

Public Announcement of the Launch of the Prime Ministers Path Community Engagement Process

First Peoples Group is pleased to announce that the community engagement process on the Prime Ministers Path is now underway in the Township of Wilmot. We want to begin by thanking the community for your patience while our team designs this process which was set to formally launch in April, 2021.

On April 26th, members from our team at First Peoples Group attended the Wilmot Township Council meeting to present a high-level overview of the engagement process that is in development. Our intentions during this first interaction with your community were to introduce you to a number of our team members, to provide an overview of the process that is being designed, and to set forth our commitments to you, the residents of Wilmot. First Peoples Group will approach this work with the following commitments:

Principle/ Guideline	First Peoples Group’s Commitments
Transparency	We commit to building the trust of Wilmot residents by ensuring all aspects of the public engagement process are transparent. We will do this by ensuring that engagement participants are aware of the purpose of the engagement, how their input will be used and how decisions will be made, and the outcomes of the engagement upon completion.
Relevancy	We commit to framing the issue in a way that is relevant and meaningful to the residents of Wilmot. We will do this by engaging in meaningful conversations that seek to understand the perspectives and opinions of all who want to be involved.
Inclusiveness	We commit to engaging with all community members who have a range of views and perspectives that reflect the diversity of the Township of Wilmot. The engagement plan is being designed to promote accessibility and meaning for all community members who want to engage on this issue.
Adaptability	We commit to developing and delivering a flexible and adaptable engagement process to ensure the public engagement remains relevant, meaningful and accessible to the residents of Wilmot.
Accountability	We commit to openly communicating and promoting any and every opportunity to engage. We will also seek to verify all findings with engagement participants prior to submitting recommendations to Mayor and Council.

Communicating to Residents of Wilmot

What we heard from your community on the April 26th Council meeting was that communication and transparency are crucial to the success of this process. We also heard that no one wants to be left out of this process. Directly following the Council meeting, our team worked alongside staff and Council to develop a communications plan that outlines when and how residents of Wilmot will hear from First Peoples Group as well as when and how residents can participate in this process.

We are happy to share with you that this announcement is the first of a series of communications that you will receive between now and the end of the community engagement process. In addition to publicizing and promoting the upcoming “share your stories” survey and the group dialogue sessions that will follow (*stay tuned for more information on these engagements*), First Peoples Group will publish bi-weekly updates, which will include information on where we are at in the engagement



process and what residents should be looking forward to next. The first bi-weekly update will be shared on May 21st.

With the support of the Prime Ministers Path Consultation Working Group – comprised of Township staff and Councillors who meet bi-weekly with First Peoples Group to support logistics of the process – we have identified a number of ways to ensure residents will receive this information, which includes both media and print formats.

For residents who wish to **read updates online**, you will find updates on the process via:

- Wilmot Township’s website
- Wilmot Township’s social media accounts
- Email – Please subscribe to the Township’s eNews to receive email alerts when new information is available (<https://www.wilmot.ca/subscribe>)

For residents who wish to **read updates in print**, you will be able to pick up First Peoples Group’s updates at the Township office as well as at the Recreation Centre. We will be seeking out additional locations to offer print updates following the end of the Provincial wide stay at home order as we would ideally like to utilize additional spaces for information sharing such as the library and other community spaces.

Additionally, where possible we will engage with local media to ensure residents are informed in that way as well.

In these early stages of the process, we are focussing our attention on developing relationships and building trust with residents of Wilmot and organizations in the Region. We hope that as the process progresses you will feel comfortable sharing our updates and the process with your personal and organizational networks.

Again, we wish to thank you for your willingness to trust the process that is now beginning and we are very much looking forward to hearing from each and every one of you through the processes we are currently developing. Please watch future announcements on how to engage in the survey and focus groups as well as for our next update to you on May 21st.

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

