

COMMUNITY Bulletin #3

Indigenous Women and Children's Shelter at 68 Sheppard Ave W.

July 2026

The City of Toronto is developing a new Indigenous Women and Children's Shelter at 68 Sheppard Avenue West. Operated by the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto (NWRCT), the shelter will provide culturally appropriate support services for Indigenous women and women with children experiencing homelessness.

Indigenous people remain overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness, especially those staying outdoors. According to Toronto's 2024 Street Needs Assessment, Indigenous people make up about 3 per cent of Toronto's population, but account for 9 per cent of people experiencing homelessness and 31 per cent of those staying outdoors.



3D rendering* for view of the South Façade facing Sheppard Ave. W
**3D renderings are for illustrative purposes only and are subject to change*

Part of the City's Council-approved Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS), the shelter will address this need by providing dedicated, culturally grounded supports to help Indigenous women and women with children move toward stability, well-being and permanent housing.

Shelter Operator

NWRCT is an Indigenous-led organization that has served Indigenous women and children since 1985 by providing a safe place to share resources, support one another and practice traditional ways of life.



NWRCT provides a broad range of culturally grounded services focused on housing, family wellness, advocacy, employment, education, youth support, trauma recovery and community health. The organization emphasizes culturally safe, wraparound support services for Indigenous women, children, youth and Two-Spirit community members.

Programming is guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings – Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth – which shape NWRCT's programs and community approach.

Why this Site?

68 Sheppard Avenue West was identified through the City's shelter site selection process. Potential sites are assessed based on criteria such as site size, planning considerations, geographic distribution of services, access to transit and amenities and readiness for implementation.

The site met program requirements and was deemed a suitable location for permanent shelter infrastructure. It supports a more balanced distribution of shelter services across Toronto and the development of an Indigenous-led shelter for Indigenous women and women with children experiencing homelessness.

Former Green P Parking Lot

In 2023, the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) reviewed its real estate portfolio to identify properties surplus to operational needs. As part of that review, the parking lot at 68 Sheppard Avenue West was identified as surplus after assessing parking utilization, operating costs, revenues, inventory and long-term parking demand in the area.

While the parking lot was in use, TPA determined nearby parking facilities had enough capacity to meet demand and that the site was not financially viable in the long term. After declaring the property as surplus, CreateTO evaluated the site with other potential municipal uses and identified it as suitable for future shelter infrastructure.

Services and Supports

The shelter will provide safe accommodation and support services for Indigenous women and women with children experiencing homelessness. Anticipated supports include housing-focused services, cultural programming, access to Elders,

healing supports, wellness services and connections to physical and mental health resources.

While the shelter program model is still being developed by NWRCT, the shelter will not include a supervised consumption site and won't operate a public distribution program for drug paraphernalia.

Project Status

A Site Plan Approval application has been submitted and is currently under review by the City.

Community Engagement

The City remains committed to working with residents, businesses, community organizations, Indigenous partners, and the local Councillor throughout the development process.

The City of Toronto has retained Optimus SBR, a third-party consultant, to facilitate and support community engagement for 68 Sheppard Ave. As the Community Engagement Facilitator for the project, Optimus SBR's role is to work with City staff, NWRCT, the local Councillor's office and community stakeholders to help facilitate dialogue, share project updates and ensure community feedback is heard throughout the planning process.

Questions?

If you have questions about the project or would like to receive future updates, please contact:

68Sheppard@toronto.ca

To learn more about the project, visit:

www.toronto.ca/68Sheppard