

Summary of the Shortlisted Names

Updated: September 25, 2023

Suggested Name	Meaning/Significance	When was it included	Rationale
John M. Tinsley	Named after John M. Tinsley, a respected man in the Black community. He was a building contractor who often hired newcomers and lived on Agnes Street, now part of Dundas Street, for over 50 years.	Meeting 6 (Feb. 8, 2022), again in Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Committee recommended name for inclusion on shortlist based on compelling story, links to Committee's priorities and geographic connection to Dundas Street / Yonge-Dundas Square. Name and history considered worthy of greater public recognition and commemoration. Could be considered as a name for square or street.
Chloe Cooley	Designated as a person of national historic significance by the Government of Canada in 2022. A Black woman who was enslaved and whose acts of resistance catalyzed the first legislature in all of the British colonies to restrict the slave trade.	Meeting 5 (Jan. 25, 2022), again in Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Committee recommended name for inclusion on shortlist based on compelling history and relation to the abolition of slavery in Canada. However, the Committee also expressed concerns about the similar sound of the last name "Cooley" to a derogatory term, and the lack of direct geographic connection (as Chloe Cooley lived in the Niagara region). Could be considered as a name for square or street. Full name should be used to avoid connection to derogatory term.
Sankofa	"Looking backward to move forward." Connection to West Africa, which represented a large portion of origins of peoples trafficked to Upper Canada during slave trade. Has a consistent meaning and usage.	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Committee recommended name for inclusion based on significance of term to African diaspora and rich symbolism. Committee expressed some concerns about usage of term being too widespread. Could be considered as a name for square or street, with preference for square.
Lucie and Thornton Blackburn (contenders for Yonge-Dundas Square or for ceremonial names for a section of Dundas Street)	Designated as national historic persons in 1999. Their escape prompted the Blackburn Riots of 1833, in Detroit. The Blackburns lived on South Park Street (now called Eastern Avenue), just north of today's Distillery District. They became successful entrepreneurs and community activists; owners of Toronto's first cab company and built homes for newcomers.	Meeting 5 (Jan. 25, 2022), again in Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Committee recommended name for inclusion based on compelling story, links to Committee's priorities, and geographic connection to Toronto. Committee considered alternate ways of presenting name including "Lucie and Thornton Blackburn Square" or "Blackburn Family Square". Some expressed concerns regarding accessibility, usability, and the loss of meaning through abbreviation. Could be considered as a name for the square only, as there is already a Blackburn Street in Toronto.

PREVIOUS CONTENDERS				
Suggested Name	Meaning/Significance	When was it included	When was it removed from consideration	Rationale
Debwewin	Meaning "truth", meant to reflect the spirit of truth and reconciliation, and one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Offered by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, but not required to be shortlisted.	Meeting 8 (Mar. 8, 2022)	Meeting 15 (Jan. 17, 2023)	Indigenous elders and the majority of the CAC agreed that the name should focus on the Black historical experience, taking into account Henry Dundas' association with the trans-Atlantic slave trade in Canada. Members also expressed concern about equity in including a name representing the language of one treaty holder but not others.
Diversity	Part of discourse around multiculturalism. The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee requested that the Community Advisory Committee on Renaming Dundas Street, once formed, consider	Meeting 6 (Feb. 8, 2022)	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Not enough support from the CAC.

	the name "Diversity Street" as a name to replace Dundas Street.			
Emancipation	Freedom. In contradiction to how Henry Dundas delayed the emancipation of the enslaved.	Meeting 5 (Jan. 25, 2022)	Meeting 16 (Jan. 31, 2023)	Not enough support from the CAC.
Indaba	This is a Zulu word meaning "I have something to tell you/awakening/deep talk/the gathering."	Meeting 6 (Feb. 8, 2022)	Meeting 16 (Jan 31, 2023)	Term is used in parts of the African diaspora. However, additional research from scholars recommended against its use given its links to political and business interests in South Africa.
Manajiwini	"Respect" in Ojibwe, one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings.	Meeting 7 (Feb. 22, 2022)	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Indigenous elders and the majority of the CAC agreed that the name should focus on the Black historical experience, taking into account Henry Dundas' association with the trans-Atlantic slave trade in Canada.
Mosaic	Represents the concept of a roadway where the tide of people who have travelled or traveled that way represent the cultural melting pot of Toronto.	Meeting 5 (Jan. 25, 2022)	Meeting 16 (Jan. 31, 2023)	Frequently appears as part of corporate branding.
Qmakyéhsti? (Wyandot spelling) / Onywatiehstih (Wendat spelling)	"We gather together."	Meeting 7 (Feb. 22, 2022)	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Indigenous elders and the majority of the CAC agreed that the name should focus on the Black historical experience, taking into account Henry Dundas' association with the trans-Atlantic slave trade in Canada.
Peggy Pompadour	A Black woman who was enslaved and whose family were reported to have resisted slavery and attempted to run away on multiple occasions. Peggy was jailed, along with her son Jupiter. Recommended by guest panellist Dr. Afua Cooper and supported by Dr. Kathryn Labelle and Natasha Henry Dixon.	Meeting 13 (Nov 29, 2022)	Meeting 16 (Jan 31, 2023)	Peggy Pompadour lived in Toronto. However, the French undertone of "Pompadour" is undesirable and simply "Peggy" may lose the meaning of the name.
Sawubona	Zulu word which means "We see you" not just as an individual, but also as part of an ancestral vision of future possibilities.	Meeting 6 (Feb. 8, 2022)	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	It's a word that is travelling and its meaning is currently evolving, so it is not suitable for a permanent street name.
The Peacemaker's Road	To have a major route that reminds of the ways we can be peaceful with each other is positive and supportive as it moves through many diverse communities - also honours the legacy of The Great Peacemaker, a Wendat man who united the Haudenosaunee Peoples.	Meeting 5 (Jan. 25, 2022)	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Indigenous elders and the majority of the CAC agreed that the name should focus on the Black historical experience, taking into account Henry Dundas' association with the trans-Atlantic slave trade in Canada.
yaentowäneh	In the context of trading, "it is of great value" in Wendat. This denotes a path and connection between people.	Meeting 6 (Feb. 8, 2022)	Meeting 11 (Oct. 21, 2022)	Indigenous elders and the majority of the CAC agreed that the name should focus on the Black historical experience, taking into account Henry Dundas' association with the trans-Atlantic slave trade in Canada.