

**Toronto Housing and
Homelessness
Service Planning
Forum**

June 2 2021



More than words



- Land acknowledgement is important
- But there is more we can do – we can be more active
- Going forward we will have a new standing item at the beginning of each meeting to learn something new – we are asking Forum participants to let us know what you are interested in
- Marking National Indigenous History Month
 - collecting resources to learn more, including from sources including TAEH partners Anishnawbe Health, and The Toronto Public Library and TASSC

I ACKNOWLEDGE

the land I am standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. I also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



Tkaronto is built on sacred land that is part of an agreement between Indigenous peoples and then extended to allied nations to peacefully and respectfully care for it. By personally making a land acknowledgement you are taking part in an act of reconciliation, honouring the land and Indigenous heritage, which dates back over 10,000 years.



TorontoForAll.ca





More than words

A National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former students and those affected.

Emotional and crisis referral services can be accessed by calling the 24-hour national crisis line: **1-866-925-4419**. The Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) can be contacted toll-free at **1-800-721-0066**.

If you are able, you can also [donate to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#).

The TRC includes an entire volume – V 4 – on this terrible legacy: *Canada's Residential Schools: Missing Children and Unmarked Burials*. The Commission called for specific action in 2009, including forensic archaeology investigations on residential school sites.

Welcome and agenda

		ITEM	Notes
10:00		Introduction and Housekeeping	Introduction of Forum Co-Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark Aston, TAEH Chair and ED, Covenant House ○ Ashleigh Dalton, Manager, Strategic Policy and Service Planning, SSHA
		Welcome and Land Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land recognition • Agenda review and solicitation of other business
10:05		Building Partnerships to Address Indigenous Homelessness: Co-Creating the Meeting in the Middle Engagement Strategy and Action Plan	With Steve Teekens, Chair, Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) and Linda Wood, Manager, Strategic Programs, SSHA
10:20	2	Reducing transmission of respiratory illness (Covid-19) through improved indoor air quality	With Dr. Jeffrey Siegel, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto.
11:00	3	Using Toronto's Shelter Data Dashboard to drive systems change	With Stephanie Malcher, Manager, Coordinated Access, SSHA and Wondu Amenu, Research Analyst, SSHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of current Shelter System Flow Data Dashboard • Overview of how SSHA is using the data • Open Data Portal demonstration • Overview of data workshop at next forum on July 7, 2021, with invitation for community presentations
11:30	4	TAEH updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position on encampments • Vote Housing Campaign
11:50	5	Other business/close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for priorities for upcoming agendas • Review of any urgent next steps not already captured



Engagement Strategy & Action Plan



Building Partnerships to Address Indigenous Homelessness: Co-Creating the Meeting in the Middle Engagement Strategy and Action Plan

- **Steve Teekens**, Chair, Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB)
- **Linda Wood**, Manager, Strategic Programs, SSHA

Reducing transmission of respiratory illness (Covid-19) through improved indoor air quality

With **Dr. Jeffrey Siegel**,
Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto.



Using Toronto's Shelter Data Dashboard to drive systems change

With **Stephanie Malcher**,
Manager, Coordinated Access,
SSHA and **Wondu Amenu**,
Research Analyst, SSHA

- Review of current Shelter System Flow Data Dashboard
- Overview of how SSHA is using the data
- Open Data Portal demonstration
- Overview of data workshop at next forum on July 7, 2021, with invitation for community presentations

TAEH Updates

Encampments of people experiencing homelessness

Response must be rooted:

- In a Human Rights Approach
 - Homelessness is a violation of human rights
 - The encampments embody this violation
- Full Housing First model
 - A rights-based, person-centered approach, emphasizing choice
 - Recognizes that housing is the foundation for stability and health
 - Individualized supports and opportunities for social and community integration
 - Meaningful relationships with each person, ensuring information to make informed choices



TAEH Updates

Encampments of people experiencing homelessness

Increased investments in housing and housing allowances are critical

- Clear example of decades of lack of sufficient investment from all orders of government in new housing
 - A shared responsibility
 - With role for Ontario and the federal government to do more
- Additional housing allowances also needed immediately
 - Deep enough to rent safe, appropriate housing
 - Tied to a targeted strategy to identify units available with a deeper allowance



TAEH Updates

Encampments of people experiencing homelessness

Working Together

- SSHA is only one of the City divisions responsible for the response to encampments
 - We can do more to support their efforts to accelerate housing options, deliver Housing First, promote the Human Rights model through advocacy with Council and other orders of government
- Finding a different way to discuss the encampments
 - Housing is one of the rare areas where we, collectively, have the opportunity to make real change and improve our city for everyone, not least of which includes its most marginalized and vulnerable people.
 - It is time to take a breath, learn from the challenges of Covid-19 that the housing and homelessness sector continues to contend with, and apply it to designing a future system that avoids these challenges in the first place.



Other business/close

- Call for priorities for upcoming agendas
- Review of any urgent next steps not already captured