

First Peoples Group's Biweekly Update on the Prime Ministers Path Consultation

Today marks the closing date of the "Community Voices Forum." The forum will remain live and we will continue taking submissions until 11:59pm EST today (June 18th). First Peoples Group is pleased to announce that this public forum, designed to create a safe and anonymous space for residents of Wilmot Township to share what was on their minds with regard to the Prime Ministers Path, was a great success. Over the four-week period that the forum was live, we received nearly 400 submissions through the online platform, via email, and paper copies that were filled out and delivered to the Township office.

Our team at First Peoples Group heard from a number of concerned residents hoping that this engagement activity would be centred around the voices of Township residents. We are pleased to share that more than 98% of responses indicated a strong connection to the Township either as current or former residents and that less than 2% of respondents indicated they were from outside of the Township. This signifies the desire held by residents to engage in issues that are deeply affecting their community. We thank you all for taking the time to thoughtfully engage in the process to date.

Next Steps

First Peoples Group acknowledges the Prime Ministers Path Project has prompted a contentious but important debate. The divisiveness of the issues reflects the passion the residents of Wilmot hold for this community. While healthy debate is important in any setting, extreme divisiveness leading to polarization is harmful to the community. For this reason, and because this process has been iterative all along to ensure a process is designed to meet the needs of the community, we have made the decision not to go forward with facilitated focus groups.

Our team at First Peoples Group is confident that we have heard sufficient evidence from all sides of the issue to move forward with the drafting of our report and recommendations to Council. We can assure you that all has been done to seek out a balanced perspective on the issue and we do not take the next steps of drafting recommendations lightly.

First Peoples Group will publish our report and recommendations for all to view on June 30th, 2021.

Following the release of the report, a Special Council Meeting will be held on July 5th, 2021 where we will present the report findings and recommendations to Council for their decision on the matter.

If you wish to be a delegate at the Special Council Meeting you can submit a delegation form. For more information on how you can observe and participate in the Special Council Meeting on July 5th, 2021, please visit the Township Website: <https://calendar.wilmot.ca/townshipcalendar/Detail/2021-07-05-1800-Special-Council-Meeting>

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to engage with your Township and for your very clear interest in this process throughout.

Niá:wen / Miigwech / Marci / Thank you,
First Peoples Group