



## **RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY**

### Central Research Circle

**Name of Project:**

**Where Are We Now?**

**Research Start-up Summary and Abstract:**

This project examines the extent of service delivery and the organizational infrastructure of the OFIC that supports urban Indigenous communities. As a leader in the field of Indigenous non-governmental organizations, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres is an example of a service delivery site that has spent many years refining culture based practices of governance and leadership, but they have never been documented or analyzed. The OFIC has been meeting with key Indigenous leaders to document valuable stories and wise practices that provide insight into how influential Indigenous people exercise leadership within Friendship Centres and other Indigenous service delivery sites through examining existing wise practices in the following urban areas: Peel, Niagara, Hamilton, and London. Another focus of this project is to consider the growth and expansion of urban Indigenous communities within these regions.

Preliminary review of primary data includes: tangible strategies to encourage youth to transform Indigenous community organizing; intersections between organizational management approaches and traditional leadership practices; as well as community partnership building strategies to increase Indigenous peoples' economic, social, and cultural contributions to their communities and beyond. A report on urban Indigenous leadership is expected in 2017 and examines the intersections between the OFIC's "Where are We?" and "Where Are We Going" projects.

**Collaborating Friendship Centre and/or other urban Aboriginal organization:**

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIC)

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