

Dear John – the Fairlawn Avenue United Church collection box contains all sorts of high demand items – winter warmth, gift cards and sleeping bags! This kind donation will be a very welcome contribution for the Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction winter warmth outreach efforts. Many thanks to the congregation and to you and Rosalie for all of your efforts. If you have a chance to say thank you on Sunday – here is the statement that Street Health is sharing for this National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Street Health recognizes the historical and continuing harms to First Nations, Inuit and Metis people caused by colonial and post-colonial policies and that our work takes place on traditional Indigenous territory. Our Board and staff are committed to being allies for Indigenous community members, especially those who experience trauma, discrimination, and marginalization.

In the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, we recognize that the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples within Toronto's homeless population results from racism, colonization and cultural genocide. We believe that to work respectfully with Indigenous clients, our organization needs to be aware of the collective impact of intergenerational trauma. We commit to learning our shared history in a way that moves us towards a healthier and more just future, with relationships rooted in mutual understanding and respect. With this goal in mind, we actively continue our learning path and efforts towards Truth and Reconciliation.

During the month of September many Street Health supporters and friends have undertaken the collection of needed items to support the Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction (TIHR) winter outreach efforts. Our thanks to everyone who donated during the month.

Take care and again – many thanks,

Cathy Callaghan

Fundraising Manager
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