



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

Urban Aboriginal Governance Research Summary

What is the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)?

TASSC is a not-for-profit research and advocacy organization in the City of Toronto. TASSC is comprised of ten member organizations.

- ❖ 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations
- ❖ Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto
- ❖ Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto Clinic
- ❖ Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
- ❖ Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training
- ❖ Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- ❖ Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- ❖ NA-ME-RES (Native Men's Residence)
- ❖ Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
- ❖ Nishnawbe Homes

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

The TARP Report is the largest and most comprehensive study of Aboriginal people in Toronto ever conducted. 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 challenges facing Aboriginal people in the Greater Toronto Area.

*Self-government means to be able to decide what is in our best interest...not the government deciding this for us. It is about running our own affairs and running our own lives.
(Key Informant Interview)*

There is strong support within the Toronto Aboriginal community to develop an elected, representative political body as an expression of urban Aboriginal self-government. However, there is much uncertainty and apprehension within the Toronto Aboriginal community concerning how this can happen and what form it will take.



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Urban Aboriginal Governance *Research Summary*

Key Issues Affecting Urban Aboriginal Governance

A number of challenges to the development of Aboriginal self-government were identified including, the practical challenges of development, a lack of community cohesion, a lack of government recognition, and interagency competition.

The City of Toronto has formally committed to supporting the Aboriginal right to self-government in the city. The Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) is a representative voice of Aboriginal social service agencies in Toronto and most able to support the development of a more representative community-wide governing process. However, there are mixed opinions about whether or not TASSC should take on this political role.

TARP Report Recommendations for Urban Aboriginal Governance

- ❖ That a broad-based group of Aboriginal organizations undertake a series of meeting to discuss the idea and feasibility of establishing Aboriginal urban self government in Toronto.
- ❖ That discussions be initiated between urban Aboriginal organizations in partnership with the three levels of government with a view of exploring the idea of Aboriginal self government in Toronto.



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