

**Exploring Indigenous-newcomer relations in the City of Toronto:
Changing demographics, reconciliation and the potential of city planning**

Niko Casuncad,
Master of Planning, Ryerson University

Toronto's urban Indigenous and newcomer populations are rapidly increasing. As a result, the City is facing a new demographic reality that will change how the municipal government implements its plans, designs, and programs. Indigenous and newcomer groups often have similar lived experiences of marginalization and discrimination as equity-seeking groups and can work together towards a more just city. This Major Research Paper (MRP) lays at the intersection of this new demographic reality, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action, and how planning might play an important role in supporting Indigenous-newcomer relations. A qualitative approach was used to explore the City's current level of engagement with the TRC's Calls to Action and the City's *Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Communities in Toronto*. Data collection included a document scan of City plans, engagement strategies, and divisional strategies; an initiative scan of events, reports to action, and council motions; and semi-structured interviews with City staff in the following divisions: City Planning; the Indigenous Affairs Office; the Newcomer Office; Economic Development and Culture; and Parks, Forestry, and Recreation.

Biography

Niko Casuncad is a recent graduate from the Master of Planning in Urban Development program at Ryerson University. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Certificate in Sustainability Studies at the University of Calgary. His research interests are exploring city planning processes and outcomes for Indigenous and newcomer communities in cities.