



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

Aboriginal Men 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 1st 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.

We have a lot of talented people in our community and important traditional knowledge. But we are contributing less and less and we focus on the negative and get stuck there. (Aboriginal Men's Focus Group)

Aboriginal men in Toronto are experiencing increasing successes in educational attainment, employment and income. However, a majority continue to experience poverty and related social problems.



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Aboriginal Men *Research Summary*

Key Issues Affecting Aboriginal Men

Compared to Aboriginal women and two-spirited community members, Aboriginal men have the lowest incomes, educational attainment rates, least job security and are the least likely to own a home. Aboriginal men are most likely to work in construction or the trades, followed by professional/managerial positions.

Aboriginal men come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and communities and are involved in many areas across the Toronto Aboriginal community.

A significant number of Aboriginal men experience relationship and addictions challenges. Meanwhile, Aboriginal men identified racism and discrimination as an important barrier to their success. There is a need for additional services to meet the specific needs of Aboriginal men in Toronto.

TARP Report Recommendations for Aboriginal Men

- ❖ Establish a culturally-based residential treatment and detox centre in Toronto to meet the needs of Aboriginal men who are experiencing drug and alcohol addiction issues.
- ❖ Establish culturally-based Aboriginal healing programs focusing on issues that affect Aboriginal men, such as relationship counseling, life skills, anger management, parenting skills and addictions treatment.



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