



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

## Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

### The Aboriginal Arts Community in Toronto Research Summary

#### What is the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council?

TASSC is a not-for-profit policy and research organization that addresses social determinants to improve and enhance the social, economic and cultural base of Aboriginal peoples in the City of Toronto.

TASSC is comprised of the following ten member organizations:

- ❖ 2-Spirited People of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations
- ❖ Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto
- ❖ Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto Clinic
- ❖ Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment
- ❖ Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- ❖ Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- ❖ Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence)
- ❖ Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
- ❖ Nishnawbe Homes
- ❖ Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

#### What is the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report?

The TARP Report is the largest and most comprehensive study of Aboriginal people ever conducted in the City of Toronto. With a sample of over 1,400 individuals, 14 topics studied and seven methodologies utilized, the TARP Report provides an important picture of the current situation, the aspirations and the challenges facing Aboriginal people.

*The arts can provide an important means not only to uplift spirits, but to understand the contemporary issues facing Aboriginal people and act as a healing tool.*  
(Arts Focus Group)

Aboriginal arts are thriving in the City of Toronto. The arts can be found in all corners of the city, from visual and performing theatre arts to film festivals. The arts community has grown from the efforts of many grassroots artists and patrons and has the potential to become a major cultural draw for the city. The importance of art to urban life and cultural persistence is essential for Aboriginal people's positive identity development.



[www.tassc.ca](http://www.tassc.ca)

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#### Key Issues Affecting the Aboriginal Arts Community in Toronto

The arts community provides important public visibility of the presence of Aboriginal people in the city.

Aboriginal arts organizations face challenges in marketing to various segments of the population.

Aboriginal social service agencies can be important collaborators and partners with the Aboriginal arts and such relationships require further growth and support.

#### TARP Report Recommendations for the Aboriginal Arts Community in Toronto

- ❖ Create collaborative opportunities for the arts to be utilized as a tool for healing and recovery. A joint committee of Aboriginal arts and social service organizations should be established to search for ways to integrate arts into social service programs.
- ❖ Create an arts co-op to develop cohesive marketing tools to promote programs, performances, festivals, etc. A collective marketing effort would reduce costs of

individual organizations attempting to market and promote their work, as well as offer a better “package” of Aboriginal arts for tourists as well as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members.

- ❖ A dedicated Aboriginal arts facility which includes space where artists could go and engage in multiple artistic activities including workshop space, art studios, rehearsal space, etc.



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