URBAN INDIGENOUS STRATEGY
Survey
Results Summary
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BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish With One Spoon” wampum agreement.

The City of Hamilton is developing its first Urban Indigenous Strategy that will identify opportunities to strengthen its relationship with Indigenous community members. The strategy will also help promote a better understanding among all residents about Indigenous histories, cultures, experiences and contributions.

Building on the research and what was learned over the course of 2017, the City of Hamilton is building its Urban Indigenous Strategy around the themes of Land, People and Spirit. The Land theme is about acknowledging and respecting the spiritual, mental, physical and emotional connections that Indigenous peoples have to land. This connection extends into Indigenous knowledge, governance, language, and relationships with non-Indigenous organizations. The People theme embodies how Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples build mutually respectful relationships in every day settings. This can include how services are provided and are accessible to Indigenous peoples, employment and support for Indigenous peoples in the workplace. The Spirit theme embodies how Indigenous contributions and experiences, including the Indian Residential School system, are honoured and commemorated. This may involve exploring archives to shed light on untold histories. The Spirit theme explores how Indigenous peoples and histories are visibly represented in the city.

The Urban Indigenous Strategy Survey was implemented to gather community input to identify action items that the City of Hamilton’s Urban Indigenous Strategy should focus on over the next 2 to 5 years to strengthen its relationship with Indigenous community members.
SURVEY ADMINISTRATION AND RESPONSE

The Urban Indigenous Strategy Survey was available online between May 1 to June 30, 2018. During this time, 455 surveys were fully or partially completed online.

Paper copies of the survey were also distributed at various events including the Celebration of Growth on May 17, 2018, Cathedral’s Year End Student Success Event on May 31, 2018, the Urban Indigenous Strategy’s Information Fair on June 2, 2018, and the Soaring Spirits Festival on June 22-24, 2018. There were 58 fully or partially completed paper copies of the survey returned.

In total, 513 fully or partially completed surveys were collected. This document provides a summary of the results collected. The universe of respondents (n) is provided in brackets for each question.

KEY FINDINGS

The Respondents

If you feel comfortable, please tell us whether you identify as …

(n=513)

- Non-Indigenous: 73%
- Indigenous or Indigenous ancestry: 26%
- Missing: 1%

Age
### How long have you lived in Hamilton?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Indigenous (n=132)</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous (n=372)</th>
<th>Total (n=511)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than a year</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 years</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10 years</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 10 years</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not live in Hamilton</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supporting the Theme of Land

Ranking of activities that the City of Hamilton can engage in to support the theme of Land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
<th>Respondents identifying as Indigenous</th>
<th>Respondents identifying as non-indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with Indigenous peoples on land use planning</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use an Indigenous-led approach when working with Indigenous organizations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand and respect Traditional Ecological Knowledge on City initiatives or projects that may have environmental impacts</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Indigenous peoples to carry out their ceremonial or spiritual practices on City green spaces</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness of the traditional territory on which Hamilton is located</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Priority Score

0 = Low Priority  
5 = High Priority

HAMILTON URBAN INDIGENOUS STRATEGY SURVEY – RESULTS SUMMARY
Respondents were asked for suggestions for other activities the City of Hamilton should consider supporting the theme of Land. In this case, respondents who identify as Indigenous or non-Indigenous raised many similar points:

- Respect and include Indigenous worldviews and teachings about land; Indigenous concepts of stewardship as opposed to ownership;
- Improved and more meaningful consultation with Indigenous people on land and development issues, before granting permits;
- Indigenous people and leaders should have a bigger role in political decision-making; role on City Council; advisory to Council and the City of Hamilton;
- Active community gardens to promote Indigenous seeds and plants;
- Incorporate Indigenous stewardship principles and respect traditional ecological knowledge; more Indigenous leadership and management of lands;
- Engage Indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners on projects relating to urban forestry, planting at parks and natural areas; and,
- Clean the water, including Burlington bay; and,
- Support Indigenous peoples’ efforts to access clean water in other communities.

➢ **Respondents who identify as Indigenous provided further suggestions:**

- Educate City employees on the roles and responsibilities associated with the Dish with One Spoon treaty;
- Dedicate spaces for Indigenous peoples to practice traditional ceremonies without having to pay any fees;
- Use a portion of development fees to secure/support non-developed land for ceremonial use;
- We need land for ceremony, particularly a space that is protected, safe from racism;
- Many of our conservation areas are not accessible by transit and require a personal vehicle to access/enjoy; and,
- Allow for ceremonies and teachings around plantings.

➢ **Respondents identifying as non-Indigenous had also provided the following suggestions:**

- Encourage everyone to understand the traditional territory on which they stand;
- Posting signage in public places describing the land's heritage and usage pre-colonization;
- The City of Hamilton should put aside areas for Indigenous uses; meaning they own the land for cultural, spiritual use;
- As Mohawk College and McMaster University have done, create an Indigenous space on the grounds of City Hall or other prominent piece of City property to honour the contribution of Indigenous peoples and encourage learning and dialogue in a safe space;
- The City should fully fund an Indigenous cultural centre in a prominent location;
- Rehabilitate vacant or damaged lands using traditional ecological knowledge; and,
  - Bring Indigenous youth together with other youth to learn about growing traditional Indigenous foods.
Supporting the theme of People

Ranking of activities that the City of Hamilton can engage in to support the theme of People.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
<th>Respondents identifying as Indigenous</th>
<th>Respondents identifying as non-indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner with the Indigenous community to address housing needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide Indigenous youth with mentorship and employment opportunities with the City of Hamilton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training to health care professionals working for the City to increase understanding of Indigenous healing practices and the role of Elders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the number of Indigenous peoples working for the City of Hamilton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase sport and recreation opportunities for Indigenous children and youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Priority Score

Low Priority: 0

Average Priority Score: 5

High Priority: 3.3

0 5

Low Priority | Average Priority Score | High Priority
Respondents were asked for suggestions for other activities to consider supporting the theme of People. Respondents who identify as Indigenous or non-Indigenous raised many similar points:

- Provide training to City employees, police, and child welfare that is led by Indigenous trainers and addresses topics such as implicit bias, systemic racism and colonialism.
- Create programs for City employees to learn more and engage with Indigenous community. Attendance and community or cultural events should be allowed as part of the employment activities;
- Recreation and sports opportunities should be more accessible to Indigenous peoples, especially Indigenous children and youth. An Indigenous gym facility that focuses on Indigenous culture and sports would be one way to do this;
- Involve more Elders and traditional knowledge keepers, particularly in health care; and,
- Create a plan to first support children. One cannot support children, without also supporting caregivers.

Respondents who identify as Indigenous provided further suggestions regarding the theme of People:

- Establish City programs to support and encourage Aboriginal graduation rates;
- Support the Indigenous community to increase its capacity to provide Indigenous healing practices and ethical protocols;
- Health care professionals need to understand that not everyone is ok with medication and that there are medicine people in Indigenous communities;
- Sports are unaffordable for our families; eliminate barriers for low-income families to participate in all levels of sports and recreation;
- Bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth;
- Community events need to be accessible for persons using wheel chairs and by transit;
- The City should contribute to programming and funding Indigenous language resurgence;
- Develop intentional hiring practices to hire more Indigenous peoples and ensure the workplace is culturally safe;
- Launch mentorship, practicums and employment opportunities for Indigenous youth;
- Provide programming for Indigenous seniors and Elders;
- Affordable housing is a very important issue that needs to be addressed;
- Work with Sacajawea to build more Indigenous housing; this includes removing the fees as a gesture of good will to the Indigenous community;
- Indigenous youth need help with finding housing;
- Other institutions and businesses also need to hire more Indigenous peoples; and,
- Would like to have more socials for Indigenous community members.

Respondents identifying as non-Indigenous had also provided the following suggestions supporting the theme of People:
- The training of City health care professionals about Indigenous healing practices is important and should be partnership between the City and the hospitals;
- Share a series of stories in the Hamilton Spectator;
- Have events open to all people that celebrate and educate on Indigenous peoples in Hamilton;
- Help non-Indigenous people to understand the history of Canadian government actions and how it impacts the lives of Indigenous peoples;
- Introduce the public to some of the community leaders making a difference;
- Important to have a continuing program of education and communication; and,
- Our city could learn a lot from Aboriginal teachings, from respect for Elders to honouring women and Mother Earth.
Supporting the theme of Spirit

Ranking of activities that the City of Hamilton can engage in to support the theme of Spirit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
<th>Respondents identifying as Indigenous</th>
<th>Respondents identifying as non-indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote Indigenous festivals and events, such as National Aboriginal Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner with the Indigenous community on City heritage initiatives (e.g. archaeology, events, programming)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner with the Indigenous community to create an Indigenous Cultural Centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase supports for local Indigenous artists, craftspeople, and Indigenous events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Indigenous themed art for public parks, buildings and streetscapes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Priority Score

0 = Low Priority  
5 = High Priority
Respondents were asked for suggestions for other activities to consider supporting the theme of Spirit. Respondents who identify as Indigenous or non-Indigenous raised many similar points:

- The City should involve Indigenous communities in their heritage programming. This includes highlighting archaeological sites and programming that connecting these sites to today’s Indigenous populations;
- Increase acknowledgement and recognition of Indigenous peoples on trails, parks, museums;
- Support and fund Indigenous artists;
- Art installations in green spaces that are informed by local Indigenous peoples to highlight their connection with the land;
- Identify land that has potential evidence of Indigenous occupation and install signs about it;
- Name new neighbourhoods, schools and parks using Indigenous names and words; and,
- Add Indigenous art to city spaces; more space reserved for Indigenous art and artists and local festivals and exhibitions.

Respondents identifying as Indigenous/Indigenous ancestry provided additional comments:

- Celebrate and highlight archaeology sites;
- Consult Elders prior and during initiatives;
- More recognition and celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day/Month;
- Show the spirit of Indigenous people in public spaces; and,
- Initiating programs that make Indigenous population feel less ‘invisible’.

Additional responses that came from respondents identifying as non-Indigenous included:

- All of these activities are valid; I don’t feel comfortable ranking them. The City should act on all of them;
- An archaeological museum dedicated to preserving Indigenous artifacts;
- We need to understand what stories and messages are important to the Indigenous community and their ancestors;
- Museums are very good in the Brantford area and Crawford Lake so ensure that the themes are not duplicated. Promote these other places and even offer public transportation to them if requested by Indigenous groups;
- Develop a map that shows Indigenous lands, sacred places, known settlements, and archaeological dig areas;
- Set aside a day for an Indigenous festival;
- Tear down colonialist monuments;
- A symbol of cooperation in Gore Park; and,
- Celebrate the heroes in the Indigenous communities.
Additional Ideas or Comments

Respondents were asked to add any other ideas or comments about ways the City of Hamilton can enhance its relationship with Indigenous peoples living in Hamilton.

- Respondents who identify as Indigenous or non-Indigenous raised many similar points:
  - Truly listen when working and consulting the Indigenous community;
  - Looking forward to seeing this Strategy move forward;
  - Everything the City does regarding the Urban Indigenous Strategy should be guided and led by the Indigenous community; and,
  - Education about the history is the best step. Speak with Elders and Indigenous educators.

- Respondents identifying as Indigenous/Indigenous ancestry provided additional comments:
  - A dedicated room for smudging is needed for the court houses. The court house is a very triggering place for Indigenous people;
  - Highlight profiles of Indigenous people in Hamilton making a positive influence in their communities as a way of combating stereotypes and stigmas;
  - Hold community feasts with the Indigenous community and City staff;
  - Help promote the language and this will strengthen the self-esteem of youth;
  - It would be wonderful to have a page that is dedicated to all things Indigenous and what is going on in the community;
  - Would like to see the Art Gallery of Hamilton offer more workshops with a First Nations theme. For example, beading, storytelling, painting, art creation; and
  - Provide an Elder to visit homes.

- Respondents identifying as non-Indigenous provided additional suggestions, including:
  - Reconciliation for the TB hospital and its role in displacing and disrupting the Inuit community;
  - Although non-Indigenous, I have witnessed several cases of discrimination and outright assault on Indigenous people;
  - Encourage Indigenous peoples living in Hamilton to become engaged in, and run for, municipal elections;
  - For this initiative to be meaningful, more staffing resources need to be dedicated;
  - This is a poor survey because everything is critical and should be part of an overall strategy for improving our relationship with local Indigenous people;
  - Be sensitive to collecting and using data about Indigenous peoples;
  - Use asset-based community development principles and honour the experience of Indigenous peoples;
  - Self-determination and Indigenous governance with a representative power equivalent to City Council for decision making; and,
  - Provide small grants to local groups.
### Indigenous Experiences in the Community

For respondents that identified as being Indigenous or Indigenous ancestry:

Within the last 2 years, how **often** have you experienced discrimination based on your Indigenous identity (First Nations, Métis or Inuit) when …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accessing City Services (n=129)</th>
<th>In the broader community (n=128)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For respondents that identified as being Indigenous or Indigenous ancestry:

Within the last 2 years has the **frequency** of discrimination you experienced when …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accessing City Services (n=125)</th>
<th>In the broader community (n=127)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreased</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed the same</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Findings and Next Steps

This survey was valuable for understanding what community members in Hamilton want the City of Hamilton to act on through the Urban Indigenous Strategy. The breadth of activities that were suggested and the fact that the majority were found to be equally important is a reminder that truth and reconciliation in Hamilton will be long and varied journey.

There were a number of key messages that came through the survey. For example, meaningful consultation and inclusion of Indigenous Elders, leaders and community members are crucial for moving ahead. Including Indigenous voices in decision-making was a frequent comment made by survey participants. In addition, education was clearly seen as a key requirement for the success of the Urban Indigenous Strategy. The City of Hamilton has a role to play in this education, whether it is providing training to City staff, or by offering public education to residents of all ages and backgrounds. As a complement to public education events, community members are looking for more visible reminders of the rich Indigenous history and the continued contributions of Indigenous peoples to Hamilton.

The survey also provided an important snapshot of the negative experiences that Indigenous community members have had. The majority of Indigenous participants in this survey reported experiences of discrimination based on their Indigenous identity. These experiences more often occurred in the broader community, as opposed to when accessing City services. Nevertheless, the amount of discrimination experienced is enough of a call to action for the City of Hamilton. The findings of the Urban Indigenous Strategy have shown that the City of Hamilton has a major role to play in truth and reconciliation at the local level. Community members are looking for concrete actions that contribute to eliminating discrimination and increase respect.

The findings from this survey will be used along with feedback from other community engagement activities to develop the final recommendations for the Urban Indigenous Strategy. The strategy will be released in early 2019. It will present key directions and specific actions for moving ahead and identify how community members will stay informed on the progress made. The Urban Indigenous Strategy will outline how the City of Hamilton will work with Indigenous people to strengthen relationships and is the first step in a long journey towards achieving truth and reconciliation at the local level.
Bringing the City to the Community Information Fair, June 2, 2018, Hamilton
Bringing the City to the Community Information Fair, June 2, 2018, Hamilton