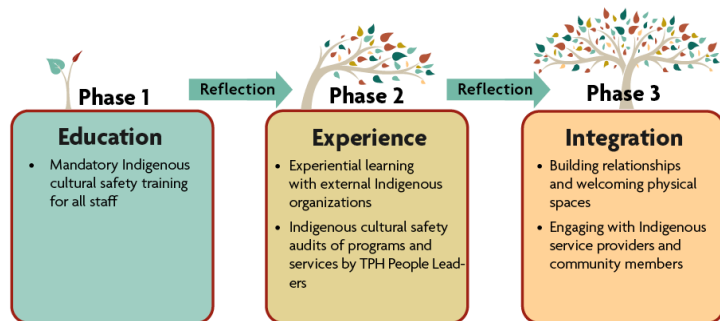
Contributing to and supporting engagements led by Indigenous Partners.

- Major Community Events & Gatherings
- Community Spaces & Celebrations
- Health & Wellness Gatherings

Indigenous Wellness Committee: Shaping the Indigenous Wellness Action Plan



Growing Internally at TPH



Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands: Self-Determined Urban Indigenous Experience

THURSDAY, JUNE 26TH 12 P.M. TO 1 P.M. VIA WEBEX

Join the Indigenous Health Team for a virtual panel as we celebrate National Indigenous History Month and honour National Indigenous Peoples Day by listening to and learning from community partners championing Indigenous-led solutions.

Hear directly from leaders in Toronto's Indigenous health community to advance health and wellness initiatives for, and by, Indigenous Peoples.

Devon Bowyer
Director of Operations, Auduzhe Indigenous Healthcare Clinic

Dr. Suzanne Shoush
Indigenous Family Medicine Physician, Call Aunty Clinic

Michael Milward
Acting Executive Director, Anishnawbe Health Toronto

TORONTO Public Health

Honouring Truth & Reconciliation: A Conversation with Dr. Niigaan Sinclair

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 2:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M. VIA WEBEX

Hosted by:
Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey
Deputy Medical Officer of Health & Indigenous Health Team

Dr. Niigaanwewidam (Niigaan) Sinclair.
Niigaan is an Anishinaabe award-winning writer, editor, and professor who was named by Maclean in 2022 as one of Canada's most influential people.

TORONTO Public Health

Responding to Changing Realities



What's Changing for Community: Examples of Public Health Impact

Equitable: “We need to stop forcing organizations to compete for limited funding when we are all working towards the same goal...”

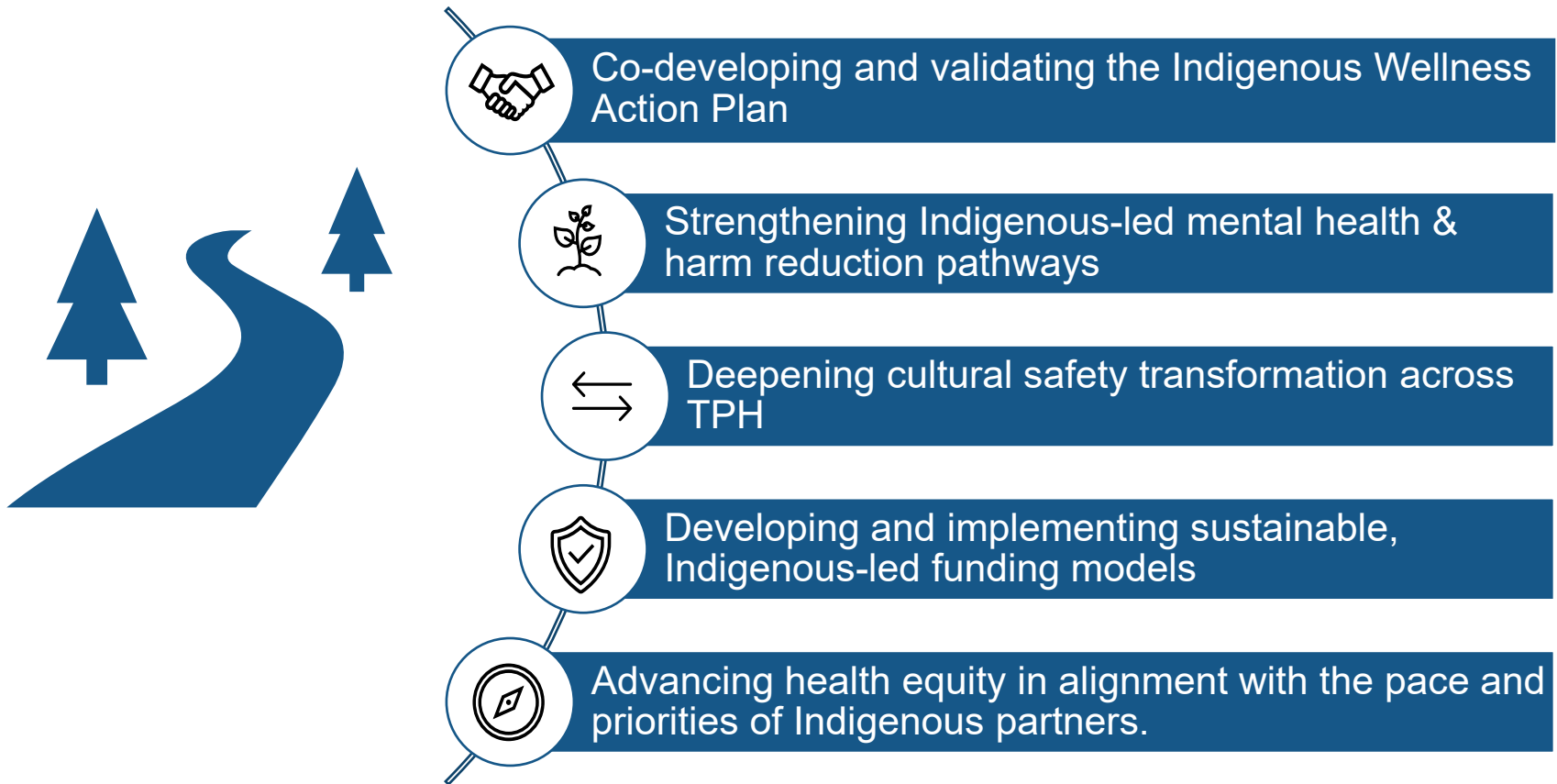
Low-barrier: “Reporting should be done through an Indigenous, non-colonial lens...”



Indigenous-led: “Vaccination services should be led first and foremost by Indigenous-led service providers where possible, and we look to public health to help build capacity...”

Strengthening Indigenous Public Health Capacity Through Partnership

Focused Priorities: 2026 and Beyond



Continued BOH Commitments in the Years Ahead

Enduring Commitments

- Deepening Partnerships for Reconciliation
- Embedding Shared Accountability Across Systems
- Championing Equitable and Predictable Funding
- Upholding Cultural Safety as a Core Principle