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Green community comes together with native network

The Sustainability Network and Toronto Green Community are hosting a Native Bus Tour of Toronto on Thursday, Oct. 13.

"The idea of the tour was to actually bring people from the environmental sector and other sectors together with aboriginal peoples," said Paula Messina, executive director of Toronto Green Community. "We thought, 'why not start out with actually giving them a tour of Toronto and highlighting areas that have historical and cultural significance to aboriginal communities here.'"

This event is a direct result of some of the discussions during the Collective Impact Conference in June.

"The point is that aboriginal people do have a different perspective towards the environment," Messina said. "I think the environmental sector could stand to take a future look at that and learn from that."

The day begins at 9:30 a.m. at Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Road, and ends at 215 Spadina Ave. The three-hour bus tour includes highlights like the lakeshore, High Park, Casa Loma, Yonge Street, Rouge Hill and Old Fort York.

Afterwards, participants will have an opportunity to talk and network with each other and representatives from various Toronto-based organizations serving the Aboriginal community, both during a catered lunch and through some group discussions in the afternoon.

"We are hoping to spend a short period talking about people's reflections, what did they learn from the tour and anything that might pop to mind as a result of their experience," Messina said.

The fee is \$65 per person, which Messina said covers the cost of the bus and the lunch.

The tour is open to the public. To register visit www.sustainabilitynetwork.ca

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