

Assigning the Ceremonial Name "Shontinontowanrnghaka Way" to Part of Military Trail

Date: November 5, 2019

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: 25 - Scarborough-Rouge Park

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the ceremonial name of "Shontinontowanrnghaka [pronounced saw-gay-noon-da-whan-a-UH-guh] Way" be assigned to Military Trail between Morningside Avenue and Ellesmere Road.

A ceremonial street dedication does not change the official street name or address information. It does result in the installation of special signage along the selected street.

Transportation Services was consulted during the preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, recommends that:

1. Scarborough Community Council assign the ceremonial name "Shontinontowanrnghaka Way" to Military Trail between Morningside Avenue and Ellesmere Road.
2. Transportation Services erect signage marking "Shontinontowanrnghaka Way."

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of erecting signage is \$500.00. Funding is available within the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Transportation Services.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On July 7, 2015, City Council adopted a set of updated policies for naming City streets and properties. The City of Toronto Street Naming Policy provides guidance on the ceremonial naming of City streets.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX7.8>

COMMENTS

The Governing Council of the University of Toronto has submitted a Street Naming Application requesting that the ceremonial name "Shontinontowanrnghaka [pronounced saw-gay-noon-da-whan-a-UH-guh] Way" be assigned to part of Military Trail. Letters of support have been received from: Councillor Jennifer McKelvie; Councillor Paul Ainslie; Hon. John McKay, MP; Wendy Phillips, Indigenous Elder, University of Toronto Scarborough; the Scarborough Campus Students' Association; the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre; the Highland Creek Community Association; and others.

The naming initiative arose at University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) as a Canada 150 place-making project intended in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation. An extensive program of consultation with Indigenous communities was undertaken, in recognition that UTSC lies within Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee traditional territories.

The Governing Council summed up the outcomes of the consultation process as follows:

"The original proposal was aimed at creating an Indigenous ceremonial street name in the Seneca language, to be called Shotinotowane'á:ka - i.e., 'Peoples of the Large Mountains.' Since the Seneca Nation is one of the Six Nations [Haudenosaunee] Confederacy, we sought audience and guidance from leaders of the Confederacy, following the traditional Indigenous Ethical Protocols. The Six Nations Confederacy, in its response, asked UTSC to use the Mohawk language for the ceremonial street name, resulting in the choice of Shontinontowanrnghaka, meaning 'People of the Mountains,' which is the name we are proposing."

In another place-making project along this stretch of Military Trail, UTSC intends to construct an Indigenous House, which will provide space for teaching, research, reflection, and ceremony for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff, and serve the non-Indigenous campus and wider community.

As this Street Naming Application and related documentation complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy, it is recommended that the ceremonial name "Shontinontowanrnghaka Way" be assigned to part of Military Trail.

The General Manager, Transportation Services, has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

CONTACT

Wayne Reeves, Chief Curator, Museums and Heritage Services, Economic Development and Culture, (416) 392-6830, wayne.reeves@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mike Williams
General Manager, Economic Development and Culture