

HAMILTON URBAN INDIGENOUS STRATEGY



- April 2015 - Council motion to develop an Aboriginal Justice Strategy
- December 2015 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report
- Our Future Hamilton vision includes key directions around Indigenous culture and knowledge
- Many divisions within the City have connections to Indigenous peoples

WHY IS THE CITY OF HAMILTON DEVELOPING AN URBAN INDIGENOUS STRATEGY?



3.1%

Aboriginal population in
Hamilton (2011 NHS)

37%

Aboriginal children in
poverty compared to 21%
of children general
population (2011 NHS)

28%

People experiencing
homelessness who are
Aboriginal (2016 Point in
Time Count)

12%

Unemployment rate of
Aboriginal peoples in
Hamilton (2011 NHS)



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA

- Documented the legacy of Canada's Indian Residential School regime through survivors' testimony and archives
- Final Report released December 2015 with 94 "Calls to Action" directed at governments, education institutes, churches, private sector
- Several Calls to Action point to municipal governments; many municipalities across Canada have begun taking action



EXAMPLES WE CAN BUILD UPON

- The Indigenous community in Hamilton has been supporting community members for over 40 years
- Creation of a Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Relationships built and sustained with the Haudenosaunee through Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board
- Collaboration with Indigenous partners on federal homelessness funding
- Recent collaboration with Hamilton Executive Directors Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC) regarding Indigenous-led poverty reduction investment
- Support for public education projects: Witness Blanket (2015); I AM AFFECTED (2016) and I AM COMMITTED (2017) poster campaigns

HAMILTON URBAN INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

- A commitment for building mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples
- Identifies actions for ongoing engagement with the Indigenous community
- Raises awareness of Indigenous histories, contributions and cultures with all Hamiltonians



PHASE ONE

Dec 2016-Dec 2017

- Establish governance and guiding principles
- Raise awareness of this new work within the Indigenous community and with all Hamilton residents



PLANT THE STRATEGY

PHASE TWO

Jan 2018-Aug 18

- Form working circles to focus on main areas of strategy
- Engage community (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) about the strategy areas



CULTIVATE THE STRATEGY

PHASE THREE

Sep 2018-Dec 18

- Confirm and finalize the findings and recommended actions
- Share the strategy
- Evaluate the process and identify the path for implementation



HARVEST THE STRATEGY

2017 WORKPLAN

PROJECT GOVERNANCE AND RESEARCH

- Establish Partnership Circle, Coordinating Circle and Staff Circle
- Review strategies and plans from community organizations and other municipalities
- Identify municipal Calls to Action

INFORMATION SHARING

- Develop communications plan
- Launch hamilton.ca/indigenous
- Collaborate on events that foster dialogue
- Respond and engage media on HUIS activities
- Update City Council and SLT on HUIS activities

RAISE PROFILE OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 12th Annual Celebration of Growth May 11
- Soaring Spirits Festival, June 16-18
- National Aboriginal Day, June 21
- North American Indigenous Games, July 16-23
- I AM COMMITTED poster campaign





CONTACT INFO

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