



Township of Wilmot Prime Ministers Path Public Engagement Update

Baden, ON – Tuesday, April 20, 2021 –Prime Ministers Path public engagement will be underway in the coming weeks. First Peoples Group, an Ottawa-based Indigenous advisory firm, has been contracted to design and lead the engagement strategy. A summary of the strategy is attached.

The process will involve broad reaching online engagement, an educational component, and opportunities for focused conversations with Wilmot residents. All sessions will be designed with COVID-19 restrictions in mind while still being hopeful that an in-person gathering might be able to take place near the end of the engagement process. Staff have prepared a webpage that can be found at wilmot.ca/PMPEngagement. This page will be updated throughout process.

“Having an opportunity for all members of the public to be a part of these important consultations has been reiterated in the scope of the work, in staff reports, and in discussions with the consultants,” said Mayor Les Armstrong. “Prioritizing outreach to Indigenous communities and other marginalized peoples is of great importance to Council and staff. I hope everyone who wants to be a part of the engagement process checks the website and follows the Township’s social media accounts for updates.”

This engagement process is one of three recent projects approved by Council that are a part of inclusivity, diversity, and anti-racism initiatives for Wilmot. In addition, staff were asked to prepare a terms of reference for a new Advisory Committee that will focus on anti-racism, inclusion, diversity, and community relations (approved on December 7, 2020). Council also approved a motion for staff to begin work on an application for Wilmot Township to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (endorsed on February 8, 2021).

“Municipalities across Canada are making matters of anti-racism, inclusion, and diversity a priority for the corporation and the community,” said Grant Whittington, Chief Administrative Officer. “We can all say the right things and prepare well written statements condemning all forms of discrimination, but making a plan to promote anti-racism, inclusion, and diversity in the community, and putting into action concrete steps to address it, is how real change happens. In Wilmot, we are starting to take the steps that will create that plan.”

The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is a foundation upon which these consultations are being conducted, and will be reflected in all aspects of the project. To learn more, visit: <http://www.trc.ca/>.

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