

Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy

Terms of Reference – Coordinating Circle

1.0 Mandate:

The Coordinating Circle will act as a planning table and drive the development of the City of Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy with support from community partners, and based on guiding principles that honour traditional Indigenous knowledge and teachings including the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee values of gānigohi:yo

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Nibwaakaawin—Wisdom: To cherish knowledge is to know Wisdom. Wisdom is given by the Creator to be used for the good of the people.

Zaagi'idiwin—Love: To know Love is to know peace. Love must be unconditional. When people are weak they need love the most. In the Anishinaabe language, this word with the reciprocal theme /idi/ indicates that this form of love is mutual.

Minaadendamowin—Respect: To honor all creation is to have Respect. All of creation should be treated with respect. You must give respect if you wish to be respected.

Aakode'ewin—Bravery: Bravery is to face the foe with integrity. In the Anishinaabe language, this word literally means "state of having a fearless heart." To do what is right even when the consequences are unpleasant.

Gwayakwaadiziwin—Honesty: Honesty in facing a situation is to be brave. Always be honest in word and action. Be honest first with yourself, and you will more easily be able to be honest with others.

Dabaadendiziwin—Humility: Humility is to know yourself as a sacred part of Creation. In the Anishinaabe language, this word can also mean "compassion." You are equal to others, but you are not better.

Debwewin—Truth: Truth is to know all of these things. Speak the truth. Do not deceive yourself or others.

Haudenosaunee values of gānigohi:yo

Value	Cayuga	Mohawk	Onondaga
Fairness	odrihwagwaihso:'	aterihwakwarihsyontshera	odihwagwaihshyo
Sharing	edegakahso:gweh	teyoterihwakhahsyonkwass	adenida:sa
Respect/Honesty	gagoyghsde:'	tokensketshera'	gaihwihoh(truth); ganigohiyoh
Kindness	adenideosráo	ateniterontshera'	adenida:sa ganokwahga:

2.0 Detailed Requirements:

The Coordinating Circle will:

- Approve a work plan that aligns with the vision set by community feedback and the traditional knowledge that is shared throughout the process.
- Ensure consultation and engagement with both the Indigenous community and non-Indigenous residents in Hamilton.
- Enable opportunities for collaboration and opening dialogue on important issues for the Indigenous community.
- Create space for voices to be heard.
- Identify and consider key reports, policies and plans that can inform the development of the strategy. This may include Our Future Hamilton community vision, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report and strategic plans and reports from Indigenous agencies and other municipalities.
- Support communications efforts with the broader community and share updates with the Partnership Circle.
- Provide other relevant support and advice as applicable.
- Make decisions through achieving consensus. Where that may not be possible, voting will be used.

3.0 Membership:

Two representatives of the Hamilton Executive Directors Aboriginal Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monique Lavallee, President • Josh Dockstator, Vice-President
One representative of the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyndon George, Indigenous Justice Coordinator OR • Cat Cayuga, Community Legal Worker
One representative of the Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marilyn Wright, Chair
Two Youth Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Forrest • (vacant)
Four representatives of the City of Hamilton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shylo Elmayan, Senior Project Manager, Urban Indigenous Strategy • Nicole Jones, Coordinator, Indigenous Engagement and Initiatives • John Ariyo, Manager, Community Initiatives • Paul Johnson, General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities

The Coordinating Circle will be led by a First Speaker and Second Speaker. The First Speaker's duties include:

- Approving the meeting agenda and chairing the meetings
- Acting as a spokesperson for the Coordinating Circle and development of the Urban Indigenous Strategy
- Participating in important internal discussions and attending milestone events

The Second Speaker will assume the duties of the First Speaker, when the First Speaker is unavailable.

The Youth Representatives will be between 15 and 24 years old and their contributions will be acknowledged with an honorarium.

4.0 Meetings:

The Coordinating Circle will meet monthly or as needed.

5.0 Coordinating Circle Support:

The Senior Project Manager, Urban Indigenous Strategy will provide support to the Coordinating Circle and the First Speaker through updating the workplan, planning meetings, bringing forward research and topics for review and discussion.

When necessary, the Coordinating Circle will seek guidance from an Elder as per traditional protocols.