

# Attachment 1: Draft Chapter 1 Directions and Principles

## ***A. Indigenous Planning Perspectives***

On April 6, 2022, City Council adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan (2022-2032) that envisions a city where First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, worldviews, cultures, and ways of life hold a respected, celebrated, prominent, and distinctive place in Toronto.

As part of decolonizing our structures, processes, and ways of working, the Official Plan must acknowledge that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples' world views with respect to the land, sea, and air are different from the colonial approach that has guided land use planning in Ontario.

### **[new] The Official Plan should respect the rights of Indigenous communities to self-determination, self-governance, land stewardship, and access to land and water**

- This Official Plan and its policies will:
  - be developed and reviewed with respect for the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples to be self-determining and self-governing;
  - be guided and informed by Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, including the truth and importance of the Indigenous principles, "nothing for us without us", and "for Indigenous by Indigenous" and
  - support and foster meaningful and early engagement, co-development, equal partnership, respect, and reciprocity.

### **The Official Plan should recognize the importance and purpose of land acknowledgments**

- A territorial or land acknowledgement is a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people(s) who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home. Providing a land acknowledgement at the beginning of an event or meeting gives time for reflection and demonstrates recognition of Indigenous lands, treaties and peoples. It involves thinking about what happened in the past and what changes can be made going forward in order to further the reconciliation process. Land acknowledgements mark a small and important step in the process of reconciliation and building a positive relationship with Indigenous peoples. By making a land acknowledgement you are taking part in an act of reconciliation, honouring the land and Indigenous presence which dates back over 10,000 years. Source: [City of Toronto website](#)
- **[new]** In addition to recognizing the importance and purpose of land acknowledgements, this Official Plan and its policies will aspire to move beyond the acknowledgements and towards tangible and meaningful action.

### **The Official Plan should seek to amplify Indigenous voices in planning processes through consistent and respectful approaches to consultation and decision-making**

- While implementing the Official Plan, the City, its partners, stakeholders and others

must meaningfully engage with Indigenous Peoples frequently and early in the planning process.

- Meaningful engagement will help the City to create and maintain relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit People, and to collaborate to restore truth, right relations and contribute to a just future for Indigenous Peoples.
- Building and repairing relationships with Indigenous Peoples – with Elders, Knowledge Carriers and youth can remind us of our responsibilities to the land and water.

**The Official Plan should explicitly seek to deepen understanding of contemporary urban Indigenous realities and experiences (Source: Reconciliation Action Plan, 2022-2032)**

- By deepening the understanding of the past, and also of contemporary urban Indigenous issues, members of the public and the City will be more responsive to the needs of the Indigenous community.
- To better serve Indigenous residents in Toronto, the Official Plan should seek to address barriers and colonial practices embedded in our policies, processes and practices.

**The Official Plan should continue to identify opportunities for Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping initiatives in new development (Source: Reconciliation Action Plan, 2022-2032)**

- Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping is integral to truth, reconciliation and justice in that it creates and nurtures space, in process and policy, for ceremony, teaching and community; strengthens Indigenous connections with lands and waters; and builds cultural competency and capacity for land-based Indigenous engagement. The outcomes of placemaking and placekeeping initiatives are varied and all are critical for the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples. Source: [Draft Reconciliation Action Plan, 2022-2032](#)

**The Official Plan should include a new explanatory text or sidebar describing the Reconciliation Action Plan**

- The Reconciliation Action Plan will help guide the City, towards a more inclusive and representative city *with* and *for* Indigenous Peoples.
- A new sidebar or explanatory text describing the City's first Reconciliation Action Plan will assist in capacity building and awareness of the Plan's four themes and 28 actions.

***B. 2051 Vision Statement***

**The Official Plan should seek to eliminate disparities experienced by Torontonians**

- Post-pandemic recovery and rebuild efforts must acknowledge that lived experiences vary amongst Torontonians. The Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR) report indicates that many impacts of COVID-19 were disproportionately felt by some neighbourhoods, segments of the population,

occupations and sectors – a reality that must be addressed in recovery. The achievement of complete communities will ensure a high quality of life for all.

- The systemic effects of land use planning (gentrification, income and racial segregation, limits to opportunity) mean we should challenge orthodoxies and look for outcome based directions that meaningfully work to reduce disparity and build up social cohesion.
- Complete communities offer and support opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to conveniently access most of the necessities for daily living, including an appropriate mix of jobs, local stores, and services, a full range of housing, active transportation options, and community services.

### **The Official Plan should prioritize climate change action and sustainability towards net zero by 2040**

- Climate Change is the biggest challenge facing our planet. In 2019 City Council declared a climate emergency, and in 2021 adopted The Net Zero Strategy to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. Making homes and buildings
- more energy efficient and resilient to climate change, stimulates job growth and the local economy. Investments in transit and cycling infrastructure improve air quality, health and social equity. A climate change lens should be applied to these and all other aspects of planning.
- Prioritize Indigenous worldviews and relational views of land protection and Indigenous community leadership to enhance climate resiliency (Source: [Reconciliation Action Plan](#), 2022-2032)

### **The Official Plan should be the road map for Toronto to become the most inclusive city in the world**

- Over the next thirty years, Toronto will grow in population and jobs across the entire city. The City will also continue to welcome newcomers to Canada, given the available opportunities for a better life, pathways to prosperity, and cultural diversity.
- **[new] The City will also continue to be a place to grow and prosper for current Torontonians.**
- As the region's economic engine, Toronto businesses should remain confident that investments into and development of the city's future yields better outcomes for all.

## ***C. Principles for a Successful and Inclusive City***

### **Principle 1 - Access**

- Successful city-building requires improving access to many facets of daily life. This means:
  - enabling access to affordable housing and complete communities with parks, open spaces and nature;
  - maximizing access to public transit, active transportation, and other public infrastructure;
  - planning for universal accessibility for Torontonians of all ages and abilities;
  - ensuring businesses have access to a diverse labour force of all skills;

- **[revised]** protecting and preserving the City's finite Employment Areas **and their role in accommodating Toronto's diverse and resilient economy**;
- connecting natural and green spaces for plant and animal movement; and
- increasing access to affordable high-speed internet to address barriers faced by residents to improve overall access to economic opportunities.

## Principle 2 - Equity

- **[revised]** Successful city-building requires **centering equity as an organizing principle of this Official Plan and its policies to identify and remove ~~applying an equity lens that identifies and removes~~** barriers for the City's most marginalized and vulnerable communities for achieving transformative change and inclusive growth. This means:

- **[new]** equity considerations are prioritized in decision making, recognizing that equity is not static and will evolve over time;
- **[new]** taking necessary actions to address inequities, such actions outcomes must be monitored and measured, for example, **decreasing the number of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas is an outcome of addressing inequities**;
- planning a wider range of housing options, including affordable housing;
- addressing present challenges faced by Torontonians and businesses without compromising the needs of future generations and economic opportunities;
- identifying policies and practices that eliminate systemic exclusion and displacement of marginalized and racialized populations, including women and the LGBTQ2S+ community;
- planning for walkable, complete communities in all areas of the City;
- protecting economic opportunities for small businesses and low barrier entry jobs for newcomers and for those whose first language is not English;
- ensuring public health and well-being measures reach vulnerable Torontonians;
- mitigating risk and increasing resilience in areas vulnerable to climate change hazards;
- help ensure the positive impacts of growth are shared equitably in a community; focusing investment to under-funded communities, including increasing the broadband network by integrating affordable high-speed internet into all new affordable housing development and all large-scale revitalization projects;
- **[new]** providing dignified and supportive housing for vulnerable populations;
- **[new]** planning for mixed income and complete communities;
- **[new]** enabling a range of housing types, forms, and tenures to accommodate different households including multi-generational ones;
- building capacity among all Torontonians and stakeholders, including Councillors and businesses to better understand challenges faced by all Torontonians.

## Principle 3 - Inclusion

- Successful city-building requires creating a safe and inclusive city for all Torontonians and those yet to arrive. This means:

- **[new]** identify barriers faced by marginalized communities that preclude their participation in City engagement opportunities;
- removing physical barriers for individuals to lead independent and spontaneous lives;
- providing dignified and supportive housing for vulnerable populations;
- planning for mixed income and complete communities;
- enabling a range of housing types, forms, and tenures to accommodate different households including multi-generational ones; and
- providing virtual and in-person engagement opportunities for all.