



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

## Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

### Housing in the Toronto Aboriginal Community 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

*The day of the nuclear family is not here with Aboriginal people. When I lived in social housing in Scarborough, there were three of us that had seven dependents, a niece and nephew or an uncle. There isn't social housing that embraces that style of housing. (Aboriginal Women's Focus Group)*

The Toronto Aboriginal population has varying experiences with their housing circumstances. The population is spread throughout the city centre and into the suburban areas. Low income or geared to income housing specifically for Aboriginal people is scattered through the city and run by various organizations. These organizations are important not only to those who are experiencing housing difficulties, but also in advocating for affordable housing for the Aboriginal population.



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### Housing in the Toronto Aboriginal Community *Research Summary*

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

Housing is related to transition issues for Aboriginal people. Without sufficient support, those in transition from life on the streets, in shelters, from prison or from addiction rehabilitation facilities risk jeopardizing their housing situation because they lack the basic skill set to maintain a household. Unstable or poor housing is also connected to many other factors influencing the quality of life for Aboriginal people including health, addictions and employment.

There is a limited availability of Aboriginal housing units as well as mainstream social housing. Home ownership is increasingly an interest for Aboriginal people in Toronto and for many it has become a reality. For many others, the prospect of home ownership is elusive.

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

- ❖ That Aboriginal housing organizations work with mainstream social housing organizations to develop housing policies and regulations that are culturally reflective of Aboriginal people and family structure (i.e. extended

family) with a view to expanding the amount of social housing available to Aboriginal people in Toronto.

- ❖ That a housing program be established for Aboriginal individuals transitioning from shelters or recovery treatment facilities. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal housing agencies should work together to create this program.



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