



## Councillor Paul W. Ainslie

City of Toronto Councillor  
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee  
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo



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November 18, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

- Immediate release

### **Indigenous Community Safety and Mental Health, More Is Needed**

Toronto, Councillor Paul Ainslie today at Executive Committee highlighted his support to improve community safety and responses to mental health concerns for Indigenous communities across Toronto. Through a report brought forward by the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, the city has been asked to identify funding needs and sources to fund Indigenous-led responses to community safety and mental health in Toronto.

Councillor Ainslie commented that *“I have been told many residents of Ward 24 do not feel comfortable identifying themselves as Indigenous, this is very unfortunate. It not only impacts the level of the funding needed it also displays we have not done enough to encourage Indigenous communities to proudly identify”*. Scarborough-Guildwood is home to a large Indigenous population. *“I am proud and want to ensure supports are in place and have the richness of their ancestry recognized throughout our entire City”*.

Today, Executive Committee adopted the *“City Council request the Director, Indigenous Affairs Office to work with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and other relevant City staff and divisions, and report to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee at its next meeting on a process to identify funding needs and sources to fund Indigenous-led responses to community safety and mental health in Toronto.”* <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX18.8>

Councillor Ainslie stressed City Staff through the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee diligently work with Native Child and Family Services, and communities through consultation on a strategy to encourage residents of Indigenous background to self identify to ensure supports are available to them. Councillor Ainslie would like the workplan to explore a campaign to encourage Indigenous individuals to self identify by improving the City’s efforts to further Indigenous self-determination.

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