

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a vibrant red traditional Indigenous garment. The person's hands are visible, holding a large feather in their right hand and a shallow, circular wooden bowl in their left. The bowl contains a blue substance, possibly a ceremonial offering. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar attire.

TIHAC community update March 2018



**Toronto Indigenous
Health Advisory Circle**

Strategic Direction #1

Reduce Health Inequities for Indigenous Peoples

Goal: To address barriers, gaps and access to health programs and services for Indigenous people in Toronto

- Better integration and collaboration between preventative, primary, specialty, and acute care systems and Indigenous organizations through the creation of networks and pathways for persons needing care and service providers
- Increase investment in Indigenous cultural proficiency continuum and learning opportunities
- Increase investment in culturally safe primary care
- Development of a 1-800 Indigenous healing and caring line in conjunction with a knowledge hub and clearing house for providers and patients
- Integrate more Indigenous system navigators into the existing system
- Ensure health care spaces are welcoming, accessible and inclusive of Indigenous people
- Devise or support existing programs for seniors and families impacted by residential schools

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Strategy: How will we do this?	Deliverable: How will we know we have been successful?	Status/ Recommendation
Better integration and collaboration between preventative, primary, specialty, and acute care systems and Indigenous organizations through the creation of networks and pathways for persons needing care and service providers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developed/measured patient experiences through a people's survey. Timely access to services and client-patient satisfaction measured2. Statistically clinical significant improvement in access to primary care3. Statistically clinical significant improvement in access to mental health and addictions services4. Established and implemented a standard referral mechanism. Developed standard document for referral and acceptance of patients5. Community Health Centres accept referrals from emergency departments6. Indigenous population identified as a priority in the strategic/program plans of funded organizations	Work is underway to develop methodology for survey Funding received from MOHLTC to develop a Toronto Indigenous Opioid strategy

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Increase investment in Indigenous cultural proficiency continuum and learning opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A range of learning opportunities are available and are commensurate with who is being trained and with options for increased levels of learning beyond foundational learning2. Measured trainee experience, trainee satisfaction response indicates acceptance of cultural proficiency3. Captured number of individuals that go through the training4. Demonstrated increase in cultural proficiency as measured through evaluations5. Devised supports and programs to integrate cultural proficiency training for health professionals and students (nurses, midwives, physicians)	<p>In 2017/18, over 300 senior health staff and policy makers completed training</p> <p>Additional 500 spots purchased by TC LHIN for 2018/19 and 260 spots funded by MOHLTC</p>

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Increase investment in culturally safe primary care for chronic diseases	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Documented needs and unmet needs2. Tracked the current investment and reported on increases in investment for culturally safe primary care for chronic diseases3. Access measures are in place4. Same standard of care for Indigenous patients as mainstream is evidenced5. Indigenous population identified as a priority in the strategic/program plans of funded organizations	Anishnawbe Health Toronto project funded for harmonized rehabilitation services including a review of needs and unmet needs for Primary Care as part of this work

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Development of a 1-800 Indigenous healing and caring line in conjunction with a knowledge hub and clearing house for providers and patients	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed a needs assessment2. Completed an environmental scan3. Developed a list of resources4. Developed a data base of maps of services and Aboriginal health practitioners and sensitive doctors5. 1-800 call centre established6. Devised an evaluation mechanism that includes feedback from clients/ service providers that services are improving and meeting needs	2018/19 design and execute a needs assessment and environmental scan TIHAC Youth collective applied for funding for APP - potential to tie in

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Integrate more Indigenous system navigators into the existing system	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increased number of Indigenous System Navigators2. A minimum number of employees in each funded agency are identified and trained as a culturally competent navigator of the health system3. A minimum number of staff at each hospital are trained and identified as culturally safe and secure navigators of the health care system4. A minimum of staff at Toronto Public Health are identified as culturally competent system navigators for Indigenous clients	Aboriginal Navigator in TC LHIN hospitals as part of the South Regional Cancer Program New funding to connect 2-Spirit community with traditional healers. Palliative Care navigator pilot project started

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Ensure health care spaces are welcoming, accessible and inclusive of Indigenous people	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed a baseline study to determine number of welcoming, accessible and culturally inclusive spaces2. Measured an increase in spaces that allow for cultural practices (e.g. smudging)3. Indigenous population identified as a priority in the strategic/program plans of funded organizations	Work underway to develop methodology

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Devise or support existing programs for seniors and families impacted by residential schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Supported the Calls to Action found in the Truth and Reconciliation Report2. Increased number of programs for families impacted by residential schools	MOHLTC funded new program to address intergenerational trauma through the Ontario Journey Together program

Strategic Direction #2

Influence the social determinants of Indigenous health

Goal: To influence systems that impact the health of Indigenous people in Toronto

Advocate for landlord racism toward Indigenous tenants be addressed

Influence supportive housing policy for the benefit of Indigenous youth, 2 Spirit and seniors that is secure, safe and addresses risks

Influence supportive housing policy for the benefit of pregnant Indigenous women and Indigenous women involved with the child welfare system

Advocate for affordable healthy food for Indigenous people in Toronto using an Indigenous lens (including through the Toronto Food Strategy)

Advocate for a greater number of Indigenous teachers, professors in the education system

Advocate for students in the education system to have experiential learning opportunities (in addition to cultural competency training) regarding ceremonies and/or ceremonial teachings

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Advocate for Indigenous specific adult learning centres

Advocate for the development of a state of the art, well-equipped, centre of excellence that prepares Indigenous youth for entrance into post secondary programs that include housing, financial and transportation support and is infused with Indigenous world view

Advocate for targeted programming for students to become part of school based sports teams

Advocate within justice system for culturally appropriate court processes for Indigenous women attending family court

City wide campaign to address the role of racism with an anti-oppression, social justice framework

Support programs that address violence in Toronto's Indigenous community

Expansion of culturally secure parenting support programs

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Advocate for landlord racism toward Indigenous tenants be addressed	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable2. Policy has been devised and implemented to address racism with landlords	Toronto Public Health - funding received for TIHS Project Manager and Evaluator
Influence supportive housing policy for the benefit of Indigenous youth, 2 Spirit and seniors that is secure, safe and addresses risks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policy has been developed and implemented to address housing issues related to two-spirited peoples, Indigenous youth and seniors2. Supported the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Report	Canada announced a \$40 billion National Housing Strategy. It includes a specific Indigenous Housing strategy developed through consultation with FNMI and 3 urban consultations

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Influence supportive housing policy for the benefit of pregnant Indigenous women and Indigenous women involved with the child welfare system	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policy has been developed and implemented to address issues of Indigenous pregnant women and access to supportive housing, especially while involved with child welfare2. Supported the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Report3. Advocacy work underway and demonstrable regarding the inclusionary zoning laws to dedicate housing units for the Indigenous community4. Same standard of care for Indigenous patients as mainstream is evidenced5. Indigenous population identified as a priority in the strategic/program plans of funded organizations	The National Housing Strategy specifically identifies women and children fleeing family violence as well as Indigenous people as priorities however few additional details are available

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Advocate for affordable healthy food for Indigenous people in Toronto using an Indigenous lens (including through the Toronto Food Strategy)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Creation of community garden initiatives are supported2. Policies for green spaces for food sustainability are researched and reported3. Strategies to increase access to affordable, healthy food developed and implemented4. Advocacy work underway and demonstrable regarding free access to prenatal vitamins	Toronto Public Health - funding received for TIHS Project Manager and Evaluator
Advocate for a greater number of Indigenous teachers, professors in the education system	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable	Request sent to the Ministry of Education

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Advocate for students in the education system to have experiential learning opportunities (in addition to cultural competency training) regarding ceremonies and/or ceremonial teachings	1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable	Journey Together funding announced for land based family programming in Toronto
Advocate for Indigenous specific adult learning centres	1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable	Request sent to the Ministry of Education

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Advocate for the development of a state of the art, well-equipped, centre of excellence that prepares Indigenous youth for entrance into post secondary programs that include housing, financial and transportation support and is infused with Indigenous world view	1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable	Request sent to the Ministry of Education
Advocate for targeted programming for students to become part of school based sports teams	1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable	

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Advocate within justice system for culturally appropriate court processes for Indigenous women attending family court	1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable	The Giiwedini Anang Council is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to assist families involved in the child welfare system in Toronto. This is an Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution Program through Aboriginal Legal Services

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City wide campaign to address the role of racism with an anti-oppression, social justice framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrated support to others doing the work of addressing non-health related campaigns to address racism2. Demonstrated support for a proposal for province wide mandatory cultural competency training3. Provided advice to the Minister of Health on impact of racism on the health of Indigenous people4. Supported challenges to target senior leadership to take cultural competency learning opportunities	Toronto Public Health - funding received for TIHS Project Manager and Evaluator
Support programs that address violence in Toronto's Indigenous community	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advocacy work is underway and demonstrable2. Support given to agencies that have a mandate on violence against Indigenous women & families3. Supported the calls to actions in the Truth and Reconciliation Report	TC LHIN met with Toronto Councillor Wong-Tam to discuss working together on advocacy work

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Expansion of culturally secure parenting support programs	1. Increased number and size of culturally secure parenting programs for Indigenous community	MCYS and TASSC announced Journey Together funding for Toronto in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Indigenous Early Years Centre in Scarborough (\$1million annual)• New Indigenous Early Years Centre in Mount Dennis (\$1million annual)• enhanced NCFS Indigenous Child Care and Child and Family Programs at the Scarborough Child and Family Life Centre• New Land Based Family Programming• New Centralized Language Programs• New Indigenous Father's program

Strategic Direction #3

Harmonize Indigenous and mainstream health programs and services

Goal: To close the institutional care gap through harmonized healing spaces and frontline services

Support new and existing public health promotion programs focusing on physical activity, healthy eating, mental health promotion, healthy parenting, youth resilience and chronic disease prevention to be culturally appropriate.

Support new and existing palliative care programs for Indigenous peoples that integrate Indigenous world view.

Investigate the development of a live-in family healing and caring lodge

Investigate the development of a harmonized, community-based healing and counselling team of highly skilled providers as well as apprentices and community supports

Mental health and addictions services for the Indigenous community are aligned and supported by a seamless network of culturally secure care and trauma based care providers both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. These services would include both Indigenous and Western modalities of treatment and would ensure the confidentiality and privacy of Indigenous clients is protected

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Support new and existing public health promotion programs focusing on physical activity, healthy eating, mental health promotion, healthy parenting, youth resilience and chronic disease prevention to be culturally appropriate	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Baseline study to determine what programs have been targeted to the Indigenous community2. Research into data and quality measurements of existing programs revealed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved access to health promotion programs• Increased physical activity for participants• Increased knowledge of culturally appropriate health promotion messaging• Improved quality of programs• Improved increase in self-reported health status• Investments in existing and new programs addressing chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion, health parenting and youth resilience for the Indigenous population are in place	Toronto Public Health - funding received for TIHS Project Manager and Evaluator

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Support new and existing palliative care programs for Indigenous peoples that integrate Indigenous world view	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Implemented the TC LHIN Palliative Care Strategy (PCS), which included a specific Aboriginal palliative care strategy2. Identification of emerging opportunities to devise strategies3. Evidence of co-design of strategy by Indigenous community4. Determined the proportion of people who are dying with palliative care support5. Increased proportion of Indigenous patients receiving culturally safe palliative care support6. Palliative Care strategies are in alignment with Indigenous midwifery practices7. Identification of traditional resources completed, implementation of family grief practices	<p>Strategy work ongoing through the leadership of AHT</p> <p>TC LHIN currently funding 2 new positions</p> <p>Full funding proposal submitted to MOHLTC</p> <p>Working with the IDEAS Palliative Care Cohort to include this Indigenous Palliative Care model</p>

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Investigate the development of a live-in family healing and caring lodge	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed a needs assessment (including assessment for critical mental health, addictions and palliative care)2. Development of an integrated planning team3. Completed an environmental scan that includes funding opportunities4. Development of a business plan that is sustainable, feasible and results Based	MOHLTC funded new program to address intergenerational trauma through the Ontario Journey Together program This work will inform next steps

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<p>Investigate the development of a harmonized, community-based healing and counselling team of highly skilled providers as well as apprentices and community supports</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed a needs assessment2. Development of a planning team (steering committee)3. Completed an environmental scan that includes funding opportunities4. While planning, ensure continuity of care	<p>Aboriginal Navigator in TC LHIN hospitals as part of the South Regional Cancer Program</p> <p>New funding to connect 2-Spirit community with traditional healers</p> <p>Palliative Care navigator pilot project started</p> <p>This work will inform next steps</p>

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<p>Mental health and addictions services for the Indigenous community are aligned and supported by a seamless network of culturally secure care and trauma based care providers both Indigenous and non-Indigenous</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline needs assessment documenting needs/unmet needs has been developed by OHC. 2. Mapping of existing services and analysis of unmet needs has been completed 3. Provincial and local mental health strategies for Indigenous people are aligned, expanded and based on meeting unmet needs of the community 4. There is a seamless, visible referral network and knowledge base of support for Indigenous people when that are in crisis or requiring longer term support for mental health and addictions issues at all levels of the community including agency supports, institutional supports and organizational supports. 5. Indigenous population identified as a priority in the strategic/program plans of funded organizations 	<p>MOHLTC funded new program to address intergenerational trauma through the Ontario Journey Together program</p> <p>Funding received from MOHLTC to develop a Toronto Indigenous Opioid strategy</p> <p>This work will inform next steps</p>