



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

Aboriginal Poverty and Social Services

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.

Poverty is very difficult and a lot of people don't know how to change things for themselves. Planning and budgeting can be really difficult. Sometimes we get really stuck and our thinking can become very negative.
(Poverty and Social Services Focus Group)

Urban Aboriginal poverty is an issue facing many people across many cities in Canada, and Toronto is no exception. Poverty does not exist in isolation of other life factors; it is a determinant of quality of life in many ways, including health. The interconnected nature of poverty was evident throughout the TARP Report. Also evident was that multiple organizations are working diligently to address poverty-related issues and remove barriers to success for Aboriginal people living in Toronto.



www.tassc.ca

16 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7 | 647.748.6100 | info@tassc.ca



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

Aboriginal Poverty and Social Services

Research Summary

Key Issues Affecting Aboriginal Poverty and Social Services

Poverty is multi-faceted and is a determinant of success and well-being across all social issues. Household income and employment are closely linked and many Aboriginal people in Toronto face challenges in finding full-time, permanent employment. This is also a significant challenge for Aboriginal women, especially those who are single mothers.

A large proportion of Aboriginal people in Toronto earn under \$40,000 per year. Single Aboriginal people face challenges with income, with a high proportion earning less than \$20,000 per year, while one in three families live below the poverty line.

There is a large proportion of Aboriginal people in Toronto who are transitioning from less stable lives (life on the streets, in shelters or in addictions treatment) who struggle significantly with poverty which makes them vulnerable to returning to their previous circumstances.

TARP Report Recommendations for Aboriginal Poverty and Social Services

- ❖ Establish a system of communications for individuals expressing an interest in coming to the city.
- ❖ That Aboriginal and mainstream agencies cooperate to establish partnerships in the form of a body with a mandate to offer care to Aboriginal clients.
- ❖ Reduce the onerous reporting requirements for Aboriginal agencies and examine ways to provide stable long-term funding.
- ❖ That Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal agencies develop multi-organizational satellite offices as “one stop shops” to better meet the needs of Aboriginal clients.
- ❖ That Aboriginal organizations develop a cohesive Internet presence which provides up to date, accurate information on programs and services.