



GOOD TO GIVE GUIDE

Your guide to donation-ready organizations
that are addressing **TORONTO'S**
GREATEST INEQUALITIES right now

2020-2021

What is **TORONTO FOUNDATION?**

Philanthropists come to us to simplify their charitable giving, while pooling their dollars for maximum community impact. Our individual, family and organizational funds number about 800 and we administer close to \$450 million in assets. As a community foundation we are committed to informing donors about the great under-the-radar work that is being led by nonprofit organizations and grassroots leaders in our city's neighbourhoods.

That's why we publish the Good to Give Guide.

It's a short list of some of the organizations tackling the most pressing challenges facing Toronto, at a time of uncertainty and crisis. Many small- and mid-size charities in Toronto are doing the tough work to fight inequality, but need more financial support to scale up their successes.

CHARITIES IN THE PANDEMIC

Due to an absence of data on the Toronto nonprofit community, Toronto Foundation conducted a first-time survey of nonprofits in July 2020: The Toronto Nonprofit Survey. This is what we learned:

60%

of organizations reported their revenue had decreased and 40% had cut staff hours

About one-quarter

of small organizations with annual revenues of less than \$500,000 per year rate themselves at high risk of permanent closure

87%

of organizations reported that the lack of unrestricted core funding for their organization had left them more vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic.




THE 2020-2021 LIST

This year, our Good to Give Guide provides direction — and inspiration — to your giving, to have the greatest impact at this exceptional time of need.

The first section profiles our [2019 Vital Signs grantees](#), high-impact organizations and their visionary leaders working to tackle the issues highlighted in the [2019 Toronto's Vital Signs Report](#). These organizations have adapted their work quickly to continue serving Torontonians during the pandemic.

The second section profiles Black and Indigenous-led and serving organizations who received grants through the [Better Toronto Coalition](#). A rapid response to the pandemic, the Coalition connected concerned residents directly with learnings from nonprofit leaders and helped direct support where it was most needed. These organizations are working to fight the deepest systemic inequalities in our city with programs made by and for the communities impacted. During this period of social upheaval and change, they are committed to their missions and adapting through uncertainty.



We invite you to consider these pivotal organizations to support an equitable recovery, and a better Toronto for all.

“The biggest issue we are struggling with right now is that our team — that was already stretched — is working at an incredible pace that we can only sustain for so long. We are desperately in need of significant funding and people resources to stabilize our organization, and to allow us to continue to pivot all aspects of our programming and operations for as long as COVID-19 is with us.”

— **NONPROFIT LEADER**

2020 Toronto Nonprofit Survey conducted by Toronto Foundation

2020 TORONTO'S VITAL SIGNS GRANTEES

The Toronto's Vital Signs Grants aim to surface and support high-impact organizations and their visionary leaders working to tackle the ten issue areas highlighted in the *2019 Toronto's Vital Signs Report*.

Compared to many cities around the world, Toronto's overall quality of life is high. However, when we look beyond city-wide averages we see that the experience of life in the city varies significantly depending on who you are, where you live and how long you've been here. For example, people living on low income, Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, newcomers, and young people face significant barriers to accessing the same resources and opportunities that others enjoy. By highlighting these gaps in our *Toronto's Vital Signs Report* and earmarking funding to directly support overlooked populations, we aim to work towards a Toronto where everyone can thrive. These organizations need your support more than ever now because of the strains caused by the pandemic.

Alexandra Park Community Centre

Alexandra Park Community Centre offers a range of social, recreational, and educational services to the Atkinson Housing Co-op and Alexandra Park community, whose residents are primarily racialized, low-income families and individuals. Since the onset of COVID, APCC has pivoted its focus to support seniors and their most vulnerable community members with emergency food services.

Learn more at alexandraparkcc.com

Breakaway Addictions Services

Breakaway Addictions Services offers comprehensive drug use treatment and harm reduction services through community-based facilities with a focus on street and community outreach.

Learn more at breakawayaddictions.ca

“COVID-19 has perpetuated the dominance of well-funded organizations. Many of the “usual suspects” who receive more stable and consistent government funding also received the lion’s share of emergency resources, when the most responsive engagement during the first 10 weeks of the pandemic lockdown came from grassroots groups.”

— **NONPROFIT LEADER**

2020 Toronto Nonprofit Survey conducted by Toronto Foundation

Charlie's Freewheels

Charlie's Freewheels uses bicycles to support the development of empowered young leaders, by increasing youth access to bicycles, facilitating bicycle-related skill development, and inspiring youth to ride with confidence. In response to COVID-19, they shifted the majority of their programs online while continuing to provide youth with free, refurbished bikes, and pop-up repair services.

[Learn more at charliesfreewheels.ca](https://charliesfreewheels.ca)

Community Family Services of Ontario

Community Family Services of Ontario (formerly known as Chinese Family Services of Ontario) offers linguistically and culturally relevant counselling, family services, psychotherapy, mental health, addictions, settlement, disabilities and special needs services to individuals and families in need, with a focus on low-income and marginalized East Asian families.

[Learn more at cfso.care](https://cfso.care)

Christie Refugee Welcome Centre

The Christie Refugee Welcome Centre provides emergency shelter and initial settlement services for refugee claimant families from all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

[Learn more at christiestreetrc.com](https://christiestreetrc.com)

Friends of Ruby

Friends of Ruby (formerly Egale Youth Services) is a mental health counselling centre and transitional housing shelter for LGBTQI2S+ youth who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

[Learn more at friendsofruby.ca](https://friendsofruby.ca)

Future Possibilities for Kids

Future Possibilities for Kids connects children and youth from underserved communities with caring adult mentors to build community leadership, boost confidence, and gain life skills.

[Learn more at fpcanada.org](https://fpcanada.org)

Jane Finch Housing Coalition

(Trustee: Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre)

The Jane-Finch Housing Coalition (JFHC) is a coalition of residents, service providers, and community organizers working towards housing justice in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood.

[Learn more at janefinchhousingco.wixsite.com](https://janefinchhousingco.wixsite.com)

Kids with Incarcerated Parents

Kids with Incarcerated Parents (formerly FEAT for Children of Incarcerated Parents) provides support to children and youth with a parent or close family member who has been in conflict with the law which includes: after school programs, peer mentorship, virtual support, and family visitation.

[Learn more at kipcanada.org](https://www.kipcanada.org)

L'Arche Toronto Homes

L'Arche Toronto Homes provides community-centered support and programs for daily living, employment, community participation, and creative and performance arts for individuals living with intellectual disabilities.

[Learn more at larchetoronto.org](https://www.larchetoronto.org)

Massey Centre

Massey Centre seeks to create a better future for vulnerable pregnant and parenting young mothers and their children 0-6. Their infant and early childhood mental health programs give their clients the tools they need to build secure relationships with their babies, cope with life's adversities, find help when needed and succeed in life.

[Learn more at massey.ca](https://www.massey.ca)

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto strives to provide a life of quality, wellbeing, caring and healing for children and families in the Toronto Aboriginal community. They do this by delivering programs and services that are culture based and respect the values of Aboriginal people, the extended family, and the right to self-determination.

*Native Child and Family Services is Indigenous-led and serving.

[Learn more at nativechild.org](https://www.nativechild.org)

Nightwood Theatre

Nightwood Theatre is Canada's flagship feminist theatre, providing an essential home for the creation and production of extraordinary works by women*. Over its 40 plus years, this multiaward-winning company has used theatre as a tool for change. Today, Nightwood remains a beacon for launching the careers of artists in Canada, prioritizing women who are Black, Indigenous and of colour.

*Women extends beyond the limitations of cis-womanhood.

[Learn more at nightwoodtheatre.net](https://www.nightwoodtheatre.net)

Parenting Group

(Trustee: Flemingdon Health Centre)

The Parenting Group is a volunteer-based grassroots community group with members from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religions working to connect and support each other through sharing resources and parenting experiences.

[Learn more at fhc-chc.com](https://fhc-chc.com)

Regent Park Film Festival

The Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's longest-running free community film festival. It showcases local and international independent works relevant to people from all walks of life, with a focus on providing programming for people from low-income and public housing communities.

[Learn more at regentparkfilmfestival.com](https://regentparkfilmfestival.com)

Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre

The Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre (PARC) is a multi-service hub fighting inequity by delivering affordable and safe housing, and mental health and addictions supports. As one of the only Toronto drop-ins open during the pandemic, PARC serves 350+ to-go meals a day, seven days a week. PARC strives to be a hub for community partners to plan and create lasting social change.

[Learn more at parc.on.ca](https://parc.on.ca)

Second Harvest

Second Harvest is Canada's largest food rescue charity, with a dual mission of environmental protection and hunger relief. They recover food before it becomes waste and redistribute it through a network of social service organizations. A global leader in food recovery, Second Harvest also provides training programs, certifications, and workshops to the community.

[Learn more at secondharvest.ca](https://secondharvest.ca)

R.I.S.E. Edutainment

(Trustee: VIBE Arts)

R.I.S.E (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere) provides opportunities and safe and inclusive spaces in Scarborough for youth to develop artistically, professionally, personally, socially, and spiritually, through performance arts, spoken-word poetry, and storytelling.

*RISE is Black-led and serving.

[Learn more at riseedutainment.com](https://riseedutainment.com)

SKETCH Working Arts for Street-involved and Homeless Youth

SKETCH is an award-winning organization that has been using arts for over two decades as a powerful vehicle for marginalized youth to explore their own abilities and develop life and leadership skills. SKETCH provides a dynamic space for young people to receive support in building skills which lead to creative industry opportunities, artistic entrepreneurship and developing arts management skills.

[Learn more at sketch.ca](https://sketch.ca)

Stella's Place

Stella's Place is a leading organization providing comprehensive mental health services, peer supports, and recovery programs for young adults (ages 16-29). They partner young adults and professionals to provide a collaborative, innovative model of mental health services.

Learn more at stellasplace.ca

The Period Purse

The Period Purse strives to achieve menstrual equity by providing marginalized menstruators with access to free menstrual products. They also work to reduce the stigma surrounding periods through public education and advocacy.

Learn more at theperiodpurse.com

Street Health

Street Health improves the health and well-being of people who are homeless, under-housed and street-involved through low barrier, accessible, and equitable services, community-based advocacy, and education.

Learn more at streethealth.ca

Weston King Neighbourhood Centre

The Weston King Neighbourhood Centre provides essential services, support, and programs in Weston and Mount Dennis for local individuals facing economic and social barriers, with a focus on harm reduction, food security, and housing.

Learn more at wknc.ca

The Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples

The Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples provides culturally appropriate support and services for Toronto's growing Spanish-speaking community, one of the populations hardest-hit by COVID-19. They assist their community members' integration through its settlement program, legal clinic, food bank, HIV/AIDS prevention and counselling services for women experiencing gender-based violence.

Learn more at spanishservices.org

Woman Abuse Council of Toronto

The Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WomanACT) is a policy development and planning body that coordinates an effective approach to providing services for women experiencing violence and their families. They work collaboratively to eradicate violence against women through community mobilization, coordination, research, policy, and education.

Learn more at womanact.ca

BLACK AND INDIGENOUS-LED AND SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

The impacts of COVID-19 are not being felt equally.

Thousands of Torontonians have lost their jobs. Many part-time and temporary workers are facing the impossible question of whether to pay for food or rent. Some are visiting a food bank for the first time ever. Those with mental health challenges have no doubt been triggered. Frontline workers supporting our most vulnerable are dealing with increased demands and stresses.

Because of this, we created the **Better Toronto Coalition** to connect concerned residents directly with learnings from nonprofit leaders and help direct your support to where it's needed most. Because of Torontonians' generous donations we have been able to make 183 grants to local organizations, who are providing crucial services, programs and relief during the pandemic.

Over the spring and summer social justice movements gained momentum, swelling with support after unprecedented mainstream attention on anti-Black and anti-Indigenous police violence. This, in tandem with compounded inequities faced by racialized Torontonians during the pandemic, has focused our work. The organizations listed below are grantees of the **Better Toronto Coalition**, and are specifically both led by, and have a mandate to serve Black and Indigenous Torontonians.

We are committed to listening to, learning from and funding Black and Indigenous leaders and organizations working to right inequalities in our city. If you have the means to do so, please consider making a donation to the following organizations that are doing the heavy lifting to solve inequalities that persist right here in Toronto.

Rally for Joyce Echaquan



“I am hopeful that the sustained attention to the inequities (poverty, racism) that the pandemic revealed will lead to policy and system changes that benefit the most marginalized individuals in our communities. Open hearts and open minds can only make things better for society.”

— **NONPROFIT LEADER**

2020 Toronto Nonprofit Survey conducted
by Toronto Foundation

9 STRATEGIES FOR MAINTAINING MOMENTUM ON YOUR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE JOURNEY

2020 has been a year unlike any we could have predicted, and it's taking a toll.

Some of us are coping by shutting off the news and retreating from this tough work. But many Torontonians do not have the privilege to be able to turn away. In fact we are at a critical moment: if we truly want to make progress, our city needs us to stay engaged now more than ever.

We asked five BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) leaders, including charity directors, philanthropists, community advocates, and grassroots organizers, to share their strategies to keep pushing for a more equitable city.

[Read more by clicking here.](#)



*FoodShare warehouse
Photo credit: Britney Townsend*

ONLY **18%**

of the largest organizations indicated they were Black, Indigenous or People of Colour-led compared to 38% of the smallest, and the majority of the population of Toronto.

— 2020 Toronto Nonprofit Survey
conducted by Toronto Foundation

BLACK-LED & SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

There are over 240,000 Black Torontonians (African descent or origin, African Caribbean, African-Canadian, Canadians of African descent). Anti-Black racism exists in Toronto.

From our *2019 Vital Signs Report* we know that white residents were three times more likely to report they believe that police officers will treat someone of their ethnic background fairly compared to Black residents. And, being Black increases the odds of being carded (a form of racial profiling by police) in Toronto by 124%.

We know that racialized populations are faring far worse compared to white residents across all quality of life issues we track including income, housing, health and wellness, and safety.

In our *2020 Toronto Fallout Report*, we look at data on how the pandemic has impacted Black communities. As of September 16, 2020, Black Torontonians had COVID-19 infection rates seven times higher than white residents. Prior to the pandemic, only 10% of white households reported food insecurity, compared to 28% of Black households. Surveys show that the pandemic has had a significant impact on Black Canadians to meet their financial obligations suggests that food insecurity may have been exacerbated further.

There is some progress: more people are rallying together against anti-Black racism and police brutality, with 60% of Canadians reported seeing racism as a serious issue, versus 47% a year ago.

We are incredibly proud and humbled to work alongside these organizations who are the cornerstone of many neighbourhoods, overcoming numerous obstacles to provide service and community, and foster a strong sense of belonging.



Photo courtesy of FoodShare



Photo courtesy of FoodShare

Afri-Can Food Basket

(Trustee: FoodShare)

Afri-Can FoodBasket is at the centre of a progressive food movement in Toronto that believes everyone should have access to fresh, healthy, and sustainably culturally appropriate produced food, for the long-term health of our environment, economy, and communities. They provide urban agriculture training and technical support for community projects, assisting low-income communities to access food through growing their own.

[Learn more at africanfoodbasket.ca](http://africanfoodbasket.ca)

Africans in Partnership Against AIDS

Africans in Partnership Against AIDS provides practical and emotional support and advocacy for those identifying as Black and living with HIV/AIDS.

[Learn more at apaa.ca](http://apaa.ca)

The Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention

The Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention responds to the threat of HIV and AIDS in Toronto's African, Caribbean and Black communities by creating culturally relevant outreach, prevention and support services for people infected with, affected by, or at risk of contracting HIV.

[Learn more at blackcap.ca](http://blackcap.ca)

Black Creek Community Farm

Black Creek Community Farm serves and enriches their community through a thriving farm situated on eight acres of pristine land, healthy food, hands-on learning experiences to inspire the next generation by providing leadership in food justice.

[Learn more at blackcreekfarm.ca](http://blackcreekfarm.ca)

The Black Daddies Club

(Trustee: Black Creek Community Health Centre)

The Black Daddies Club is a social grassroots organization creating spaces for Black fathers, their families and Black communities in Toronto by building continuous support systems and working with the community at large.

[Learn more at theblackdaddiesclub.com](http://theblackdaddiesclub.com)



From left: Donald McLeod, William Wallace, Isaac Olowolafe Jr., Nadine Spencer, Ray Williams.

FIVE TORONTO FOUNDATION FUNDHOLDERS FIGHTING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

We've heard the words "unprecedented times" a little too much this year. Even though many things didn't go quite as planned in 2020, the adverse realities and injustices that are coming into the light are actual, real experiences of the people in our communities. Let's step back and take a moment to recognize that these struggles are more than breaking news stories. These fundholders have been putting in the work, even before the pandemic, to advance racial justice.

We encourage you to learn more about their projects, support their work and invest in their ideas.

To read more, click here.

Black Health Alliance

The Black Health Alliance works to improve the health and wellbeing of Black communities in Canada focused on four key dimensions: social determinants of health, chronic disease and mental health, anti-Black racism and building connected communities.

Learn more at blackhealthalliance.ca

Black Women in Motion

Black Women in Motion empowers and supports the advancement of black womxn and 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors of sexual violence. Working within an anti-racist, intersectional feminist, trauma-informed and survivor-centred framework, BWIM provides holistic supports, healing spaces, educational and economic opportunities needed for Black womxn to thrive. They provide workshops on consent, employment initiatives for youth, and more.

Learn more at blackwomeninmotion.org

Caribbean African Canadian Social Services

Caribbean African Canadian Social Services supports individuals, families and youth to reach their full potential. With programs like summer camps for kids, supports for youth in the justice system, employment counselling and more, they provide culturally appropriate social services that enrich the lives of the African, Caribbean and Diaspora (ACD) communities in the Greater Toronto Area.

Learn more at cafcan.org

CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals

The CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals addresses economic and social barriers affecting Black youth ages 14 and over by focusing on youth workforce development, education, and advocacy to influence systems and policy.

Learn more at ceetoronto.org



“Everyone keeps saying this feels different because it is different. We have been dealing with the same issues as a community internally for centuries. In 2020 it has been brought to light, as the world has been at a standstill. If we really care about equality and that every human deserves the same opportunities in this world, then we will act now. This is like nothing we have seen in our lifetime, and it will not go away without any real change. Therefore, we can spend the same amount of energy ignoring and avoiding it as we could to make real change happen now.”

— AGAPI GESSESSE

Executive Director, CEE Centre For Young Black Professionals

Dance Immersion Ontario

Dance Immersion produces, promotes and supports dancers and dances of the African Diaspora. The organization addresses the need for skill development and networking opportunities for Black people in dance by providing a nurturing and supportive environment for professional and emerging dance artists.

Learn more at danceimmersion.ca

Jamaican Canadian Association

The Jamaican Canadian Association celebrates the cultural heritage of Jamaica in all its forms, aiming to improve life for Caribbean people of all heritage, people of African descent, through seniors services, educational support, settlement programming and scholarships.

Learn more at jcaontario.org

FOCUS Media Arts Centre

FOCUS Media Arts Centre seeks to empower under-represented communities to have a voice, through the use of professional training, mentorships and participatory based media practices that enable the sharing of stories, experiences and perspectives on relevant matters and issues. FOCUS operates a community TV station and a digital radio station.

Learn more at regentparkfocus.com

Lady Ballers Camp

Lady Ballers Camp develops girl-centred programs which encourage non-competitive physical, emotional, and educational development. They create equitable access to recreational and sporting programs for all, regardless of their socioeconomic background, and actively engage in removing gender, social and economic barriers so that every girl can rise above stereotypes and reach their full potential.

Learn more at ladyballerscamp.org

FoodShare

FoodShare centres justice in their work by collaborating with communities most affected by poverty and food insecurity — Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and People with Disabilities. Their work aims to develop a food system where everyone has access to affordable, fresh, nutritious food and can feed themselves, their families and their communities with dignity and joy. They distribute food, provide student nutrition programs, facilitate community-led food projects and more.

Learn more at foodshare.net



Photo courtesy of FoodShare

National African Integration and Families Association - Toronto

National African Integration and Families Association is a youth-focused community-led agency that supports new beginnings for people, especially youth, who have come in contact or are at-risk or put at-risk of being in contact with the justice systems. Their programs have received commendation from the office of the Governor General of Ontario and are delivered with a cultural focus.

Learn more at naifatoronto.ca

NIA Centre For the Arts

Nia Centre builds the creative capacities and supports the development of healthy identities in Black youth by connecting hundreds of emerging youth artists to mentors, and opportunities to build transferable skills and employment.

Learn more at niacentre.org

Obsidian Theatre Company Inc.

Obsidian is Canada's leading culturally specific theatre company, passionately dedicated to the exploration, development, and production of the Black voice. Obsidian provides artistic support to Black theatre makers by offering training opportunities through apprenticeship programs.

Learn more at obsidiantheatre.com

Ontario Black History Society

The Ontario Black History Society is dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of Black History and heritage. The Society aims to encourage public interest in Black History through recognition and documentation, educational initiatives, and the inclusion of Black history in school curricula.

Learn more at blackhistorysociety.ca

Stolen From Africa

(Trustee: Strides Toronto)

Stolen From Africa develops culturally-relevant educational resources and programming for racialized youth and students marginalized from mainstream education. They provide alternative multi-media arts education programming and curricula for students and youth in Southern Ontario.

Learn more at stolenfromafrica.org

"When we're in difficult times, when we're trying to work through complex ideas, artists can help us really be laserfocused on what matters, and assess and encourage us to have open dialogue, encourage us to reflect. The arts are necessary in the good times, but even more so in the difficult times.



— **ALICA HALL**

Executive Director, Nia Centre for the Arts

TAIBU Community Health Centre

TAIBU provides primary health care and related services for Black populations across the Greater Toronto Area as its priority population, along with residents of the local community of Malvern. Recognizing that systemic oppression has fostered conditions of ill-health with Black communities, they strive to deliver these services through intersectional, equity-based and culturally affirming practices.

Learn more at taibuchc.ca

Tropicana Community Services Organization

Tropicana Community Services offers culturally aware and supportive programs to those in need, with a predominant focus on the Caribbean, Black and African communities of Toronto. Tropicana provides counselling, settlement services, childcare, education, personal development, and employment services.

Learn more at tropicanacommunity.org

UrbanArts Community

UrbanArts builds inclusive, engaged communities by enriching peoples' lives through the arts, culture and heritage, with programs, services and resources delivered within the former City of York boundaries with a focus on youth and the community of York South-Weston.

Learn more at urbanartstoronto.org

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES (CHCS)

Community Health Centres are community-based organizations that provide a wide range of health care services and programs geared to vulnerable populations living locally, from primary care to mental health services to parent-child resources and more.

Visions of Science Network for Learning

Visions of Science Network for Learning advances the educational achievement and positive development of youth from low-income and marginalized communities through meaningful engagement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Learn more at vosnl.org

Women's Health In Women's Hands Community Health Centre

Women's Health in Women's Hands provides primary healthcare to racialized women from the African, Black, Caribbean, Latin American and South Asian communities in Toronto. They are committed to working from an inclusive feminist, pro-choice, anti-racist, anti-oppression, and multilingual participatory framework in addressing the issue of access to healthcare.

Learn more at whiwh.com

INDIGENOUS-LED & SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Toronto is home to upwards of 70,000 Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

Close to 90%, or 63,000 people, live at or below the poverty line. Indigenous people in Toronto are among the most marginalized and vulnerable people in the city, facing disproportionately high levels of unemployment, food insecurity, and chronic physical and mental health conditions. Institutionalized racism is a major barrier for Indigenous Torontonians. According to our *2019 Vital Signs Report*, a study in Toronto found that police and the justice system were routinely identified by Indigenous peoples as the most common place they experienced racism.

In our *2020 Toronto Fallout Report*, we look at data on how the pandemic has impacted racialized communities. As of August, employment for non-Indigenous Canadians is recovering much quicker than for Indigenous Canadians. Steve Teekens, executive director of Na-Me-Res, a shelter and affordable housing provider for Indigenous men, describes the current homelessness situation as hitting “epidemic proportions.” He has been working in this field for decades and said this “overshadows anything I’ve seen before.”

This is the legacy of colonial trauma, systemic anti-Indigenous racism, and ongoing injustices.

And yet even in the face of these stark realities, Indigenous communities in Toronto remain strong, vibrant, and resilient. We are incredibly proud and humbled to work alongside Indigenous organizations.



“Disease epidemics are not new for Indigenous people. There’s a deep history of disease epidemics here in Turtle Island, and so there’s a lot of intergenerational trauma being triggered right now by the COVID-19 pandemic.

— **JEFFREY SCHIFFER**

Executive Director, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations

2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations provides prevention education and support for 2-Spirit, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit people living with or at risk for HIV and related co-infections in the Greater Toronto Area. Their work is based on Indigenous philosophies of holistic health and wellness.

Learn more at 2spirits.org

Anishnawbe Health Foundation

Anishnawbe Health Foundation works with donors and partners to support improved health and wellbeing for the Indigenous community in Toronto. They inspire philanthropy to support an environment where the urban Indigenous community can heal, by enhancing funding for Anishnawbe Health Toronto, an accredited Community Health Centre; and by reclaiming traditional healing methods.

Learn more at supportanishnawbe.ca

Aboriginal Legal Services

(Trustee: Native Canadian Centre of Toronto)

Aboriginal Legal Services strengthens the capacity of the Aboriginal community to deal with justice issues and provide Aboriginal controlled and culturally based justice alternatives. They provide advocacy in all areas of the law, as well as alternatives which are more effective when they are based on the traditional cultural norms and values.

Learn more at aboriginallegal.ca

Anduhyaun Inc

Anduhyaun strives to support Indigenous women and children in their efforts to maintain their cultural identity, self-esteem, economic, physical and spiritual wellbeing. Originally established as a hostel in 1973, Anduhyaun has expanded to create culturally inclusive, safe spaces for women and their children at various stages of life.

Learn more at anduhyaun.org



Anishnawbe Health Toronto turned a RV into a mobile health unit to reach people during the pandemic.



Staff, volunteers and program participants from Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto address audience at Toronto Foundation's Deacon Legacy Grants event (March 5, 2020).
Photo credit: Setti Kidane Photography

Eshkiniigjik Naandwechigegamig — A Place for Healing Our Youth “Aabiish Gaa Binjibaaying — Where Did We Come From?” (ENAGB) Indigenous Youth Agency

The ENAGB program began eight years ago, and since incorporating and re-building as an organization in 2018, and it has grown significantly since then. They run Toronto’s only Indigenous youth-led program for those with addictions and/or mental health challenges. It provides cultural, employment, life skills, holistic wellness, and recreational opportunities that works to build self-esteem, confidence, skills, and self-determination.

Learn more at enagb-iy.ca

Gabriel Dumont Non-Profit Homes (Metro Toronto) Inc.

Gabriel Dumont Non-Profit Homes supports urban Indigenous families through the provision of deeply subsidized three and four-bedroom units. They also strive to effect cultural reclamation through various support mechanisms designed and delivered through an Indigenous lens.

Learn more at gabrieldumont.org

Miziwe Biik Employment and Training

Miziwe Biik meets the unique training and employment needs of Indigenous people living in the GTA. They provide training and employment opportunities in a supportive environment where people can affirm their Indigenous identity, develop to their fullest potential and obtain a better quality of life.

Learn more at miziwebiik.com



Steve Teekens, Executive Director, Na-Me-Res

Na-Me-Res (Native Men’s Residence)

Since 1985 Na-Me-Res has strived to meet the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional needs of their clients wherever they are on their journey. Na-Me-Res provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term independent housing initiatives, while working to address the underlying reasons for Indigenous homelessness. The programming offered through Na-Me-Res is extensive and evolves to meet the needs of clients.

Learn more at nameres.org

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto empowers Indigenous communities in Toronto by providing programs that support their spiritual, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing. As Toronto’s oldest Indigenous organization, the NCCT provides a multiple of social, cultural and spiritual services for Indigenous communities and visitors.

Learn more at ncct.on.ca



“Isolation is an unfortunate common thread sometimes in our communities, for various reasons. Now, all of that is impacted by the isolation we’ve had across the city [due to COVID-19]. As we’ve had to very quickly transform to adjust our programs and our services, it has weighed very heavily on me, the idea of the already very isolated portion of the community, those who are maybe living in hotels with individuals controlling them, or those who live in households that are unhealthy, or in relationships with abusers, and do not have access to supports and resources.”

— **PAMELA HART**

Executive Director, Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto



Native Earth Performing Arts Inc.

Native Earth develops, produces and presents professional artistic expressions of Indigenous experiences in Canada through stage productions, new script development, apprenticeships and internships. Native Earth seeks to fulfill a community of artistic vision inclusive of members of Indigenous communities.

Learn more at nativeearth.ca



Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto

Native Women’s Resource Centre provides supports to urban Indigenous women and their families by delivering culturally relevant programs and services that empower and build the collective capacity and self-sufficiency of Indigenous women. They provide housing programs, pre and post natal programs, trauma counselling, emergency food, and much more.

Learn more at nwrct.ca

Nishnawbe Homes Inc.

Nishnawbe Homes provides subsidized and transitional housing for the many Indigenous peoples coming to Toronto for opportunities, education or jobs. Nishnawbe Homes offers a home that connects them to the community and reflects First Nations culture and values.

Learn more at indigenousto.ca/nishnawbe-homes

Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy

Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy provides culturally respectful and sensitive programs and strategies to respond to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among Aboriginal people in Ontario through promotion, prevention, long-term care, treatment and support initiatives consistent with harm reduction.

Learn more at oahas.org

The Association for Native Development in the Performing and Visual Arts (ANDPVA)

ANDPVA identifies, promotes, and creates opportunities for Indigenous artists to support and develop a self-sufficient community of Indigenous artists who preserve traditional knowledge, advance respective cultural identities and reflect evolving cultural expression helping the community heal from the trauma of colonization.

Learn more at andpva.ca

Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society

Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society provides trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis 2SLGBTQIA+ women exiting the justice system. It was founded out of concern of the urgent need to break the cycle of Indigenous women's overrepresentation in Canada's prisons.

Learn more at twlhs.ca

Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council

(Trustee: Native Canadian Centre of Toronto)

Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council increases the capacity of Aboriginal people to create a self-sufficient community in Toronto. They address the social determinants of health to improve and enhance the socio-economic prospects and well-being of Aboriginal peoples through research, policy, and advocacy.

Learn more at tassc.ca

Toronto and York Region Métis Council

(Trustee: Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission)

Toronto and York Region Métis Council provides cultural events and education to build healthy and reciprocal relationships in the spirit of reconciliation to ensure the Métis people and the community of Toronto and York Region are thriving and culturally vibrant.

[Learn more at torontoyorkmetis.com](https://torontoyorkmetis.com)

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

Toronto Council Fire serves the community in the downtown core of Toronto with a commitment to their health, safety and wellbeing. They encourage and enhance the spiritual and personal growth of First Nations people by providing counselling, material assistance and other direct services.

[Learn more at councilfire.ca](https://councilfire.ca)

Toronto Inuit Association

Toronto Inuit Association creates a space where Inuit can feel welcome and celebrate their culture in Ontario's capital. They do this by providing support in language learning, culture awareness, family services, employment and health services to Inuit and their families.

[Learn more at torontoinuit.com](https://torontoinuit.com)

Toronto Urban Native Ministry

Toronto Urban Native Ministry serves Indigenous people living in the Greater Toronto Area, and assists members of both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community to enrich their lives and build right relations through frontline outreach (including critical pandemic mitigation), provision of food and other necessities, prison chaplaincy, teaching, social and spiritual support, traditional Indigenous ceremonies, and Christian services.

[Learn more at tunm.ca](https://tunm.ca)

Wigwamen Incorporated

Established in 1972, Wigwamen provides affordable and safe housing to thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous families, singles, and seniors in their over 770 housing units in the City of Toronto.

[Learn more at wigwamen.com](https://wigwamen.com)



Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre



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