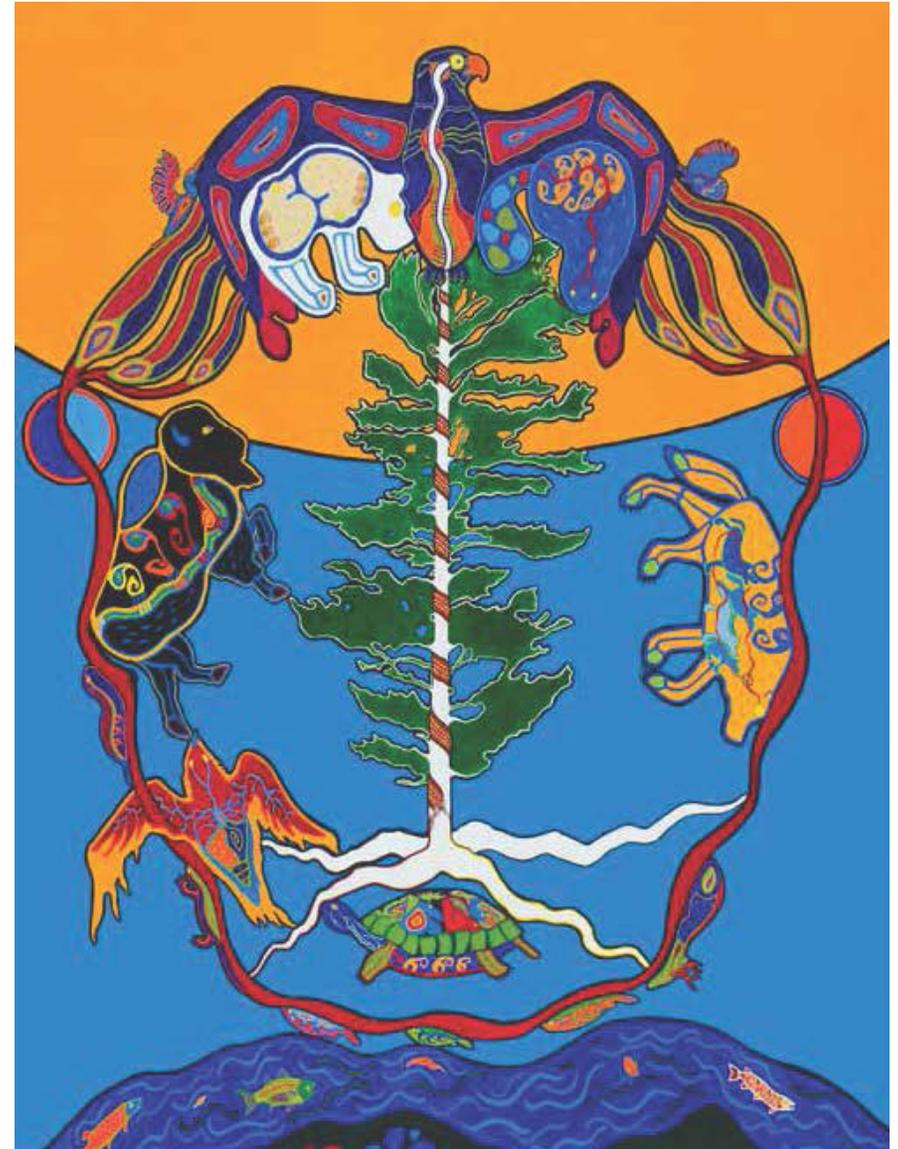


LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Future Cities Canada respectfully acknowledges that the sacred lands upon which we operate, and the built communities and cities across the country, are the traditional territories, treaty lands, homelands and nunangat of the respective First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nations who are the long-time stewards of these lands.

Future Cities Canada acknowledges that these are occupied lands and subject to inherent rights, covenants, treaties, and self-government agreements to peaceably share and care for the lands and resources across Turtle Island. These regions are home to diverse Indigenous peoples and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these lands.



Credit: Holism & Tree, KRISTY CAMERON, *The Seven Sacred Teachings Of White Buffalo Calf Woman* (Niizhwaaswi Aanike'iniwendiwini Waabishiki Mashkode Bizhikiins Ikwe) 2009

PREFACE

Aani bozhoo, kweh, tansi, shé:kon, wela'lin, éy swayel, ulakoot, greetings!

A very warm welcome to you, the reader of this Civic-Indigenous Engagement Toolkit, produced by Evergreen and Future Cities Canada, with a focus on partnerships in urban placekeeping.

Municipalities and civic organizations are increasingly interested in and being called to commit to the Truth and Reconciliation Actions and engage with and support the leadership of Indigenous partners through reflexive, equitable and reciprocal relationships and partnerships. The history and future of cities in Canada are interwoven with Indigenous peoples, lands, rights, systems, identities and futures so it's appropriate that municipalities and civic leaders commit to investing in and supporting opportunities directed at the restoration of land rights, strengthening of cultural identities and capacity building, and building robust communities that are self-determined by Indigenous peoples. It makes sense that their identity, presence, contributions and voices as Indigenous peoples are reflected throughout public spaces, institutions, and services throughout cities, based on their visioning and needs. As eloquently stated by Roberta Jamieson, when urban Indigenous communities have the space and resources to feel secure and validated in their identities and to live as Indigenous peoples, they flourish in cities.¹

1 - Jamieson, R. (2015). The key to making a city more Indigenous, keynote address presented at the Walrus Talks, Calgary.
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0r-oxXfHYI>>

Based on interactions with and feedback from Indigenous and civic practitioners across Canada, the consensus among them is that while municipalities and civic organizations wish to engage and partner with Indigenous communities, there is a common lack of knowledge and confidence among civic leaders about what that path should be.

The varied and complex terrain of legal rights, governance structures, economic conditions, demographics and cultures, capacities and resources, and relationships with settler governments and institutions across diverse Indigenous Nations and geographies make the process even more daunting. Added to these challenges are the impacts of colonialism, poverty and homelessness, divisive national and regional policies, intergenerational trauma, and damaging urban planning policies that have contributed to this gap in Indigenous engagement at the municipal level.

Unlike the federal government's fiduciary responsibility to consult with and safeguard the interests and lands of First Nations and Inuit, municipalities are not legally required under Canadian Law to consult with neighbouring Indigenous communities or urban Indigenous communities on policies and initiatives that occur in city spaces. As such, many municipalities have opted for co-existing with Indigenous community instead of building pathways for collaboration.²

2 - Bamford, M., Breedon, T., Lindberg, C., Patterson, H. and Winstanley, M. (2019). Stronger Together: A Toolkit for First Nations-Municipal Community Economic Development, A Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) of The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) & Cando. <<https://fcm.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/tool/stronger-together-Toolkit-cedi.pdf>>

This dynamic is changing as more civic leaders begin to understand that: Indigenous peoples are sovereign rights-holders (including those in cities); urban centres take place on Indigenous lands governed by treaties and comprehensive land agreements; and Indigenous peoples have an ongoing presence and invaluable contribution to the evolution of cities and city building. Moreover, while Indigenous and civic practitioners may have different worldviews, they share similar priorities and hopes for building strong and resilient futures for communities.

The Civic-Indigenous Toolkit is based on an emerging body of work on Indigenous placekeeping and reimagining of cities, developed through Future Cities Canada and Evergreen. The Indigenous Reimagining of Cities (IRC) program showcases diverse expressions of Indigenous placekeeping and civic-Indigenous partnership-based approaches, championing Indigenous leadership and approaches to unsettling and reimagining urban public and natural spaces occurring on occupied Indigenous lands in cities. A suite of co-creative activities focused on Indigenous engagement and placekeeping partnerships include capacity-building resources and tools, convenings, thought pieces, and knowledge mobilization.

This work is guided by the expertise and teachings of many Indigenous knowledge-keepers and practitioners (see Contributors section), and aims to provide a model of learning, guidance, and practical application for civic organizations. It aims to guide them as they explore their roles in an emerging movement to transform Canada's cities and social institutions in alignment with Indigenous values and approaches, the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, and the principles of the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The content is based on the input and learnings from a varied range of engagement and partnership-building experiences with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners and collaborators, as well as published tools and materials from other Indigenous engagement leaders and consultants working for Indigenous, civic and non-profit organizations. Many of the source materials that have inspired content featured in the Toolkit are included in the Resource List.

This Toolkit is intended to weave together a diversity of perspectives, methodologies, experiences, and creations from across the discourses and practices of urban placekeeping and Indigenous engagement in Canada. It is only a humble sample of the vast richness of Indigenous design and community protocols and practices that are dynamically activated across the country and not meant to be a comprehensive or definitive representation of that richness. Similarly, the engagement tools and resources offered here are intended to be a baseline for civic practitioners to develop their awareness, learning, capacities, and approaches in Indigenous design and community engagement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contributors

The toolkit was written primarily by Tanya Chung-Tiam-Fook, in her former role as Senior Lead of Indigenous Engagement for Evergreen and Future Cities Canada (FCC). Catherine Támara, Wyandot Faith-keeper, artist and Elder in Residence at Evergreen contributed to the Toolkit's design with beautiful and sacred graphic artwork and images; and Tash Naveau, Senior Fellow in Indigenous Placekeeping for FCC and media artist led research on Toronto-based Indigenous placekeeping initiatives and wrote the case study for her Teaching Lodge project in collaboration with Indigenous knowledge-keepers. Both Catherine and Tash contributed their insights and expertise that inspired and guided content development. Images of the exquisitely rendered artwork on the Seven sacred teachings of White Buffalo Calf Woman by Métis artist Kristy Cameron are featured in the Toolkit. Evergreen staff: Nathalia Prieto, Aileen Jang, Genrys Goodchild, Molly Fremes and Andrew Stokes all contributed their amazing skills in project management, graphic design, communications, and editing to the toolkit's development, production and dissemination. Lois Lindsay, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives has championed and provided invaluable executive support to this Toolkit project and the wider civic-Indigenous partnerships sphere of programming.

Acknowledgements

The Toolkit was created as part of the Indigenous Reimagining of Cities program, and the Future Cities of Canada platform. We wish to acknowledge that the knowledge presented here is informed by the values, experiences and practices of many Indigenous knowledge-keepers and practitioners from different Nations and professional contexts across Canada and is intended to guide capacity building and best practices for civic and Indigenous practitioners and thought leaders, especially those facilitating community engagement and co-design initiatives and processes in collaboration with urban and rural Indigenous communities.

The learning and knowledge shared in this resource would not have been possible without the wise guidance, generous insights and reflections, and professional expertise of the many Indigenous Elders, knowledge-keepers, practitioners, community leaders and scholars across the diverse Nations of Turtle Island; and the municipal and civic practitioners and community allies. We offer our deep gratitude for their immensely valuable contributions to this Toolkit, either in direct or indirect ways.

We honour the passion and commitment of present-day placekeepers – Elder, artist, designer, story-teller, architect, Earth-worker, language-carrier, planner, innovator, ceremony conductor, and land defender (Indigenous and ally) – who is working to honour, revitalize, restore, disrupt, reimagine, and transform public spaces and urban landscapes in

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

creative, decolonizing and life-sustaining ways.

Their creations and actions animate and (re)activate Indigenous presence, stories and productions that have often been invisibilized and marginalized by settler colonial city building and planning interventions.

We also honour the creative, innovative and courageous work of Indigenous ancestors and former placekeepers to invigorate lands, communities, arts and culture, education, technology, infrastructure and cities of the future. It is their visions, teachings, designs, content and artifacts of place and space that contemporary placekeepers learn from, are inspired by, and build upon.

Author

Tanya Chung-Tiam-Fook specializes in Indigenous approaches to research, education and community engagement in the areas of environmental stewardship, climate resilience, innovation, placekeeping, and health and mental wellness. She has worked in non-profit, academic, government and grassroots settings across Canada and internationally. Tanya leads Indigenous-informed research, program and content development, partnerships, strategy, and advising as: Director of Research for the Centre for Indigenous Innovation and Technology (CIIT); and Associate of Evergreen and Future Cities Canada (FCC). Two of the Indigenous programs that she has led for FCC are: i) Indigenous Re-imagining of Cities, focused on Indigenous placekeeping and civic-Indigenous partnerships; and ii) Community Solutions Network, an innovation capacity building initiative in partnership with Indigenous community and technology leaders.

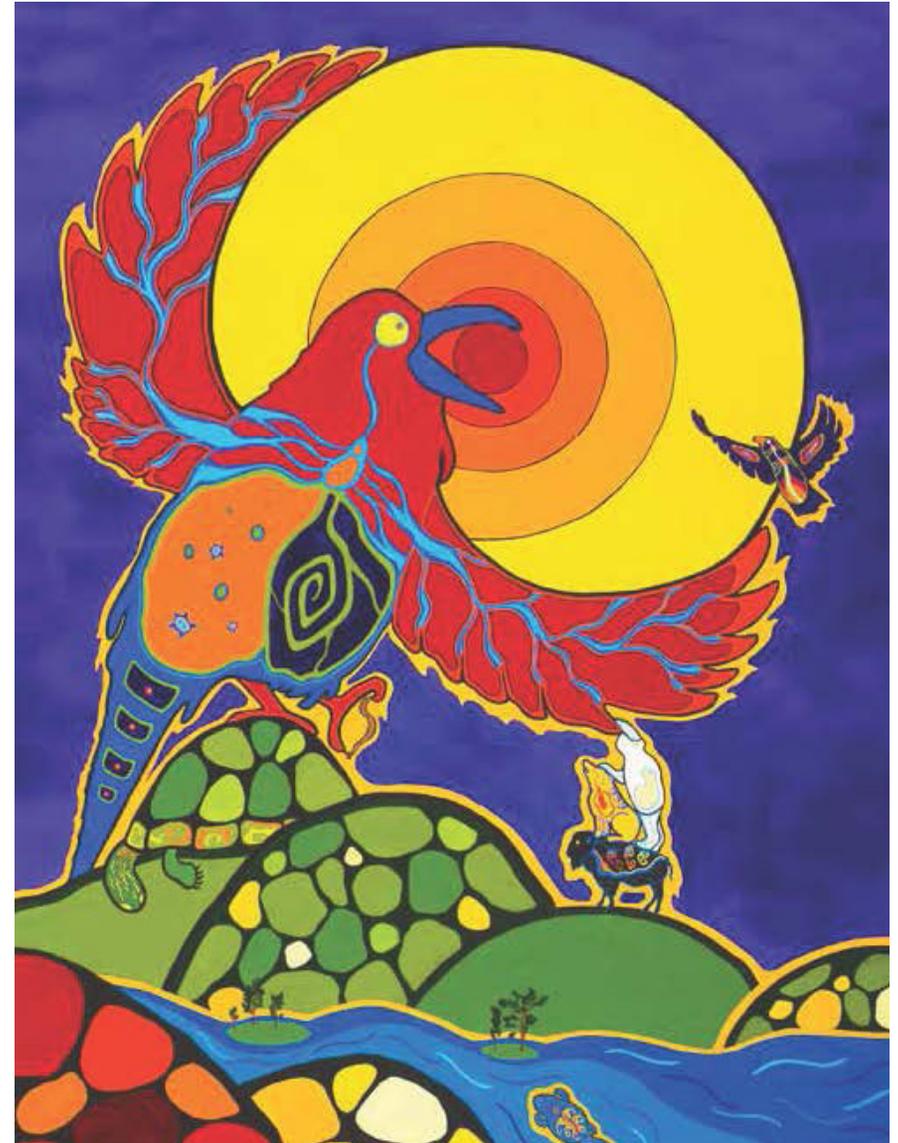
Tanya holds a PhD in Environmental Studies, and has graduate and postdoctoral training and fellowships in international development studies, climate change adaptation, Indigenous health, and psychotherapy. She has extensive experience as a university lecturer, delivering educational modules and workshops, and presenting her research and publications. She also holds an advisory role as subject specialist on diverse panels and committees. Tanya's Akawaio and mixed ancestry from Guyana and the Netherlands, combined with interdisciplinary and international experiences, enable her to bring a unique and multifaceted perspective to her work.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The Toolkit is intended to be a resource for users, guiding them in community engagement, designing, and planning processes on Indigenous and intercultural placekeeping initiatives and re-imagining public spaces. The placekeeping principles, values, and practices showcased here are intended to be an adaptable model for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities working in the spaces of Indigenous design, architecture, art, planning and innovation, reconciliation, and civic commons. We strongly believe that centering compassionate use of language, practice, ideology, and principle are at the heart of this work.

While many of the ideas, practices, and stories shared here are grounded in specific lands, places, and nations, the overarching themes and archetypes should resonate with different Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island and even other global regions. This Toolkit is intended to weave together a diversity of perspectives, methodologies, experiences, and creations from across the discourses and practices of urban placekeeping and Indigenous engagement in Canada. It is only a humble sample of the vast richness of Indigenous design and community protocols and practices that are dynamically activated across the country and not meant to be a consummate or definitive representation of that richness. Similarly, the engagement tools and resources offered here are intended to be a baseline for civic practitioners to develop their awareness, learning, capacities, and approaches in Indigenous design and community engagement.



Credit: Eagle & Sun, KRISTY CAMERON, *The Seven Sacred Teachings Of White Buffalo Calf Woman* (Niizhwaaswi Aanike'iniwendiwini Waabishiki Mashkode Bizhikiins Ikwe) 2009

Objectives

The tools, resources and case studies offered through the Toolkit are intended to contribute to national and international discourse and calls to actions on placekeeping, righting relationships between settler institutions and Indigenous Peoples, and an Indigenous reimagining of city-building in the following ways:

- To contribute to and grow a national platform for knowledge co-creation and sharing, and improved cultural competencies and engagement practices that prioritize Indigenous leadership in placekeeping, and transforming city building and public urban spaces to be more inclusive, generative, and equitable for all peoples.
- To champion and enable Indigenous placekeeping approaches and practitioners in urban hubs across Canada.
- To build collaborative and reciprocal relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous practitioners actively working to re-presence and elevate Indigenous identities and stories in urban placekeeping and innovation spaces across Canada.

Audience

The Toolkit is intended for all those who are interested and passionate about Indigenous worldviews and truth and reconciliation. It will be especially useful for community leaders, practitioners staff from municipalities, civic and cultural organizations working in the spaces of placekeeping, city building and reconciliation and who want to strengthen their relationships with Indigenous partners. Although the focus is on urban placekeeping and civic-Indigenous engagement, the

Toolkit can also be used by organizations in other sectors interested in Indigenous engagement; Indigenous community and organizations outside of urban centres; and provincial and territorial associations and organizations.

The Toolkit is based on both the expressions of interest and intentionality by civic practitioners to improve their cultural and procedural learning and competencies around building respectful and mutually beneficial relationships and initiatives with Indigenous partners; and the experiences, expertise and guidance of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis practitioners, knowledge-keepers and activists from across Canada.

The Toolkit is expected to appeal to a broad audience. This is because the tools, teachings and approaches aim to cover a diversity of relational,



Credit: ThriveGarden. Courtesy Aphria Inc.

cultural, spiritual, ecological, philosophical, governance, legal, and strategic dimensions that are at play in relationship-building and engagement processes with Indigenous Peoples, placekeeping thinking and practice, and cities of the future. While many of the ideas, tools, approaches and examples shared here are grounded in specific lands, places and Nations, the overarching themes and learnings should resonate with different civic and Indigenous practitioners across Turtle Island and internationally.



Future Cities Canada

Future Cities Canada is a collaborative platform that harnesses the momentum for change already in progress in cities. It brings together people, ideas, platforms and innovations from across sectors to address two of the most pressing issues of our time: inequality and climate change and their challenges they bring to cities.

Drawing on the expertise of its founding organizations and together with a diverse and growing network of partners, Future Cities Canada's unique collaborative infrastructure will accelerate innovation to build regenerative, inclusive cities of the future.

Evergreen is a Values-Driven Organization

Evergreen is a non-profit organization dedicated to making cities flourish. We imagine cities that are low carbon, inclusive to all, and sustainable at their core; cities to live, move, work, play, learn and thrive in. Since 1991, we've been facilitating change by working with partners and community groups to convene, collaborate and catalyze ideas into action.

Our cities are on the verge of transformative change and opportunity. From open smart cities to hyper-informed citizens, new ideas, new technologies, new infrastructure, new models of governance, new levels of investment, and new opportunities for public participation are inspiring cities of the future.

At the same time, our residents and leadership are facing unprecedented challenges: structural inequality, climate change adaptation, demographic shifts, growing infrastructure deficits, and the disruption brought by the digital age. Addressing these challenges and harnessing these opportunities requires unprecedented creativity, coordination, alignment, and clarity of roles and purpose across all sectors of society. It requires a new kind of collaborative platform.

As a settler organization of city builders, land stewards and resilience leaders working to make cities more inclusive, equitable, liveable and resilient, Evergreen is committed to collaborating with Indigenous and civic practitioners and institutions to build shared understanding and transform urban centres in honour of, and alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) calls to action, the UN Declaration of

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the values and protocols of the particular Indigenous partners and communities with whom we engage in this important work.

Evergreen is a values-driven organization and as such, this Toolkit is guided by and rooted in our core values of connection, innovation, and sustainability. These values are commensurate with diverse Indigenous placekeeping values:

- Evergreen prioritizes place- and land-based relationships in placekeeping, community and city building, and urban land stewardship as vital to the enrichment and achievement of project and programmatic outcomes. Also paramount is Evergreen's acknowledgement of the organization's settler relationship to the Indigenous lands and Peoples of Toronto, and how we use this awareness to improve our relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations to be more reciprocal, respectful, and enduring.
- Evergreen supports Indigenous social and technological innovation by endeavouring to work together with Indigenous practitioners and knowledge-keepers and cross-sectoral partners to learn, adapt, and scale ideas that create context-relevant and culturally-informed solutions. Our focus is on consultation, and collaborative sharing, learning, and creative problem-solving.
- Evergreen works to enable socially and ecologically resilient and sustainable futures for diverse urban communities across Canada based on seven generations thinking, inclusiveness, and justice by contributing to dialogue, knowledge mobilization and decision making platforms that align with the social, environmental, and

economic aspirations of our programs.

Relationship to Place

The author and contributors hold their roles as land and cultural stewards, educators, creators, researchers, innovators, knowledge-keepers, and caretakers of place with honour, humility, and lifelong commitment. The perspectives and experiences of the material presented in this Toolkit are shared from their particular Indigenous or settler identities, positionality and connection to the lands (Ancestral and adopted) that have nourished their sense of place.

The author and contributors are humbled and grateful to be visitors and settlers on the sacred homelands of the Michi Saagiig of the Credit First Nation and the traditional territories of the Wendat, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee confederacies, subject to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Covenant¹. They wish to acknowledge the ancestral and present-day care-takers and stewards of Indigenous territories (urban and rural) throughout Turtle Island and recognize their continuing connection to the lands, waters, kin and culture. They pay their respects to Elders past, present and future; and aspire to be more attentive and engaged ancestors for the coming seven generations.

User Map for Toolkit

The table of contents is your base point for navigating the particular Tools: Teachings, Case Studies, Approaches, and Resources that are relevant for your organization's needs, and where you're at on your engagement learning path. The components of the Toolkit may be used in any sequence or as stand-alone pieces.

- **Tools : Teachings & Approaches:** tools and plans that provide the conceptual, cultural, ethical, legal, relational, political, and planning contexts that frame engagement, relationship-building, and design development processes when working in partnership with Indigenous community and practitioners in Canada.
- **Case Studies:** profiles of civic-Indigenous placekeeping partnership initiatives and actions are provided to highlight different examples of engagement protocols, principles and processes in action.
- **Resource List:** provides a wide-ranging list of resources that showcase Indigenous perspectives and approaches to placekeeping and partnership-building, and the multi-faceted themes associated with civic-Indigenous engagement.



*Credit: KRISTY CAMERON, The Seven Sacred Teachings Of White Buffalo Calf Woman
(Niizhwaaswi Aanike'iniwendiwini Waabishiki Mashkode Bizhikiins Ikwe) 2009*