



TORONTO ABORIGINAL SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCIL

## Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) Report

### Aboriginal Women 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.

*I feel successful for raising my son as a single mother. He's smart and healthy. For now, that's what I consider success. (Aboriginal Women's Focus Group)*

Aboriginal women in an urban context are not one homogenous group. They come from different communities with different traditions and languages. Across many Aboriginal cultures, the role of women as caregivers, life-givers and providers are salient.



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

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### Aboriginal Women *Research Summary*

#### Key Issues Affecting Aboriginal Women

Aboriginal women in Toronto are both thriving economically as professionals and home owners but are also facing poverty as a result of raising children in lone parent households.

The challenges for Aboriginal women often include multiple, overlapping issues such as poverty, housing, relationships, discrimination and addictions.

Leadership within Aboriginal organizations and through the traditional roles of Elders is a significant role that Aboriginal women play in Toronto which provides a source of mentoring for younger Aboriginal women and families.

#### TARP Report Recommendations for Aboriginal Women

- ❖ That mentorship programs be developed to assist women in building networks of support and offer successful Aboriginal women with a community connection.
- ❖ That an “acknowledgement award program” honouring Aboriginal women who contribute to the community be developed.
- ❖ That women employed in Aboriginal agencies, government, and the private sector create an “Aboriginal Professional Women’s Association” to represent the interests of Aboriginal women and hold activities and events.



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