

## First Peoples Group's Biweekly Update on the Prime Ministers Path Consultation – May 21, 2021

Last week's public announcement from First Peoples Group (FPG) marked the launch of the Prime Ministers Path Community Engagement Process. Our team at FPG have begun to take initial steps to introduce ourselves to the community, while seeking to gain a better understanding of the needs of Wilmot residents with regard to community engagement.

### Activities to Date

As directed by the Township of Wilmot Council and staff at the outset of this process, First Peoples Group has been meeting on a bi-weekly basis with a working group comprised of staff and two council representatives. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure we are provided with logistical support and local-specific guidance on how to engage effectively with the community. The meeting minutes from these working group meetings are available on Wilmot Township's webpage dedicated to the [Prime Ministers Path Public Engagement](#).

Our team at First Peoples Group is currently in the process of further refining the engagement plan and subsequent activities. We continue to do our work in a way that ensures that the process is flexible in order to meet the needs of all residents who want to be involved. Part of this development process has involved engaging individually with each of the Township Councillors and Mayor. In these meetings, our team further explained the draft engagement process and answered questions. We also sought input from Mayor and Council on who in the community we should be speaking with to further understand the best ways to engage with Wilmot residents. From these meetings, and with input from the working group, we have been connected with a number of community groups and organizations with whom we have begun our community conversation sessions. These sessions have taken place this past week and will continue into next week with the purpose of better understanding the history and the current nuances of the issues as specified by the community with regard to the Prime Ministers Path.

### How can you participate?

Today marks the launch of our **Community Voices Forum**, an engagement activity designed to gather stories, input, opinions and recommendations from residents of Wilmot Township. Region of Waterloo residents, as well as members of neighbouring First Nations are also encouraged to participate in the conversation. This forum provides you with an anonymous opportunity to share your personal stories regarding the Prime Ministers Path as it relates to you and to the Township of Wilmot.

The discussion regarding public history installments is complex. Through this **Community Voices Forum**, you will find a lengthy preamble that includes multiple sources discussing the issues that many Canadians are currently engaged with. We encourage you to take the time to explore these resources prior to sharing your stories with us.

There are many ways to participate in this engagement activity:

- **Online:** The Community Voices Forum can be found and completed here: <https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?s=37327e43-df8a-4b15-a834-12626d72198c>
- **Print, scan & email:** You can print out the story telling prompts, fill it out, scan it (or take a digital photo of it) and email it to [cassidy@firstpeoplesgroup.com](mailto:cassidy@firstpeoplesgroup.com)
- **Paper versions:** Please phone 519-634-8444 and make arrangements to pick up a paper copy of this activity at the Township office

Completed paper copies of this activity can be submitted by dropping it in the drop box at the Township office – please label the envelope:

Tracey Murray

Prime Ministers Path Public Engagement: Community Voices Forum

*\* Filled out paper copies returned to the township office will be scanned and sent directly to First Peoples Group for collection.*

**The Community Voices Forum will be live for four weeks meaning it will be available for you to complete until June 18<sup>th</sup>.**

We encourage you to all share this opportunity with your friends, family and neighbours as we want to hear from as many community members who feel comfortable sharing. If you have any troubles accessing this engagement activity in any of the ways listed above, please email [cassidy@firstpeoplesgroup.com](mailto:cassidy@firstpeoplesgroup.com).

### Next Steps

As you participate in the **Community Voices Forum**, our team will continue behind the scenes researching, collecting and reviewing relevant background documents that will be valuable in shaping the next steps of the engagement process.

We will also be reviewing completed and submitted stories to further guide our next steps. We plan to host a number of public conversations, and begin having discussions focussed on shaping recommendations.

Due to the amount of interest expressed in the presentation of final recommendations to Council, it has been suggested by the working group that Council hold a special Council meeting. This will be taking place on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

As always, thank you for your interest in this process and your participation throughout. First Peoples Group's next public update will be on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Niá:wen / Miigwech / Marci / Thank you,

First Peoples Group