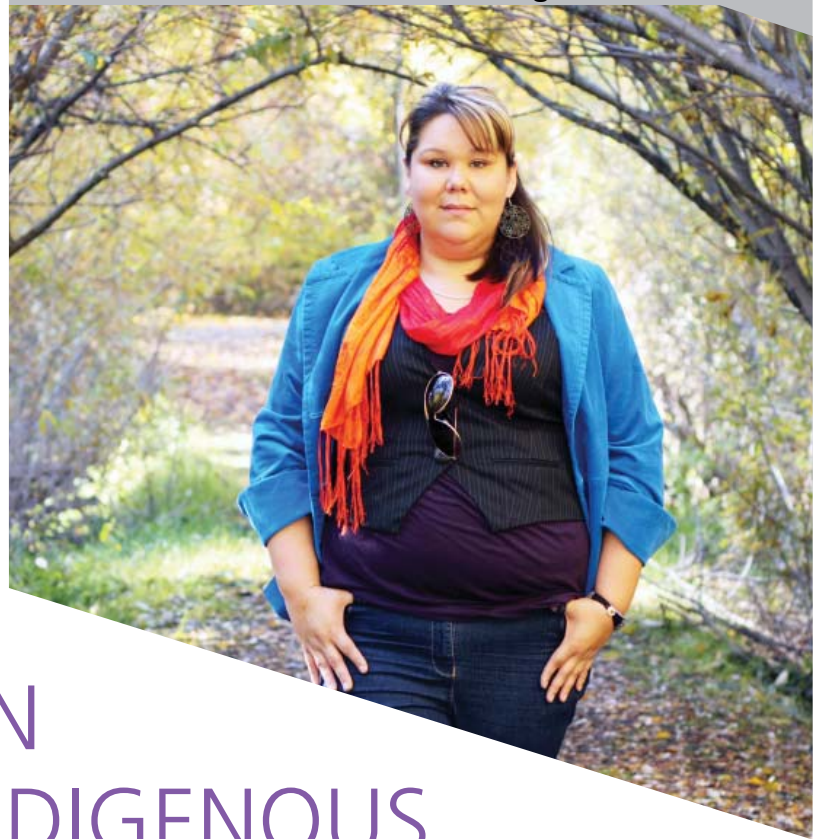




Hamilton



# HAMILTON URBAN INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

## Introduction

The City of Hamilton is developing an Urban Indigenous Strategy that will act as a commitment and identify actions for the City to build a stronger relationship with the Indigenous community. The strategy will also promote a better understanding among all Hamilton residents about Indigenous histories, cultures, challenges and contributions.

This important work will be done in collaboration with the Indigenous community in Hamilton, with guiding principles that honour traditional knowledge and teachings.

## Why is this important for Hamilton?

There are over 15,000 Indigenous peoples living in Hamilton, making up 3.1% of Hamilton's population (Social Planning and Research Council, 2015). Data shows that the urban Indigenous population across Canada is growing. Hamilton has a strong and vibrant Indigenous community that includes several organizations and volunteers who have been supporting community members and celebrating Indigenous cultures for over forty years.

In March 2015, City Council supported the creation of a strategy in recognition that many national Indigenous issues and priorities have impacts locally such as missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, poverty, and the legacy of Indian residential schools. In light of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the City of Hamilton intends to identify how to implement the recommendations that fall within municipal responsibility.





## How will the Strategy be developed?

The Urban Indigenous Strategy will be developed in three phases alongside Indigenous partners and in consultation with the Indigenous community and broader public. Engagement and participation by Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents in Hamilton are important in this process in order to promote dialogue and reconciliation.

### *Phase One: Plant the Strategy (December 2016 – December 2017)*

The City will focus on establishing relationships with the Indigenous community, reviewing reports and research, and raising awareness with the broader community. This will be done through promotion and participation in community events; engaging Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents. Community members will be brought together at different tables to provide advice (a Partnership Circle), and drive the work (a Coordinating Circle).

### *Phase Two: Cultivate the Strategy (January 2018 – August 2018)*

Working Circles will be formed to review the feedback and lessons from Phase One and conduct further community consultation on key pieces of the strategy. The working circles will meet regularly and engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents through workshops or public events. The findings will identify actions for the strategy.

### *Phase Three: Harvest the Strategy (September 2018 – December 2018)*

In this phase, the strategy will be shared with the community for input and confirmation. Opportunities will be created to discuss the strategy and raise awareness. Phase Three will also identify the next steps for implementation and monitoring.

## How can I be involved?

Throughout the development of the strategy there will be opportunities to participate or provide feedback through activities such as community events, workshops, surveys or public education campaigns. You can also invite us to speak to your organization or committee about the development of the strategy.

Individuals can join our mailing list to stay informed. Visit our website for more information:  
[www.hamilton.ca/indigenous](http://www.hamilton.ca/indigenous)

## Contact Information

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