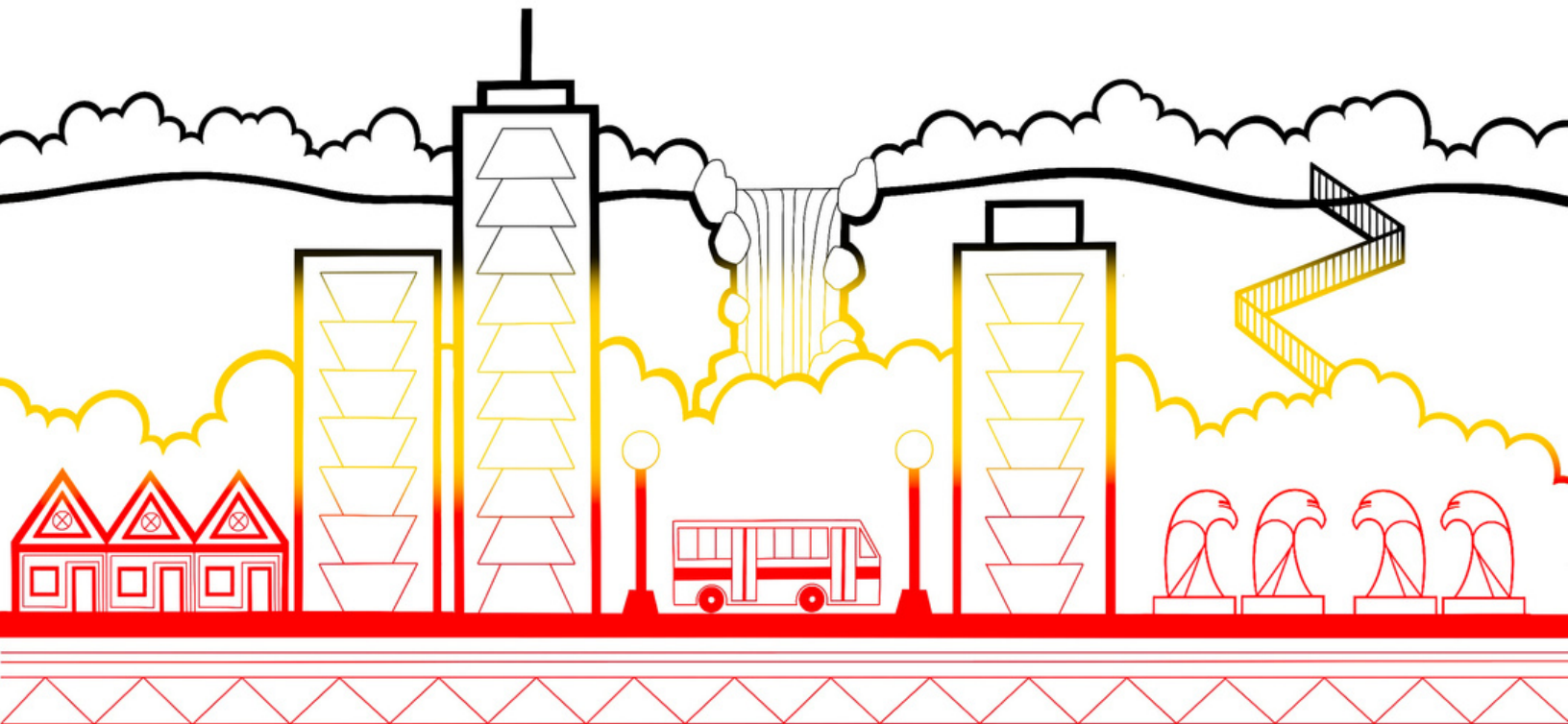


THE 2030 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY VISION FOR HAMILTON

RECONCILIATION THRU RECLAMATION





NIA:WEN MIIGWETCH THANK YOU

We give thanks to community for trusting our team with drafting the first Indigenous community vision for Hamilton.

In each session, we listened carefully to your experiences, ideas, hopes, and dreams for our community. We read each written response closely and took great care to ensure all of the voices that contributed to our conversations were woven into the vision presented here.

Nia:wen tewatate:ken.
(Thank you, relatives)



THE ARTIST BEHIND THE VISION

The beautiful and thoughtful graphic design behind the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton is the artwork of Brent Beauchamp.

Brent is Onondaga-Anishinaabe born and raised on Six Nations. Brent is in the final year of the Bachelor of Animation (Honours) program at Sheridan College. Brent's artistic skills range from traditional drawing to 2D animation and graphic design.

Brent's creativity is deeply rooted in indigeneity and provides a lens for others to see how beautiful and colourful Indigenous culture really is.

Nia:wen, Brent.



Acknowledgement:

Canada's residential school system stole over 100,000 Indigenous children from our families and Nations.

The release of the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton on September 30th, 2022 (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) is in honour of our children, our families, and our nations. The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton is an assertion of the change needed in Hamilton to counter Canada's devastating "Indian" policies by uplifting and advancing the capacity and self-determination of our community.



WEAVING A COMMUNITY VISION - SUMMARY

“Reconciliation must support Aboriginal peoples as they heal from the destructive legacies of colonization that have wreaked such havoc in their lives.”

- Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future
Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada (p.8, 2015)

The Indigenous Community Vision for Hamilton

Across all of our conversations with community, the message has been clear: To heal and thrive in Hamilton we must prioritize the reclamation of land, culture, and community.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton builds on Indigenous grassroots movements in our community and across these lands. These movements seek to create needed spaces and redistribute resources to help Indigenous Peoples heal from the legacies of colonization and advance the capacities of Indigenous Peoples to determine their own futures.

The Indigenous community vision presented here are the collective voices of Indigenous Peoples in Hamilton determining our shared future. The Indigenous community vision is the weaving together of our conversations with Indigenous youth, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous families, Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness, Two-Spirit community members, Indigenous leaders, and many more. While our community priorities are the reclamation of land, culture, and community, each area of the Indigenous community vision is interrelated and interdependent.

At times, realizing the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton will not be easy. The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton is not a "special project" and will require new sustainable investments from multiple partners and all levels of government. However, our community believes that with meaningful long-term commitments and investments, each area of the vision is achievable.

The Indigenous community vision is an invitation to all of Hamilton (from individuals to institutions) to help ensure our city intentionally redresses the legacies of colonization, so Hamilton is the best place for Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples to raise a child and age successfully.

The Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership

(Formerly known as the Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition)

www.chileadership.com



Our mission is to decrease barriers and increase equitable access to services and programs for Indigenous community members of Hamilton.

Our vision is a vibrant, healthy, inclusive, and culturally safe community.

Our values are informed by the Seven Grandfather Teachings as we strive to live and work with Ka'nikonhri:yo (the Haudenosaunee concept of "The Good Mind").

INTRODUCTION

“Reconciliation must support Aboriginal peoples as they heal from the destructive legacies of colonization that have wreaked such havoc in their lives.”

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Across all of our conversations with community, the message has been clear: To heal and thrive in Hamilton we must prioritize the reclamation of land, culture, and community.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton builds on Indigenous grassroots movements in our community and across these lands to create needed spaces and resources to help Indigenous Peoples heal from the legacies of colonization and to advance the capacities of Indigenous Peoples to determine their own futures.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report and 94 Calls to Action has provided a valuable framework for the radical shifts in settler society needed for Indigenous Peoples to heal from colonization. However, what reconciliation looks like in each city will be unique and must be led by local Indigenous Nations and leaders.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton represents the voices of Indigenous community members and leaders and provides the path for advancing reconciliation in our city.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton is a living document. Our vision will grow and be updated to ensure it reflects the needs of our community.

Surviving Colonization

Surviving the destructive legacies of colonization forced our Indigenous ancestors to demonstrate incredible resilience. Their resilience ensured our traditional languages, cultures, and identities could survive over a hundred years of social and economic policies designed by the Canadian state to assimilate Indigenous Peoples and eliminate Indigenous identities.

Historical policies were in the forms of Canada's residential school system for Indigenous children, the Indian Act's paternalistic control over Indigenous identity, the Potlatch Ban prohibiting the practice of Indigenous ceremonies, and the Pass System restricting Indigenous movement. These are just a few of Canada's policies targeting Indigenous Peoples.

Canada's contemporary policies towards Indigenous Peoples continue to separate children from families and communities (The 60's Scoop and Millennial Scoop), ignore Aboriginal and Treaty Rights (downgrading of Crown fiduciary obligations), and violently oppress Indigenous sovereignty (imposition of the Band Council system, criminal repercussions against land protectors and ongoing invasion of sovereign Indigenous lands). These are but a few of Canada's current policies designed to assimilate Indigenous Peoples and eliminate Indigenous identities.

"Over the history of federal native administration, both isolationist and assimilationist policies have, with the occasional participation of provincial governments, significantly encroached on the fundamental rights of aboriginal people. The result has been a significant body of laws that have impaired the ability of such people to determine their own future, whether as distinct cultural communities or as individuals outside these communities."

- Wendy Moss, Elaine Cardner-O'Toole, Law and Government Division (Aboriginal People: History of Discriminatory Laws, 1991)

Determining Our Own Future

Over the past year, the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership (CHIL) has shared meals and medicine with community in ongoing conversations about what we need in Hamilton to thrive.

Online and in-person, CHIL staff have led over 20 conversations. We brought together Indigenous youth, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous families, Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness, Two-Spirit community members and many more.

Over 300 voices of our Indigenous community contributed to the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton.



Our Priorities

The reclamation of land, culture, and community have been consistent threads throughout our conversations with community. We have used these threads to weave together high-level examples community members have shared as to what achieving reclamation of land, culture, and community looks like in in our City.

While our community priorities are the reclamation of land, culture, and community, each area of the Indigenous community vision is interrelated and interdependent.

The Indigenous community vision presented here is the first iteration of our collective hopes and desires for our shared future. We look forward to continuing this work through conversations and reflections with community to ensure the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton not only advances and becomes our reality, but also to ensure our community vision remains relevant to the needs of community.

The Invitation

At times, realizing the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton will not be easy. The visions of our community are not "special projects" and will require new and sustainable investments from multiple partners.

However, our community believes that with meaningful long-term commitments and investments, each area of the vision is achievable.

The Indigenous community vision is an invitation to all of Hamilton (from individuals to institutions) to help ensure our city intentionally redresses the legacies of colonization, so Hamilton is the best place for Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples to raise a child and age successfully.

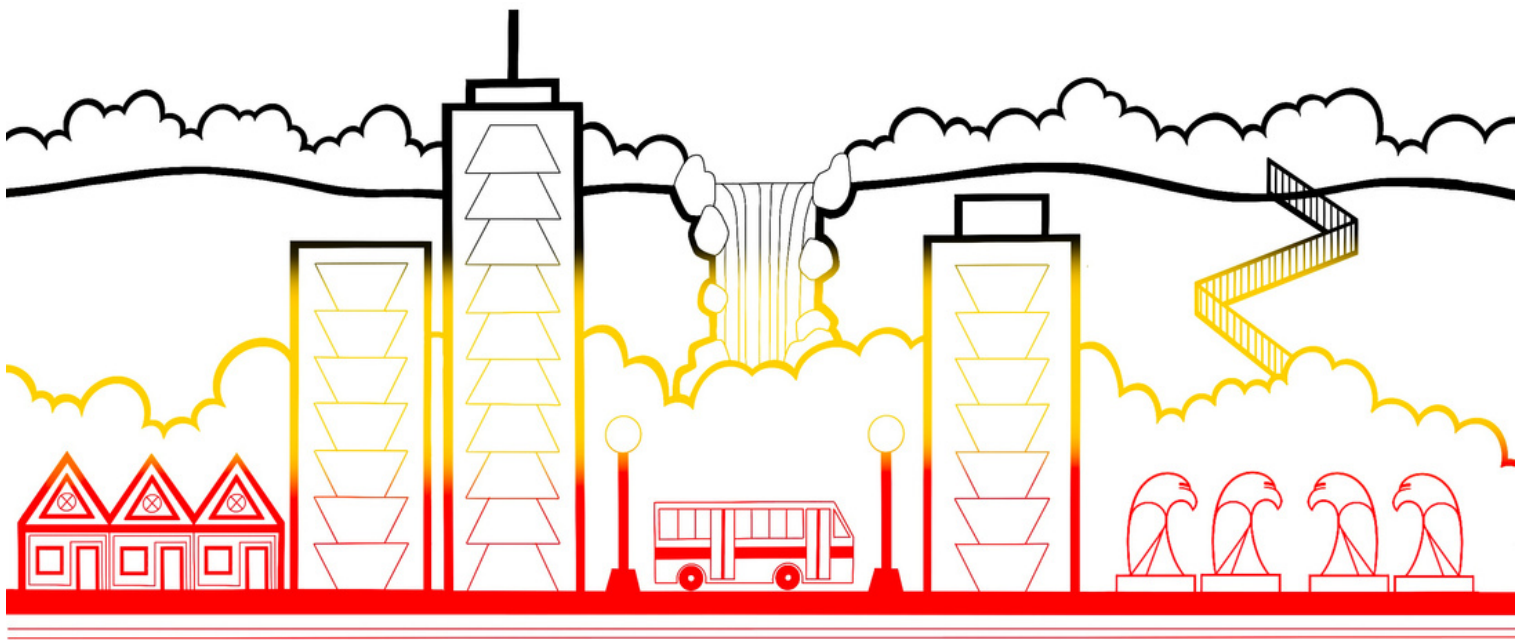
We specifically call on local leaders to publicly acknowledge the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton and their shared responsibility to work with local Indigenous leaders to advance the vision.

We look forward to continuing this work through conversations and reflections with community to ensure the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton not only advances and becomes our reality, but also to ensure our community vision remains relevant to the needs of community.

Nia:wen tewatate:ken,



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THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY VISION FOR HAMILTON

The realization of the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton will come from small everyday acts by individual community members and large-scale community-wide initiatives.

Each act to advance the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton must be informed and guided by:

- The spirit and intent of reconciliation
- The principle of “For Indigenous By Indigenous”

The spirit and intent of reconciliation is to re-envision and rebuild relationships between Indigenous Peoples and non-indigenous Peoples on principles of mutual respect and wellbeing.

The “For Indigenous By Indigenous” principle requires all actions and decision-making be done in ways that invest and advance Indigenous leadership, capacity, and autonomy.

Both the spirit and intent of reconciliation and the principle of “For Indigenous By Indigenous” are embedded in each area of the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton and “Signs of Reconciliation”.

KAYA'TAKWE'NI:YOS (OUR PRIORITIES)



Yonkhi'nistenha Onhwentsya (Our Mother Earth - Land)

Indigenous community members have access to land throughout Hamilton. which is stewarded by community and specifically for Indigenous community to gather, put ceremony through, socialize, learn, and practice traditional activities.

Sign of Reconciliation

Land in each of the fifteen wards of the City of Hamilton is held in the stewardship of the Indigenous community of Hamilton.

Tsi Niyonkwariho:tens (Our ways - Culture)

Indigenous cultures, Knowledges, and ways of being are valued as fundamental to reconciliation in Hamilton and prioritized in community planning and investments.

Signs of Reconciliation

A Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe cultural centre is established and provides expansive language and cultural learning opportunities for all age groups.

The Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe cultural centre is upheld as fundamental to the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous community members and is funded as a core community service.

KAYA'TAKWE'NI:YOS (OUR PRIORITIES)



Ronnonkwehon:we (Original Peoples - Indigenous Community)

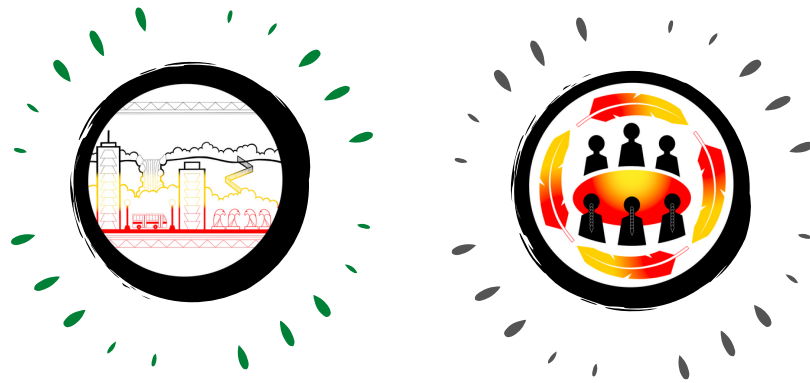
The relationships within and between Indigenous individuals and families are strengthened through diverse and accessible opportunities to connect and engage in healthy activities.

Signs of Reconciliation

The spirit and intent of reconciliation and the "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" principle is clearly embedded in all social supports in Hamilton with a special focus on developing affordable and culturally appropriate housing, public transportation, and income supports.

Indigenous representation, reconciliation, and reclamation is highly visible throughout the city of Hamilton year-round, through initiative such as landmarks, special events, and other community development initiatives.





Tsi Naho:ten Rokwatakwenh Kentho tsi Yonhwentsya:te (What Creator has prepared here on earth - Environment)

Care and protection of natural resources rooted in the “Seven Generations” principle to ensure our natural resources are sustainably cared for in ways that benefit all community members and for seven generations into the future.

Sign of Reconciliation

Indigenous-led resource stewardship is honoured and supported to clearly outline responsibility and accountability for the use and care of natural resources in Hamilton.

Sken:nen Akenhake (Peace - Justice)

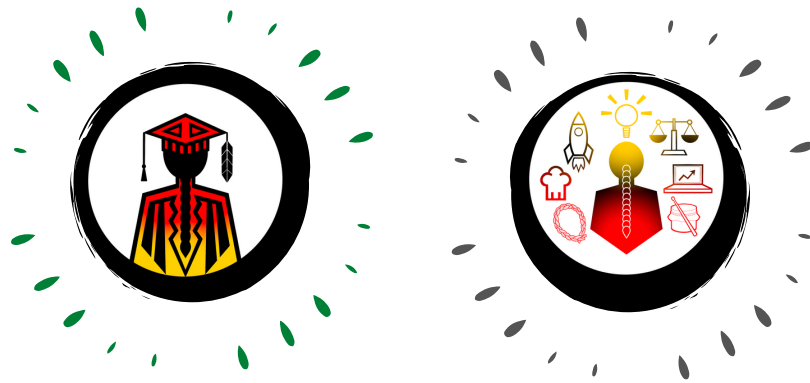
The justice system in Hamilton is re-envisioned to redress the systemic causes of the over-representation of Indigenous Peoples within Canada’s current justice system.

Signs of Reconciliation

Local Indigenous laws and justice traditions are recognized and revitalized in Hamilton.

Every Indigenous community member involved in Hamilton’s legal system has full knowledge of and access to Indigenous justice resources.

Justice programs and resources in Hamilton are wholistic in design and provision offering meaningful “upstream” supports to Indigenous individuals, families, and communities.



Yonkwateweyenhstenhatye (We are learning - Education)

Indigenous ways of Knowing and learning are highly valued and accessible across all education institutions in Hamilton.

Signs of Reconciliation

An Indigenous elementary and high school is established to provide K-12 learning rooted in local Indigenous ways of learning and supporting the wholistic growth of children and youth is accessible to all Indigenous children and youth in Hamilton.

Local higher education institutions invest in Indigenous learners and communities through equitable research partnerships and low-barrier education opportunities, including scholarships for Indigenous community members of Hamilton.

Tsi Yonkwayo'te (Our work - Employment)

Reconciliation principles are highly visible and well-supported in each of Hamilton's major economic industries.

Signs of Reconciliation

Economic strategies for Hamilton prioritize investment in Indigenous Peoples and community through community-benefit agreements, training, education, and mentorship programs specifically designed for Indigenous workers at all levels – frontline through to senior leadership.



Ne Ayonkwata'kari:teke (For us to be healthy)

Indigenous ways of knowing and practicing health and wellbeing are respected and available wherever community members seek healthcare.

The healthcare system in Hamilton is safe for Indigenous community members to access and reflects their healthcare needs.

Signs of Reconciliation

Social determinants of health and the unique impacts Indigenous Peoples experience are embedded in the principles and priorities of all social systems, with a special focus on the interconnections between health and housing, Indigenous childhood supports, and land-environment.

Indigenous community members feel comfortable and confident in accessing traditional health and healing practices throughout the city of Hamilton.

Indigenous leadership is represented throughout the healthcare system in Hamilton and all staff receive ongoing cultural safety education and training.

Quality of life indicators as determined by the Indigenous community of Hamilton demonstrate Indigenous community members are experiencing high levels of health and wellbeing at all stages of life.



Rotiya'tano:ronh (They are precious - Two-Spirit)

The traditional roles and responsibilities of Two-Spirit community members are honoured and welcomed throughout the City of Hamilton.

The voices and experiences of Indigenous community members identifying as 2S-LGBTQ+ are prioritized and uplifted at all community decision-making tables.

Signs of Reconciliation

A dedicated space is created and resourced for Two-Spirit community members to gather, connect, and learn/share about resuming their traditional roles and responsibilities of being Two-Spirit.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous community service providers are educated and trained to meet the unique needs of Indigenous community members identifying as 2S-LGBTQ+.

Major community events and initiatives have a 2S-LGBTQ+ working group supplied with appropriate resources to ensure event planning and activities support the enjoyment of 2S-LGBTQ+ community members, such as prioritizing the creation of 2S-LGBTQ+ spaces.



Ratihente (Leadership)

Indigenous senior leadership roles and support staff are implemented across all departments of the City of Hamilton.

Indigenous organizations are provided core funding to ensure long-term sustainability of fundamental Indigenous programs and services.

Signs of Reconciliation

Recruitment, retention, and succession programs for Indigenous senior leadership roles within the City of Hamilton are co-developed with local Indigenous leadership.

Local Indigenous leadership have access to wholistic supports and resources to fulfill their roles and responsibilities to community.

Non-Indigenous leadership in Hamilton receive ongoing cultural safety training to ensure they are knowledgeable in Hamilton's commitment to and investments in reconciliation.

The spirit and intent of reconciliation and the "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" principle is embedded throughout all City of Hamilton operations, services, and investments.

Municipal governance structures are redesigned to align with Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe traditional governance protocols to ensure the rights of Indigenous community members are recognized, supported, and honoured.

Advancing the Indigenous Community Vision

In every conversation community reminded us that the drafting of an Indigenous community vision must be followed by meaningful action and investments.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton can not be achieved by the Indigenous community alone. Reconciliation calls us all to contribute to transformative changes that will meaningfully redress historic harms, which have created, caused, and perpetuated ongoing disempowerment of Indigenous Peoples.

The investments and actions to achieve the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton must be rooted in the spirit of reconciliation and be done in ways that respect and enhance the capacity of the Indigenous community to lead the way.

Visions are NOT "Special Projects"

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton is not a “special project” and is unlikely to be achieved if built on “special project” funding models.

Achieving the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton requires long-term meaningful commitment and investment in Indigenous Peoples and places throughout Hamilton by multiple community partners and all levels of government.

To redress the destructive legacies of colonization, the investments in Indigenous Peoples and communities must be as widespread and pervasive as the funding and support Canada provided for each of its colonial policies enacted against Indigenous Peoples.

Using the Vision to Guide Action

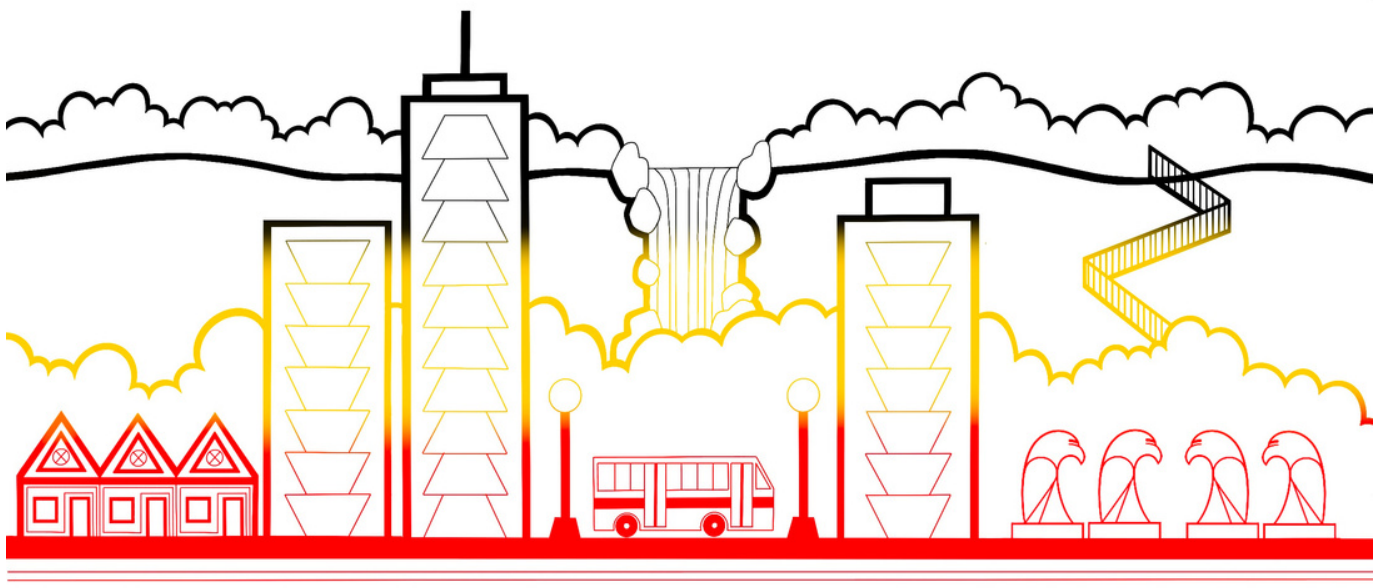
It is especially important to note that the Indigenous community vision must not be called upon only on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation or National Indigenous Peoples Day as something Hamilton aspires to.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton must be regularly referred to by every organization that has claimed to be invested in reconciliation, including City of Hamilton leadership.

While each area of the vision will have nuanced evaluation criteria, organizations can immediately begin reflecting on the impact of their reconciliation work by simply asking “How does our work to advance reconciliation respond to the vision for Hamilton put forward by the Indigenous community?”

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton is gifted to our city to nurture existing relationships and inspire new collaborations.

To share your thoughts and to follow along on CHIL’s work to advance the Indigenous community vision for Hamilton, visit: www.chileadership.com or email us at communications@chileadership.com



THE TEAM

BEHIND THE VISION

Victoria Bomberly (Bear Clan, Mohawk Nation from Six Nations of the Grand River) supported the overall planning and coordination of the Indigenous community vision. Victoria also led the writing and design of the Indigenous community vision and provided Kanien'keha:ka translations.

Victoria is a mom to one and auntie to many. Victoria has volunteered with and worked for the Indigenous community of Hamilton in various capacities, but primarily through Indigenous homelessness policy work at the local and federal levels.

Yvonne Maracle (Bear Clan, Mohawk Nation from Tyendinaga) guided the planning and coordination of Indigenous community vision activities. Yvonne's extensive history with the Indigenous community of Hamilton supported partnerships of this project with local Indigenous agencies.

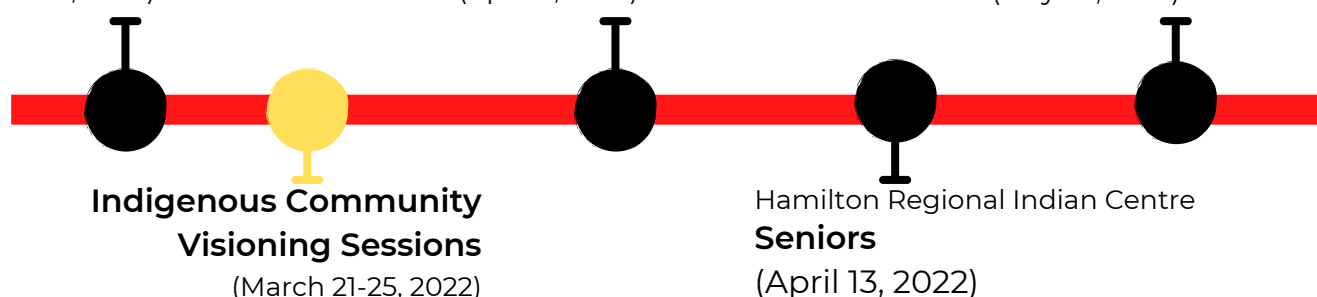
Yvonne is a proud mother, grandmother, and auntie. Yvonne is the eldest of 6 siblings with 21 great nieces and nephews. Yvonne has lived and been involved in the Indigenous community of Hamilton for over 30 years by working at Indigenous agencies or being a board member or volunteer.

Community Engagement Timeline

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
Elder & Youth Social
(March 11, 2022)

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
Community
(April 4, 2022)

Sacajawea Housing Inc.
Families
(May 20, 2022)



Tristan MacLaurin (Bear Clan, Anishinaabe from Fort William First Nation) led most of the in-person and online Indigenous Community Vision conversations. Tristan has worked for various Indigenous organizations in Hamilton as a frontline and backline social worker. Tristan has been involved with Indigenous homelessness, youth work and 2S-LGBTQ+ initiatives while studying Indigenous Social Work at McMaster University.

Proudly Two-Spirited, happy to be gaining kin and becoming more involved in the Indigenous community of Hamilton for years to come.

The Indigenous community vision for Hamilton also benefited from the energetic and creative contributions of **Felecia White** (Six Nations of the Grand River).

Community Engagement Timeline (continued)

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
Homeless
(June 14 & 19, 2022)

2SLGBTQ+
(July 7, 2022)

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
Youth
(August 9, 2022)



NIA:WEN MIIGWETCH THANK YOU



301 - 270 Sherman Ave. N., Hamilton ON, L8L 6N4



communications@chileadership.com



www.chileadership.com