

Our Plan Toronto

Phase 4 Engagement Summary

Prepared by: Dillon Consulting Limited

June 2023



Contents

Executive Summary	1
1 Introduction	6
1.1 Background	6
1.2 Purpose of Engagement	6
1.3 Study Process	7
1.4 Phase 4 Goals & Objectives	8
2 Phase 4 Consultation & Communications Activities	9
2.1 Communications Materials & Activities	9
2.2 Engagement Activities	9
2.2.1 Community Leaders Circle (CLC) Meetings	9
2.2.2 Indigenous Rights Holders Meetings	10
2.2.3 Urban Indigenous Organizations Meetings	10
2.2.4 Public Meetings	10
2.2.5 Interdivisional Workshop	11
2.2.6 City Advisory Committees and Boards	11
2.2.7 StoryMaps and Website Updates	11
3 What We Heard	12
3.1 Highlights of Overall Input Received	12
3.2 Input by Theme	13
3.2.1 Indigenous Planning Perspectives	13
3.2.2 Natural Environment	14
3.2.3 Complete Communities	15
3.2.4 Placemaking	16
3.2.5 Business, Economy and Employment	16
3.2.6 Equity & Inclusion	17
3.2.7 Implementation	17
4 Next Steps	19

Figures

Figure 1: Study Process	7
-------------------------	---

Tables

Table 1: Themes of Input	12
--------------------------	----



Executive Summary

Phase 4 is the final phase of engagement for this portion of Our Plan Toronto. The City of Toronto is continually evaluating and reviewing its Official Plan. The engagement and communications in Phase 4 focused on **presenting and receiving feedback on the draft Chapter 1 of the Official Plan, including the draft Indigenous planning perspectives.** To achieve this, outreach and consultation activities focused on engaging in conversation about Toronto's future with a diverse range of people living, working and caring for Toronto. This included meeting with Indigenous rights holders, urban Indigenous organizations, community leaders, stakeholders, committees, internal municipal divisions, and the general public.

Outreach and communications during Phase 4 of the project primarily conducted updates through email and phone calls, and community networking to share information about the project and invite people to participate in the consultation. This included utilizing the project contact list that had been built up through Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the project to circulate meeting invitations and share information.

Summary of Phase 4 Engagement & Communications Activities

Meetings completed during Phase 4 engagement, from November 2022 to May 2023, included:

- 1 workshop with City of Toronto inter-divisional staff
- 4 meetings with Indigenous Rights Holders
- 4 meetings with Urban Indigenous Organizations
- 1 meeting with the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council
- 1 meeting with the Metis Council Region 8
- 1 meeting with the Community Leaders Circle
- 2 meetings with City committees/groups
- 8 public meetings
- In total we met with 250 people through organized meetings and workshops

Outreach and communications during Phase 4 engagement included:

- Website updates
- Outreach letters
- Email & telephone correspondence
- Social media updates and meeting notifications
- Contact List Updates/E-Bulletins
- Email distribution of meeting materials and presentations
- Sharing of meeting minutes with participants for feedback
- Project email contact via opreview@toronto.ca

Meetings in Phase 4 focused on meeting with Indigenous Rights Holders and urban Indigenous groups. Meetings with equity deserving groups and community leaders who work with underrepresented, marginalized and racialized populations continued to be a key focus of outreach and consultation. This effort included outreach and meetings with people that work on community and equity issues related to:

- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Community services
- Employment
- Housing
- Indigenous people living and working in Toronto
- Indigenous rights holders
- Newcomers and immigrants
- People experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity
- Poverty
- Racialized communities including black people and people of colour
- Seniors and older adults
- Students and young work force (18 to 30)
- Women
- Youth and at-risk youth
- Many organizations that touch on the cross-section of these inter-related equity issues and equity seeking populations

A working list of stakeholders, community organizations, Indigenous rights holders and Indigenous organizations that have been contacted for involvement in this engagement process is included on the project webpage.

Phase 4 input will be used to finalize Chapter 1 of the Official Plan. This includes the draft Indigenous planning perspectives and the vision, directions, and principles that are the remaining items of this review. Not all policies in the Official Plan are being reviewed at this time. As such, engagement and communications were designed around the elements of the City's review, namely: overall Official Plan vision statement, principles of equity, access, and inclusion, and the draft Indigenous Planning Perspectives.

Key Themes of What We Heard During Phase 4

The key themes that were most frequently raised regarding priorities for planning to 2051 were addressing **Indigenous planning perspectives, equity and inclusion, the natural**

environment, business economy and employment, complete communities and placemaking.

There were a wide range of perspectives provided through consultation that are conflicting in some cases and require a balanced approach for consideration. There is agreement that the City's Official Plan should focus on caring for our natural environment, bettering our relationship with the land, addressing the affordable housing crisis, planning for and building complete communities and applying Indigenous planning perspectives in practice. The discussion points and recommendations raised most frequently across different audiences were:

- Complete communities must consider our relationship with the natural environment as well as aspects such as housing affordability, employment land and gathering spaces.
- Access to a range of housing options that support families and people of all ages and abilities, including rental and affordable housing
- The history of the land, treaties, Indigenous communities, Rights Holders, archeological history, and recognition of Nations and natural features before settlement needs to be included in the Official Plan
- Land acknowledgments are important but the City needs to take steps toward meaningful action
- Current land use processes often conflict with Indigenous worldviews and principles
- Ensure that growth and intensification are supported by adequate services
- Concern with the proximity of development to water and how to protect and care for water
- Focus on creating stronger policies that protect green space and biodiversity, which are foundational to Indigenous planning principles
- Progress towards Official Plan goals including complete communities needs to be measured to move towards meaningful change

Summary of Recommendations

Based on the input received during Phase 4 engagement on Our Plan Toronto, the following recommendations are identified for consideration by the City as they finalize draft Chapter 1 of the Official Plan. The following recommendations should also be considered in the implementation of the vision, principles and directions and in future Official Plan updates.

- To strengthen relationships and continue building trust with rights holders and Indigenous organizations, amplify Indigenous voices and integrate Indigenous perspectives into policy and planning decisions
- Continue to engage equity deserving groups, Indigenous Rights Holders, urban Indigenous organizations and people, and the general public in the implementation of Chapter 1 and future Official Plan updates
- Prioritize Indigenous perspectives and values to help planning processes better protect the environment. This includes considering the well-being of future generations while understanding what was once on the land has shaped where we are today
- Build communities that reflect Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, and includes placemaking and placekeeping
- Focus on supporting Indigenous relationship building, reconciliation, and increasing Indigenous roles in decision making
- Promote a range of housing options and housing affordability for families
- Prioritize environmental policies that protect and promote green spaces, protection of waterways, wildlife habitats and trees
- Indigenous rights to harvest, collect medicines, plants, and hunt need to be protected
- Increase placemaking initiatives, opportunities for small businesses and artists
- Identify how Chapter 1 will be implemented, and track progress towards the vision and directions
- Identify implementation issues or gaps to address concerns that policies are not applied in future plans and projects

Report Organization

This report is organized into four Sections. Section 1 presents the background, purpose, study process, goals, and objectives of the engagement. Section 2 presents the consultation and communication activities undertaken during Phase 4 (November 2022 to April 2023). Section 3 summarizes the input received and identifies the key themes and community priorities that emerged during consultation. Section 4 outlines recommendations for City review, next steps of the project and outlines future consultation activities. The input gathered during Phase 4 will help finalize the draft Chapter 1 for the Official Plan.

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 consultation. 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. It is an essential plan that directs where different types of development should and should not go and what is needed to support healthy, complete, thriving and inclusive communities.

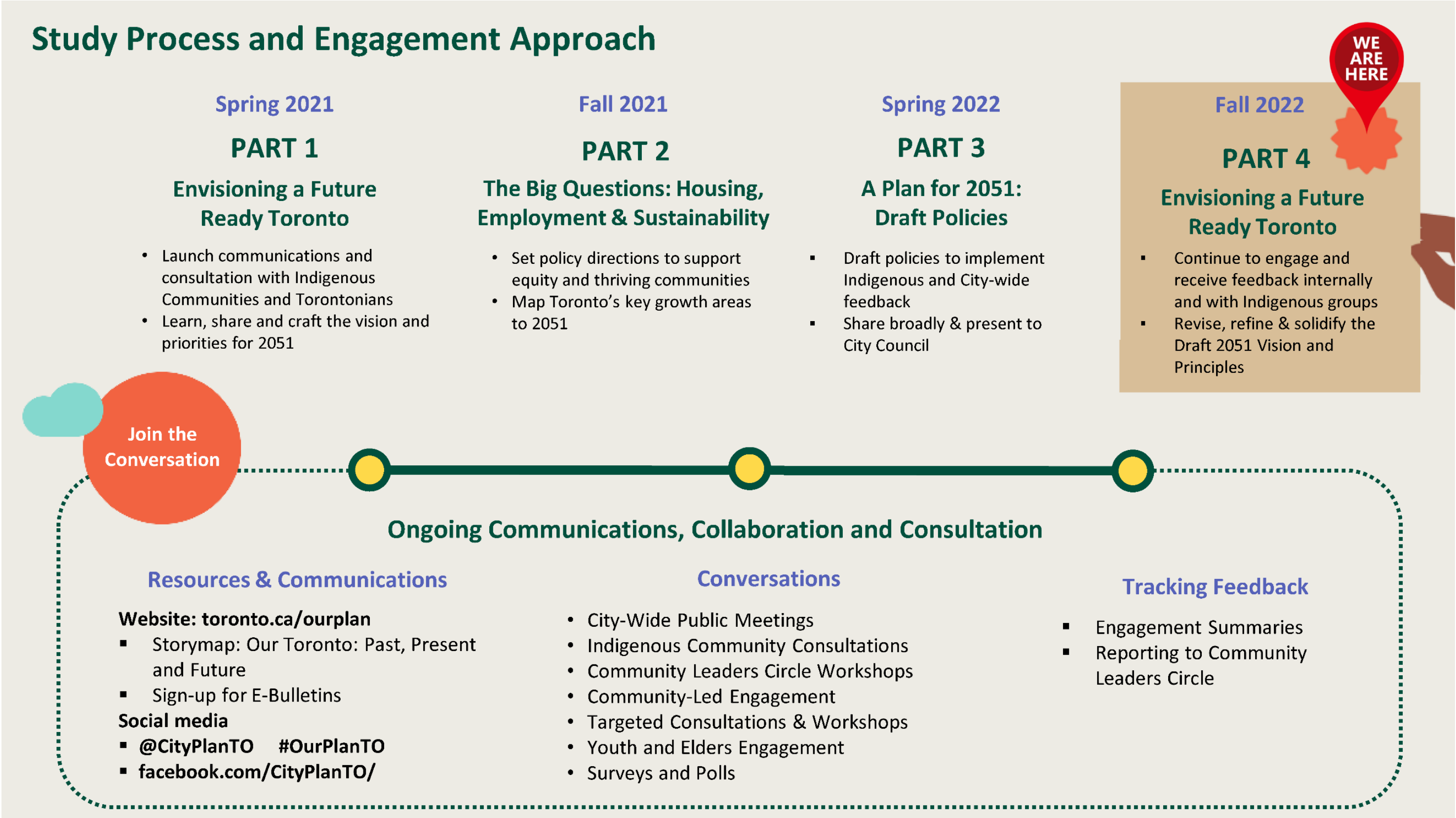
As part of the Our Plan Toronto process, the City consulted on and looked at how to address the many disparities that exist across our city in an effort to become a more equitable, welcoming and a healthy city for all. This includes an examination of our history and reflection on Indigenous priorities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

1.2 Purpose of Engagement

Throughout the Our Plan Toronto process, input and feedback informed the technical work for the Official Plan review. Determining the needs, desires and interests was important for determining where growth should go and what is needed to support healthy and complete communities. The purpose and overall goals of the engagement program were to ensure that the Official Plan update incorporates input from the public and interested and affected parties, and Indigenous communities to tackle issues related key topic areas, including housing affordability, equity, employment, environment and climate change. In order to achieve the goals and purpose, the engagement program included four phases of work, as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

1.3 Study Process

Figure 1: Study Process



The first phase of the engagement program included launching the communications and consultation with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, community leaders, internal City divisions and the public to craft the vision and priorities for 2051 through learning and sharing.

The second phase of the engagement program focused on discussing policy expectations for 2051 related to the big topics of growth around environment and climate change, affordable housing and intensification, future of work and employment areas and neighbourhoods and complete communities.

The third phase focused on providing an overview of the draft policies that reflect the feedback received during Phases 1 and 2. The City also presented the draft Official Plan Vision, Directions, and Principles for an inclusive and successful city.

The final phase, Phase 4, focused on the Chapter 1 framework, and Indigenous planning perspectives. This phase continued to engage specifically with Indigenous rights holders and urban Indigenous organizations. Feedback on Chapter 1 will inform the final draft which will go to City Council for consideration in Summer 2023.

1.4 Phase 4 Goals & Objectives

The primary goal for Phase 4 engagement was to present the revised Draft Chapter 1 vision and directions to understand if the revisions has amplified Indigenous voices and incorporated received feedback.

Engagement and communications efforts focused on the following priorities:

- Engaging with City of Toronto staff on draft policies for key topic areas, including eliminating disparities, achieving complete communities, prioritizing climate change action and principles for building a successful inclusive city
- Engaging with Indigenous Rights Holders and urban Indigenous organizations to understand and reflect Indigenous planning perspectives and Indigenous priorities in the Official Plan
- Engaging with community leaders to centre equity in draft policies
- Updating meeting attendees where we are in process and what we've heard
- Informing participants on the overall direction that the Official Plan is taking and the draft vision and directions
- Listening, documenting and sharing what we hear

2 Phase 4 Consultation & Communications Activities

2.1 Communications Materials & Activities

The communication materials and activities were designed to reach a broad and diverse audience using online tools to inform the people of the project, understand expectations, clarify Official Plan policies, reflect on what we have heard so far, listen to input, and address questions from Rights Holders and urban Indigenous groups.

Communications materials and methods of outreach included:

- A Community Leaders Circle Meeting
- Indigenous Outreach Letters
- Indigenous Rights Holders meetings
- Urban Indigenous Organization meetings
- An interdivisional workshop and survey with City of Toronto divisional representatives
- Contact List Updates/Email-blast
- Distribution of Presentation Materials to Contact List
- Project website updates
- Transit shelter advertisements
- One-minute video explainer on Employment Lands

Since the beginning of the engagement program, the public has had the opportunity to contact the project team via the contact information available from the project website:

- Email: opreview@toronto.ca
- Phone: 416-392-6578

2.2 Engagement Activities

Engagement activities were designed to reach a broad and diverse audience using both online tools and virtual meeting platforms. The following sections outline the key engagement activities completed during Phase 4.

2.2.1 Community Leaders Circle (CLC) Meetings

The fifth CLC meeting was held with 12 members from community-based and city-wide organizations on February 8, 2023. The CLC was established to share perspectives and help lead outreach to diverse communities and audiences across Toronto. The CLC helps to reduce the barriers in participating in the City planning process and

consultation program. The meeting was held virtually on WebEx with a facilitated discussion. CLC members were able to provide feedback on the draft Chapter 1 policy directions of the Official Plan from a broad-based equity perspective.

2.2.2 Indigenous Rights Holders Meetings

In Phase 4 engagement, the project team met with Curve Lake First Nation, Chippewa's of the Rama First Nation, Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation, Métis Council, and the Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations) First Nation. Input received through the discussions is integrated into Section 3 and presented in the Indigenous Engagement Report on the Our Plan website.

- Curve Lake First Nation Meeting – February 23, 2022
- Chippewa's of the Rama First Nation – February 23, 2023
- Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation – February 27, 2023
- Métis Council Region 8 – March 30, 2023
- Six Nations Meeting – April 13, 2023

2.2.3 Urban Indigenous Organizations Meetings

During Phase 4 of engagement, the project team met with Native Child and Family Services (NCFS), Association for Native Development of Performing and Visual Arts (ANDPVA), Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, Matriarchal Circle and Anishnawbe Health Toronto.

- NCFS meeting – March 1, 2023
- ANDPVA meeting – March 16, 2023
- TASSC meeting – March 30, 2023
- Matriarchal Circle meeting – April 6, 2023
- Anishnawbe Health Toronto – April 24, 2023

2.2.4 Public Meetings

A total of 8 public meetings were held during Phase 4. The meetings were held virtually on WebEx and were focused on Employment Land Conversions.

The following meetings were conducted:

- May 15, 2023 (afternoon and evening)
- May 17, 2023 (afternoon and evening)
- June 13, 2023 (afternoon and evening)

- June 19, 2023 (afternoon and evening)

2.2.5 Interdivisional Workshop

The project team facilitated an interdivisional workshop and survey 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 Official Plan’s vision and principles.

2.2.6 City Advisory Committees and Boards

As part of engagement planning and outreach, the project team presented to multiple City Committees and groups to gather input on Our Plan Toronto and listen to recommendations for outreach and engagement of specific key audiences. The committees that the project team presented to include Ambe Maamowisdaa Employee Circle (AMBE Circle) and the Toronto Seniors Strategy Accountability Table (Seniors Accountability Table). Input received through these presentations and discussions is integrated into Section 3.

- AMBE Circle – November 30, 2022
- Seniors Accountability Table – April 4, 2022

2.2.7 StoryMaps and Website Updates

To engage with the public online, the consultation program team updated the OurPlanTO project website. The project website was updated on a regular basis to include current documents and engagement information related to the Official Plan Review.

3 What We Heard

3.1 Highlights of Overall Input Received

Table 1 highlights the key themes of input received during Phase 4 engagement.

Table 1: Themes of Input

Theme	Examples of Topics Raised
Indigenous Planning Perspectives	The history of the land, treaties, Indigenous communities, rights holders, archeological history, and recognition of First Nations before settlement needs to be included in the Official Plan. Provide guidance on consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities. Reflect Indigenous knowledge, practices and world views in policies and land use planning decisions.
Natural Environment	Land use planning should incorporate more consideration of our overall relationship to the land. A focus on environmental stewardship and caring for our natural environment needs to be implemented as part of development and infrastructure management. Recognize Indigenous rights to harvest, collect medicines, plants, and hunt.
Complete Communities	Build and plan for mixed-use developments to support live, work and play. Ensure that development is coordinated with transit and active transportation to reduce car use. Focusing on creating safer communities. Prioritizing a singular component like housing supply cannot subordinate the other dimensions of a complete community.
Placemaking	Increased placemaking initiatives were identified as a need, to provide Indigenous organizations, groups and people places to gather in the city.
Business, Economy and Employment	Greater opportunity is needed for small businesses. Anti-displacement considerations should be considered for Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) owned business. When increasing housing stock there needs to be a balance with commercial areas.

Theme	Examples of Topics Raised
Equity & Inclusion	Move beyond the equity lens, center equity in all decision making. Focus on equity in areas like transportation. Provide grants to grassroots organizations to start new projects or support existing ones. Connection and engagement with the broader urban Indigenous community is needed.
Measurable Goals	The desire for more measurable goals arose from what was described as a need for the Official Plan to be as grounded in reality as possible.

3.2 Input by Theme

The following sections summarize the input received within the key themes identified above and provide additional detail on what we heard.

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 and consolidation of all of the input received and does not reflect the input from one particular Indigenous community or organization.

3.2.1 Indigenous Planning Perspectives

Indigenous Rights Holders

- There is a need for greater understanding of history and the original people of the land
- A preamble in the OP that presents the history of what we now call Toronto would provide more historical context
- Land acknowledgments need expansion to provide more meaningful history and be accurate to what happened to help people understand difficult history, this should include acknowledging yet undiscovered ancestral resting places
- Include Indigenous rights holders in decision making and planning processes
- Hope that the proposed Chapter 1 Indigenous planning perspectives becomes a model for other municipalities

Indigenous Organizations

- Desire to move beyond consultation to negotiation and an equal partnership with Indigenous communities
- 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 also include acknowledging 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
- Our relationship to the land must be respected in the ways we build community
- Include Indigenous languages in the Official Plan and communications

Inter-divisional Staff and City Committees

- Greater acknowledgement of Indigenous worldviews is needed
- The land acknowledgment in Indigenous Planning Perspectives should include Indigenous history
- Consideration of a co-governance model is needed

3.2.2 Natural Environment

Indigenous Rights Holders

- Recognize Indigenous rights to harvest, collect medicines, plants, and hunt and ensure the environment can support them
- Consideration of the natural environment needs to be part of planning for and building complete communities

Indigenous Organizations

- Greater awareness around the importance of protecting bodies of water
- Need to plan for water itself and consider sewage entering lakes, the temperature of water entering Lake Ontario and how it impacts the ecosystem
- Respect for the land must go in hand with the idea of planning for and building a complete community

Inter-divisional Staff and City Committees

- Parkland and tree preservation must be considered when thinking of actions for meeting net zero and climate change targets
- Indigenous worldviews provide important insight into environmental conservation

3.2.3 Complete Communities

Inter-divisional Staff and City Committees

- Aim to co-locate infrastructure when possible to bring people together
- Communities with historical significance should be protected
- Provide more spaces for community gathering
- City needs to include community support services in a complete community including mental health supports
- City should reflect on systemic effects of land use planning and work to reduce disparity

3.2.3.1 Housing

Indigenous Rights Holders

- Affordable housing must be included when planning for and building complete communities, so people who work in Toronto can live in Toronto

Community Leaders Circle and Equity Deserving Groups

- Additional affordable housing and increased housing stock is a priority
- There needs to be an increase in variety of housing stock beyond just condominium form of tenure
- Coordination across government is needed to address housing issues
- Complete communities should also consider better ways to incorporate placemaking
- Increasing housing stock is important, but not at the cost of the soul of communities
- Prioritizing housing supply cannot subordinate all other dimensions of a complete community
- Funding for Indigenous shelters and housing would help reduce the disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people

3.2.3.2 Safety

Community Leaders Circle and Equity Deserving Groups

- Community safety must be prioritized, and ways to improve community well being
- Principles for creating safe communities are needed

3.2.3.3 Infrastructure

Inter-divisional Staff and City Committees

- Basic infrastructure needs are often left out
- A focus on keeping infrastructure like sewage and water in good repair is needed
- Sustainable funding sources for community infrastructure are needed

3.2.4 Placemaking

Indigenous Organizations

- Dedicated spaces for Indigenous people would allow for gatherings and community meetings, this could include indoor and outdoor space
- Minimum requirements are needed to encourage and support Indigenous placemaking
- Policies requiring more Indigenous art would encourage more Indigenous art and murals
- Increased funding for public art installations
- Sacred fire spaces available exclusively for Indigenous people to use

3.2.5 Business, Economy and Employment

Indigenous Organizations

- Indigenous organizations need access to spaces like offices and storefronts

Community Leaders Circle and Equity Deserving Groups

- Small businesses – particularly BIPOC owned businesses cannot keep up with rising prices and are often displaced
- Displacing small businesses takes the soul out of communities
- Sacrificing employment lands to increase housing stock could create problems with a balance of jobs and population down the road

Inter-divisional Staff and City Committees

- Idea of a circular economy needs to come from a perspective where equity is prioritized

3.2.6 Equity & Inclusion

Indigenous Rights Holders

- The disproportionate amount of Indigenous people in shelters needs to be addressed
- The Official Plan needs to be used as a tool to eliminate things like income disparity and systemic discrimination

Community Leaders Circle and Equity Deserving Groups

- In terms of equity, to make it meaningful, only include statements in the Official Plan that the Official Plan can have influence over

Indigenous Organizations

- More Indigenous people are needed as City staff, in management positions and positions of influence

Inter-divisional Staff and City Committees

- Move beyond the equity lens, equity must be prioritized in all decision making
- Identify how specific recommendations that go to Council address equity, access and inclusion
- Providing grants to grassroots organizations to start new, or support existing projects
- Look at measures like transportation equity zones for improving equity in identified areas
- Connection and engagement with urban Indigenous residents in the City of Toronto is missing
- Equity requires giving priority to affordable and rental housing in land use planning
- Efforts need to be measurable to ensure progress is made

3.2.7 Implementation

Indigenous Rights Holders

- Chapter 1 goals are honourable aspirations and should be measurable so that targets can be tracked

Indigenous Organizations

- If measurable goals are not possible in Chapter 1, they should be in later parts of the Official Plan

Community Leaders Circle and Equity Deserving Groups

- The goals in Chapter 1 need to have teeth through other policy to be accomplished

4 Next Steps

City staff is using the feedback received during Phase 4 of Our Plan Toronto to finalize the draft Chapter 1 which will be presented to Planning and Housing Committee then City Council in Fall of 2023. The next steps in the engagement process include ongoing relationship building with Indigenous rights holders, and urban Indigenous communities and organizations and a final round of virtual public meetings.

For more information please visit: www.toronto.ca/ourplan