

Jane Finch Initiative

Indigenous Engagement Summary Report

Prepared by:



Presented to:



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1. Introduction

1.1. Report Purpose

This report summarizes outreach completed and input received from 2021 to 2023 through Indigenous engagement activities on the Jane Finch Initiative (JFI) and provides both project-specific and general recommendations for improving future Indigenous engagement.

City staff and Innovation Seven engaged with Traditional Territory Holders, local Indigenous organizations, as well as Indigenous residents, to provide input on the JFI project engagement strategy and to shape the community planning policies for the Jane Finch area. The proposed framework will be presented to City Council in early 2024.

1.2. About Innovation Seven

Innovation Seven (I7), headquartered on the Traditional Territory of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, is 100% Indigenous owned. As a leader in Indigenous engagement and advisory services within Canada’s major infrastructure sector, we are committed to building longstanding, prosperous relationships across Indigenous communities, government, and private sector organizations.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe People (Love, Respect, Honesty, Courage, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth) are embodied in every aspect of our organization from strategic planning to goal setting, day-to-day client relationships, operations and our engagement initiatives.

At I7, we know what is required to create lasting change. Reconciliation cannot be achieved alone - it takes true collaboration. I7 provides a suite of integrated professional services that gives our clients and partners a seamless solution to their Indigenous consultation and reconciliation goals and needs. By combining our understanding of cultural, commercial, and community realities with the depth and breadth of the I7 network, we help facilitate change.

1.3. The I7 Team

Dale Booth
President & Owner

Vincent Kayseas
Consultant

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Consultant

Jennifer Smith
Senior Advisor & Facilitator

1.4. The Jane Finch Initiative

In 2020, Toronto City Council directed City staff to draft a set of community-informed land use policy directions and to a draft community development plan for the Jane Finch area. Staff drafted policy ideas within the following project themes:

- Arts and Culture
- Climate Action
- Community Service Facilities
- Heritage
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship Opportunities
- Land Use, Built Form and Urban Design
- Mobility – Getting Around
- Greening – a Parks and Public Realm Strategy



- Housing
- Inclusive Employment Opportunities
- Resources, Partnerships and Governance
- Social Development

The intent was to develop a pair of companion plans guiding growth and development so people and businesses are supported and thrive as the area changes over time, with the opening of the Finch West Light Rail Transit line. To further this goal, in 2022, City Council adopted the draft policy directions and subsequently directed City staff to produce a Community Development Plan and Secondary Plan & Urban Design Guidelines that advance:

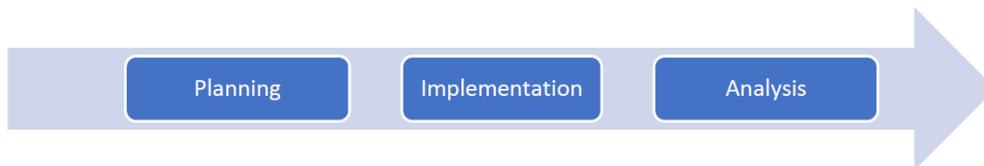
- social equity,
- economic inclusion,
- appropriate kinds of growth and development, and
- investment in community improvements.

As part of the JFI process, the City of Toronto (the City) partnered with I7 in 2022 to support and lead meaningful engagement with the City's urban Indigenous communities, as well as Treaty Holders and traditional caretakers of the lands in Jane Finch. This allowed for staff to embed Indigenous values and leverage opportunities that reflect the priorities of Indigenous communities in the proposed policies. I7's services included research and planning, strategic communications advice, outreach and meeting planning, facilitation, information collection, analysis, and reporting.

2. Engagement Strategy and Outreach Overview

As part of this project, it was important to develop a dedicated Indigenous engagement process. Through this approach, Indigenous communities were engaged on their specific areas of interest, shaping the project processes, themes, and policies, while ensuring benefits are derived from those engaged in the project.

The engagement process followed 3 guiding pillars:



2.1. Planning

Innovation Seven developed a list of Indigenous organizations and groups in and around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), building on the City of Toronto's pre-existing relationships. Those engaged represented their respective communities and helped ensure the consultation process incorporated Indigenous knowledge, focused on Indigenous interests potentially impacted by the project, and documented and considered these interests.

Primary goals of this approach were to strengthen relationships between Indigenous peoples and City staff and build City staff capacity to facilitate respectful and meaningful Indigenous engagement in future. The outreach list was organized into the following three groupings:



1. Treaty holders and traditional caretakers,
2. Indigenous residents, and
3. Agencies serving Indigenous communities and residents.

2.2. Implementation

Indigenous Outreach Prior to Partnership with I7

Engagement began with internal outreach with the City’s Indigenous Affairs Office about appropriate Indigenous engagement approaches to inform development of the engagement strategy. This included identification of Treaty Holders and traditional caretakers, effective outreach platforms and outlining a high-level outreach strategy. This was further shaped by Indigenous community members in the Jane Finch area, the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee and First Nations with historical ties to the Jane Finch area.

Initial external outreach consisted of emails to Treaty Holders and traditional caretakers of the study area with a letter inviting input on the project’s draft Indigenous Engagement Strategy and to meet with City staff to discuss how each Nation might like to shape the study and draft documents in the future. Appendix A contains a copy of the initial outreach letter sent to each Nation by the Jane Finch Initiative project team. The Nations included the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Huron-Wendat Nation.

Indigenous Outreach Following Partnership with I7

After further shaping the engagement strategy and outreach list, I7 followed the City’s initial outreach letters with emails and phone calls to Treaty Holders, traditional caretakers, Indigenous communities and Indigenous-focused organizations (see Table 1), inviting engagement on the project and future deliverables.

Table 1: Engagement Groups & Organizations

Outreach Parties	Contacts
Mississaugas of the Credit (Holders on Treaty 13)	Casey Jonathan, Jessica Maurice
Six Nations of the Grand River	Dawn Russell, Peter Graham, Lonny Bomberry, Lauren Vanderlingen
Huron-Wendat Nation	Dominic Ste-Marie
Jane Finch Community Advisory Committee	William Ballard, Mena Hervieux
Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council [TASSC]	Deanna Dillbough, Lindsay Kretschmer
Métis Nation of Ontario	Lands, Resources, and Consultations (LRC) team
Inuit Tapiriit Kanaatami	Nia Morris
York University Indigenous Students Association	ISAY Indigenous Student Association
SweetGrass Roots Collective	Jennifer LaFontaine, Emmy Pantin
Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business	General administration

In their first round of outreach, I7 completed 9 emails and 4 phone calls to the ten outreach groups with a total of 7 follow up emails and 3 follow up calls. Innovation Seven received 4 responses, of which 3 resulted in a meeting request.



The second round of outreach consisted of 5 emails to the groups and Innovation Seven received 1 response, which 1 resulted in a meeting request.

Given limited responses from the Indigenous organizations contacted and understanding their limited capacity to engage, I7 integrated JFI outreach with other meetings I7 had with representatives of these organizations on other I7 projects and aligned area studies with an Indigenous engagement stream. Following the pivot towards a more streamlined outreach approach, Innovation Seven discussed the project in 1 meeting, which did not result in any further communications. Once draft documents were available for review, City staff reached out to the ten engagement groups for input via email, a copy of which can be referenced in Appendix B.

Engagement Sessions

The engagement sessions were led by Innovation Seven, with support from City staff on the JFI team, between February 2023 and October 2023. Participants were able to choose their preferred means of engaging staff to maximize participation, including through in-person or virtual meetings, phone calls, or over email. All meetings were hosted virtually at participants' request. For a detailed timeline of Indigenous engagement activities from 2021 to 2023, refer to Appendix C. Appendix D contains detailed outline of outreach activities. The presentation deck delivered in the sessions providing a project introduction can be reviewed in Appendix E.

The engagement sessions were categorized as follows:

- **Primary Engagement Session(s):** initial introductory meetings with Indigenous groups to share project information and discuss how group(s) would like to be engaged in the study going forward.
- **Secondary Engagement Session(s):** follow-up opportunities to provide updates on identified areas of interest and listen to the advice, knowledge and wisdom shared.
- **Ad-Hoc Session(s):** further collaboration and information sharing to keep the lines of communication open for all participants.

Ongoing Communication with Engagement Groups

Following introductory meetings, as the study advanced, all engagement groups were kept updated on the status of project deliverables. Resident outreach was attempted through aligned initiatives in the area that had a strong Indigenous engagement component ([Update Downsview](#)). In November 2023, all parties were invited to provide input on the draft land use planning documents which included:

- [Jane Finch Secondary Plan \(draft November 2023\)](#)
- [Jane Finch Urban Design Guidelines \(draft November 2023\)](#)
- [Jane Finch Community Services and Facilities Strategy \(draft November 2023\)](#)
- [Jane-Finch Historic Context Statement](#) and [Appendix A: It Happened Here](#)

For a description of how input will continue to shape these materials, refer to section 6, Next Steps.

2.3. Analysis

Staff invited feedback on the engagement process, project themes and associated strategic directions. Comments received through this process directly informed:



- The community vision, which is shared across the land use planning framework update and Community Development Plan.
- The [Ideas Report](#), which provided directions for the draft policy documents.
- [Draft Secondary Plan policies](#) and [Community Development Plan actions](#).
- [Draft Urban Design Guidelines](#) and,
- I7's recommendations for future communications and outreach by the City of Toronto to Indigenous communities and Nations.

3. Engagement Findings

Input throughout the Indigenous engagement sessions focused on four areas. What was heard in these sessions is summarized below.

3.1. Parks and Public Realm Strategy

- Participants expressed desire for early, consistent and transparent information sharing, and early collaboration efforts.
- Participants were interested in specific geographies and projects such as the Northwest Cultural Trail and the Black Creek Ravine trail system. These were noted as potential opportunities for place-keeping and cultural expression, including providing and enhancing ceremonial spaces.
- Participants prioritized protecting the area's greenspace network.
- Important locations in the community include Black Creek Community Farm, which is the site of a wiigiwaam used for reflection and connection, and a fire pit used for ceremonies located south of York Woods Library, adjacent to the Black Creek Ravine trail.
- Jane Finch residents expressed desire to learn about and celebrate the area's Indigenous heritage, past and present, through signage and public art along trails and in public spaces.
- Residents want to support biodiversity and ecological integrity by planting native species and Indigenous medicines in manicured and naturalized landscapes.

3.2. Urban Design Guidelines

- Participants highlighted the urban design guidelines as an opportunity to incorporate important Indigenous design principles and requested to review and comment on the draft guidelines as soon as they became available. The draft document was shared on December 1st, 2023, along with the other draft study documents, once they were publicly available on the project website.
- Participants wondered how the City intends to inform residents regarding the region's original inhabitants. Participant suggestions included: awareness campaigns, such as learning events, and/or signage in strategic locations throughout the area describing its rich history as experienced by the First Nations inhabiting the region (e.g. Black Creek ravine was a place where Indigenous children played).
- Participants expressed desire for public art that reflects the area's Indigenous heritage and is conceived by/in partnership with local Indigenous artists and arts organizations.

3.3. Social and economic development initiatives, and partnership building

- Participants were primarily concerned with this topic and asked if Indigenous economic and social development programs would be a part of the policy development process. Of particular



interest was the provision of affordable housing, children's services, cultural and social services, and the use of land and community spaces for ceremonies.

- Participants inquired whether planned programs and initiatives would be Indigenous-centric or focus on other considerations.
- Participants asked about future population demographics and how the development of the LRT would impact area residents and businesses.

3.4. Historic Context

- Participants noted the area's role in hunting, fishing and mobility for the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the area historically and wondered how this might be honoured or celebrated.
- It was highlighted that the various study documents, in particular the Historic Context Statement, could speak to the Nanfan Treaty. Comments also clarified the timeframe in which Haudenosaunee peoples inhabited southern Ontario more accurately.

4. Policy Outcomes

The following section outlines how input received throughout the Indigenous engagement process is reflected in the draft study documents.

4.1. Jane Finch Initiative Ideas Report

In April 2022, City staff produced a report identifying [proposed policy directions](#) based on ideas heard throughout the first phase of engagement for the community's vision of the future of Jane Finch. Numerous proposed policy directions spoke to the input received from Indigenous individuals, as well as from the broader Jane Finch community, regarding the area's Indigenous history and place-keeping, including the History section and various policy directions. These policy directions included:

- **Explore opportunities to celebrate Indigenous cultures and histories in public spaces.**
 - Policy idea B24. "Continue to pursue consultation, collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous communities in the planning, design and development process in Jane and Finch".
 - Policy idea B25. "Explore opportunities through engagement with Indigenous communities for parks and public space improvements and protection of natural heritage to reflect and celebrate Indigenous identities and histories and be welcoming and supportive of Indigenous cultural practices".
- **Protect the Black Creek Ravine, invest in improvements to the trail system and crossings, and connect Jane and Finch to the City's wider ravine system.**
 - Policy idea B27. "Work with partners such as the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Evergreen to implement ravine and trail improvement projects, including:
 - building the proposed northerly extension of the existing Black Creek Trail, just north of Shoreham Drive, as part of the Northwest Cultural Trail project.
 - designing and building the Loop Trail, a continuous, 81-kilometre circular walking and cycling route that will pass through Jane and Finch along the Finch Hydro Corridor and Huron-Wendat Trail connecting the Jane and Finch area to the Humber River and Don River ravine systems and the waterfront."

- **Prioritize and centre equity-deserving groups.**
 - Policy idea J1. “Advance the development of a community development plan that anchors Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving residents’ ability to remain, benefit, and thrive in the context of neighbourhood change by leveraging strategies like the Reconciliation Action Plan and the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism”.
 - Policy idea J3. “Consult Indigenous communities, partners, organizations and leaders to explore opportunities for Indigenous land stewardship”.
 - Policy idea J6. “Explore community investment models that support existing Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving residents with complex needs”.
 - Policy idea J8. “Work with Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving resident-led organizations and resident leaders to identify specific actions to advance small-scale organizers and resident-led mutual aid mechanisms”.
 - Policy idea J10. “Work with City divisions and partners to explore opportunities for providing affordable and quality non-profit licensed childcare in ways that will impact the well-being and economic outlook of low income Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving households”.

- **Improve access to space.**
 - Policy idea J16. “Collaboratively develop actions focused on providing safe space and access to Indigenous, Black, racialized and newcomer +2SLGBTQI community groups and not for profits”.
 - Policy idea J18. “Conduct inventories of indoor and outdoor community spaces as a contribution to a proactive accessibility strategy for Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving youth and seniors”.
 - Policy idea J25. “Work with Children’s Services Division to identify opportunities to prioritize access to non-profit licensed childcare spaces for Black, Indigenous and equity-deserving group”.

- **Advance food justice and sovereignty.**
 - Policy idea J26. “Identify opportunities for alignment with the Reconciliation Action Plan to improve access to traditional foods and medicines through Indigenous land stewardship”.

- **Address gentrification and displacement**
 - Policy idea J40. “Identify opportunities to prioritize access to existing and new affordable housing for individuals and families of Black, Indigenous and equity-deserving groups in the Jane and Finch area”.

- **Invest in education, including ongoing STEAM and skilled trades training, employment skills and certification programs for residents.**
 - Policy idea L7. “Identify opportunities for City, community, and private sector partnerships to promote the participation of Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving groups in training related to growth sectors including ICT, green tech and creative industries”.

4.2. Draft Jane Finch Secondary Plan

Following City Council’s adoption of the Ideas Report in April 2022, Council directed City staff to return with a draft Official Plan Amendment, including a proposed [Secondary Plan](#) and Urban Design Guidelines. Through engagement, an Indigenous lens was applied to the Secondary Plan as follows:



Historic Context

- The non-policy text comprising the Historic Context (Secondary Plan Section 2) was shaped directly by Treaty Holders and traditional caretakers of the area. The historic context frames the area’s heritage as follows:

“Toronto including the Jane Finch area has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. Agricultural settlements were common near watercourses, a vital source of fresh water and nourishment. In the mid to late 15th century, an ancestral Wendat village surrounded by agricultural fields was located on a promontory overlooking the Black Creek just north of Finch Avenue West.

Following the negotiation of Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit in 1787 and again in 1805, the British Crown moved to colonize the land. Jane Street and Finch Avenue were surveyed as part of the expansive grid of concession roads to facilitate access to farm lots.

The colonial built form context of the Jane Finch area has been shaped by two significant periods of settlement: colonial settler agricultural development beginning in the early 1800s, and a post-1945 period of urban expansion.

Through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Jane Finch area developed into a farming landscape with small villages at crossroads: Kaiserville at Jane and Steeles, Elia at Keele and Finch and Emery at Weston and Finch. The area remained almost entirely agricultural until the middle of the 20th century”.

Vision and Goals

- The vision for Jane Finch includes a future where “Diverse communities remember, honour and share their histories, including their stories of working together to better their neighbourhoods”.
- Proposed Policy 3.1.e states that development in the Secondary Plan area will be guided by several goals including the need to “recognize, celebrate and commemorate Indigenous cultures and histories in public spaces”.

Public Realm

- Proposed Policy 6.5. outlines public realm priorities, including:
 - “e. pursuing partnerships to support the multi-functional role of the Finch Hydro Corridor as a significant open space offering recreational amenities, active transportation routes, opportunities for urban agriculture, and diverse habitats that link to the broader Natural Heritage System, while protecting for core utility functions”;
 - “g. balancing and enhancing the recreational and ecological functions of Black Creek by improving trails, wayfinding, access points and crossings, where appropriate, and by investing in conservation and restoration efforts”; and
 - “j. recognizing, respecting, celebrating and commemorating the distinct and diverse cultural heritage of the Plan Area through place naming, public art, wayfinding and interpretive features”;
- Proposed Policy 6.11 states
“Indigenous cultures and histories, including places of Indigenous presence previously unacknowledged, will be celebrated in parks and the public realm network through:
 - a. placekeeping, placemaking, public art, naming and other initiatives led by Indigenous communities in partnership with the City and other stakeholders;



- b. protecting and creating safe spaces for Indigenous cultural and ceremonial practices;
- c. increasing planting and identification of Indigenous foods and medicines; and
- d. maintaining and enhancing pedestrian and cycling connections to, from and on the Huron-Wendat Trail, located within the Finch Hydro Corridor, as an important active mobility and green corridor connecting to the Black Creek Valley”.
- Proposed Policy 6.14 connects the Plan area to the Natural Heritage System through “a network of existing and planned connections”, including:
 - “a. a trail extension north of Shoreham Drive to Steeles Avenue West to provide a continuous route to Downsview Park and a connection to the planned Northwest Cultural Trail;
 - b. new and improved access points into the ravine system;
 - c. interpretive signage, commemoration, and/or stewardship projects, in partnership with Indigenous communities, that increase public awareness of the Valley’s natural and cultural importance and contributes to enhancing the ecology of the Valley and supporting regeneration efforts; and
 - d. improvements to the Huron-Wendat Trail to have it form a segment of the Loop Trail, a planned multi-use trail that will form a continuous pedestrian and cycle ring route connecting neighbourhoods along the Finch hydro corridor to the Humber River and Don River ravine systems and to the waterfront”.

Community Development

- Proposed Policy 9.1. directs city staff to use the Jane Finch Community Development Plan (CDP) to “inform development review and the allocation of capital funding” to support Secondary Plan vision, goals and policy implementation. The Jane Finch CDP identifies social and economic development strategies to support communities as they evolve through new development, including by encouraging “social procurement and opportunities for entrepreneurs with an emphasis on businesses owned by Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving groups” (proposed policy 9.1.d.).
- Proposed Policy 9.31. supports the advancement of food access and sovereignty, directing open space on public lands to “prioritize inclusion of edible plantings, including traditional foods and medicines”. This policy also encourages “partnerships with Indigenous communities and local community groups to support sustainable stewardship and harvesting”.

Heritage

- Proposed Policy 10.2. states that the [Jane Finch Historic Context Statement](#) which was shaped directly through engagement with First Nations “provides important information on cultural heritage and the community’s unique sense of place that will inform how the community evolves into the future”.
- Proposed Policy 10.4. directs development proposals to use a “site-specific approach with additional consideration and design solutions”.
- Map 50-9 identifies “Places of Importance to the History of Community Organization and Activism”, including Black Creek Community Farm which is the site of the only known existing wiigiwaam in the community. Proposed policies 10.5. and 10.6 apply to this important cultural site as follows:
 - 10.5 Places of importance to the history of community organization and activism are identified on Map 50-9: Places of Importance to the History of Community Organization and Activism.
 - 10.6. Development on parcels with places of importance identified on Map 50-9 will be required to demonstrate, through a required planning rationale or Site Plan Control application, how it will consider the historical or cultural value of the site in the proposed

redevelopment plans. Applicants will be required to demonstrate how they plan to work with the local community to develop an interpretation and/or commemoration response.

4.3. Jane Finch Urban Design Guidelines

The draft Secondary Plan is accompanied by a set of [draft urban design guidelines](#) providing additional design direction for the area. The guidelines were shaped by engagement with Indigenous residents, traditional caretakers and Treaty Holders and include the following:

- Section 1.2 describes the Study Area, Settlement History and Area Character and was founded upon content from the area Heritage Context Statement, shaped directly by input from Indigenous engagement.
- Section 1.5 outlines the guiding themes for the document. Indigenous engagement primarily shaped the guidelines under the theme “Greening Jane Finch”:
“Jane Street today is anchored by its significant green assets. This includes its significant green assets, as big and expansive as the Black Creek Ravine, to its mature tree canopy, small playgrounds, and sports fields throughout the neighbourhood. In addition to parks, the neighbourhood is also home to several community gardens and urban agriculture initiatives, from the Black Creek Community Farm to local food justice activism. The Finch hydro corridor and landscaped edges framing streets like Jane Street also add to the overall green character of the neighbourhood today.

Throughout history up to present day, many spaces within this network are ones that people don’t feel safe in. It is critical that parks and the public realm respond to these inequities, through more diverse programming, new supportive amenities, and designs that ensure spaces are legible and safe. New or enhanced Green Pedestrian Connections that are safe and comfortable will also help connect these treasured assets – from parks to the ravine – together, creating a meaningful network of green spaces for all to feel welcome in.

Building on these existing attributes, the Greening theme will ensure that the Jane and Finch neighbourhood remains a green and diverse community with many accessible opportunities for residents to connect with nature”.

Natural Heritage and Sustainable Neighborhoods

- Proposed Guideline 2.1 regarding the Natural Heritage System and Water provides direction for protecting land and water in the area as well as encouraging additional and enhanced connections to the Black Creek Ravine lands and general environmental stewardship.
- Proposed Guideline 2.2.1 identifies Indigenous Place-Keeping as a vital component of sustainable neighbourhoods. Guidelines direct development to leverage opportunities to:
 - “1. Continue to provide opportunities in the public realm to strengthen Indigenous identity, such as for ceremony and cultural activities (e.g. Sacred Fires, Medicine Gardens) and implement them as permanent park assets. This applies to both parks and private development sites.
 - 2. Explore the establishment of additional Indigenous community gardens, which are Indigenous-led in the design, maintenance, and programming. a. Explore the potential

of using the existing firepit in the ravine behind York Woods library as a potential site for ceremony. This exploration should be done in collaboration with TRCA and relevant First Nations groups.

- 3. Reduce barriers to land and water, specifically in the Black Creek Ravine. Conduct consultation with Indigenous groups to identify specific locations for enhancements, creation of new connections, removal of barriers, and public realm strategies to improve safety.
- 4. Improve visibility and integration of Indigenous art at all scales.
- 5. Collaborate with the Indigenous Affairs Office to develop an approach to signage and wayfinding, such as integrating local Indigenous languages.”
- Proposed Guideline 2.3 supports community gardening and includes the following guidelines:
 - “2. Landscaping around new developments and redevelopments should prioritize the planting of Indigenous medicines, nuts and berries, as per the Reconciliation Action Plan.
 - 3. Prioritize the planting of Indigenous medicines, nuts and berries, as per the Reconciliation Action Plan.”

Public Art

- Proposed Guideline 3.2.3.1 provides direction to enhance the hydro corridor and Huron-Wendat Trail through the provision of:
 - “e. Public art installations or educational plaques”, and
 - “g. Areas to support local education, such as outdoor learning spaces with seating, or informative plaques about plantings, habitats, flora and fauna species, and Indigenous histories”.
- Proposed Guideline 3.3.1.5. suggests that “public art should be designed collaboratively and through consultation with Indigenous communities, as well as local artists, community members, historians, and organizations”.
- Proposed Guideline 3.3.1.6 identifies areas within the neighborhood with “unique opportunities for ‘signature’ art [that] should be priority areas for art implementation”, including:
 - “c. By ravine and trailheads: Acknowledge the Huron-Wendat Trail and celebrate the natural heritage of the ravine system”, and
 - “e. Black Creek Community Farm”.

In November 2023, a draft of these documents was released for public consultation and Indigenous engagement. The Secondary Plan and Urban Design Guidelines will continue to be refined by incorporating comments from Indigenous and broader engagement as they are received.

5. Engagement Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

As part of the learnings for this project, Innovation Seven has identified the following key considerations, risks and challenges with respect to the planning, conduct and reporting out of the JFI Indigenous engagement (see Table 2 below). In addition to the potential risks and mitigation strategies, I7 has also identified opportunities for advancing the outcomes of this proposed community development project.



Table 2: Key Project Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

Key Considerations/Challenges	Mitigating Strategy
<p>Project Complexity [JFI Implementation]</p> <p>City of Toronto has invested a great deal of time in developing and nurturing relationships with Indigenous people and communities in the region.</p>	<p>I7 brought together a multi-disciplinary team of experts with extensive experience working on complex public engagement projects with Indigenous peoples, communities and agreement holders – particularly to inform public priorities and program renewal.</p> <p>The JFI required engaging many diverse communities. During plan implementation, the City’s engagement processes need to be transparent to build and maintain trust-based relationships. Some of the input received relates to issues and areas beyond the geographic scope of the Jane Finch study area. Given the limited ability to act on all recommendations and priorities identified during the Indigenous engagement process, it is important to share the input received with other responsible divisions within the City of Toronto and manage participants’ expectations.</p>
<p>Outreach Strategy [City-wide Indigenous Engagement]</p> <p>Participant outreach proved challenging given the competing demands on the Indigenous representatives that the City of Toronto attempted to reach and engage.</p>	<p>I7 committed to engaging 10 Indigenous groups in the region. This proved to be more challenging than expected. Indigenous groups invited to participate in the process were frequently unresponsive to outreach attempts by City staff and Innovation Seven. This may be due to a lack of staffing capacity to engage, especially to provide input on a process without dedicated funding (see Capacity below).</p> <p>It is wise to establish relationships with Indigenous leaders and community representatives to build trust-based relations and to ensure that community leaders understand that their input will be reflected in these redevelopment initiatives. This often takes in-person, face-to-face meetings and more informal, ongoing discussions and engagements. As a contractor, Innovation 7 should, in the future, factor in time and cost associated with travelling to communities to have some of these discussions.</p> <p>In the future to address these challenges, outreach strategies should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing outreach and communications through the Band Manager / administrators • Using intermediaries to help reach Indigenous communities • Seeking in-person outreach opportunities, such as: local cultural/community events, career fairs and trade events.

Key Considerations/Challenges	Mitigating Strategy
<p>Capacity</p> <p>[JFI Implementation and City-wide Indigenous Engagement]</p> <p>Some Indigenous leaders and community representatives may not have capacity to participate in a timely way.</p>	<p>The City of Toronto was flexible in terms of scheduling and timelines.</p> <p>First Nations’ cultures and communities are diverse. In light of this, a ‘one size fits all’ approach will not work, and we recognized the need to tailor our methods for the individuals and communities concerned. In future engagements, cultural and historical factors need to be acknowledged by anyone who works closely with Indigenous peoples. Having a greater understanding of these backgrounds, will better position the City to appreciate both the current impacts these factors have on communities and how the City can work with Indigenous peoples in the future.</p> <p>In future City engagements, I7 recommends incorporating concepts from developmental evaluation supporting innovation and adaptation in dynamic environments where success is not only determined “by where we are but where we have come from and where we hope to be in the future”. Other engagement methods include mapping timelines and community mapping exercises. For example, an infographic timeline of past and future engagements will show the historical efforts and future opportunities. This inquiry can be presented through an online excerpt or mobile-friendly survey. This approach allows the focus and success to be measured based on the future. Community mapping or mind mapping – engagement methods provide opportunities to collaborate in finding options for redevelopment that are reflective of the area’s history, the Indigenous culture, ideas and needs.</p> <p>The City of Toronto is encouraged to find ways to support and build capacity for Indigenous representatives to participate in engagement initiatives including making available per diems to offset the costs of Indigenous persons getting involved and to honour the knowledge being shared and time and effort expended. Honoraria, which were available, are interpreted in a very specific way and are generally not sufficient to fund the level of support that may be required for more detailed policy review and input.</p>
<p>Streamline & Integrate Engagement</p> <p>[City-wide]</p> <p>Amalgamate engagement efforts, projects and messaging to gain communication efficiencies.</p>	<p>I7 recommends that the City re-evaluate its individual project-based Indigenous engagement approach.</p> <p>Many participants and Innovation Seven voiced that Indigenous peoples are over consulted and engaged by all levels of government. The City of Toronto alone has several projects that include Indigenous engagements ranging from community development, transportation, housing, corrections, social services,</p>



Key Considerations/Challenges	Mitigating Strategy
	<p>etc. The City should meet with potentially impacted Indigenous peoples, communities, Nations and representative organizations to seek feedback on how best to conduct future engagements to inform these redevelopment initiatives, with consideration for integrated engagement across large projects.</p> <p>Additionally, the City should consider dedicating staff for Indigenous Outreach and Engagement whose role would be to streamline and integrate Indigenous outreach and engagement across planning and community development projects. This would allow potentially impacted Indigenous Nations, communities and organizations to properly identify their engagement priorities and eliminate/reduce duplication of feedback resulting in more thoughtful engagement and a process that is respectful of the time and capacity of those the City seeks to engage.</p>

6. Next Steps

City of Toronto staff have indicated they will continue to receive and incorporate comments from all outreach groups where possible until the draft planning documents advance to Committees of Council in February 2024. At that time, all further comments will form part of the Committee and Council reporting cycle. City staff will summarize all comments received throughout Phase 3 into one final engagement report that will be attached to the Staff Reports accompanying the proposed policy documents to be considered by members of City Council.

As the project’s land use planning stream concludes, City staff have indicated that engagement on the study themes will continue through the Community Development Plan (CDP). CDP action implementation will be monitored, evaluated, and updated in consultation with community, including Indigenous communities, at regular intervals to allow for iterative and responsive funding, programming and partnership opportunities.



APPENDIX A: Initial Outreach Letter



October 15, 2021

Chief Stacey LaForme
Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
2789 Mississauga Road,
Hagersville, ON,
NOA 1H0

Re: Engagement in the Jane Finch Initiative

Dear Chief Stacey LaForme:

The City of Toronto has launched the Jane Finch Initiative, an inter-divisional project that will examine ways to focus and shape anticipated growth in neighbourhoods centred on the intersection of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West. Finch Avenue West is anticipated to undergo significant change and development in the coming years as an 18-stop light rail transit line is under construction between the TTC's Finch West Station and Humber College, with expected completion in 2023. Through an engagement process in which residents can help shape the planning of their community, the purpose of the Jane Finch Initiative is to leverage public investment in transit infrastructure for the benefit of local communities with people- and place-focused policies that speak to each other.

The Study Area includes the two City of Toronto neighbourhoods of Neighbourhood 24 – Black Creek and Neighbourhood 25 – Glenfield-Jane Heights. Illustrated in the attached map, it is roughly bounded by Highway 400 to the west, Steeles Avenue West to the north, Black Creek to the east, and Sheppard Avenue West and a portion of Black Creek to the south. The banks of Black Creek have been identified as having archaeological potential, and an important archaeological site, an ancestral Huron-Wendat village dating to approximately 1450, is just to the west of the study area. Anchored by the village site, the Huron-Wendat Trail runs through the area just north of Finch Avenue West.

Building on the work of [Keele Finch Plus](#), the Jane Finch Initiative will result in two companion documents:

- A Community Development Plan outlining partnerships, programs and initiatives that will support the social and economic development of existing and future communities, and
- An updated Land Use Planning Framework that will support the co-ordinated development of employment, residential and community uses; improve connections within the area and to surrounding neighbourhoods; identify improvements and expansions to parks and public spaces; and integrate the conservation of heritage resources into plans for the future.

While the study area has known ties to the Huron-Wendat, we wish to engage the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as the treaty holder for the area. During the Jane Finch Initiative, the City will ensure that the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation is engaged as it wishes to be engaged in the development of the Plans and that the voices and values of Indigenous communities or nations with rights or interests are reflected.

We can also share a draft Indigenous Engagement Strategy for your review and feedback. A member of our team will be contacting you soon to determine appropriate next steps. In the meantime, if you have any initial comments or would like to know more about the Jane Finch Initiative, please don't hesitate to contact **Zahra Joseph-Wilson, Assistant Planner**, at Zahra.Joseph-Wilson@toronto.ca or



416-338-0775. If it would be helpful, City staff would be pleased to meet for the purpose of presenting the project to date and listening to any advice.

Additional information about the study and online participation opportunities can be found at www.toronto.ca/janefinch.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Farncombe", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Farncombe,
Project Manager,
City Planning Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Smith", written over a horizontal line.

John Smith,
Manager,
Social Development, Finance
& Administration Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Rosen", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Rosen,
Senior Policy Advisor,
Economic Development &
Culture Division

Attachment: Study Area Map

APPENDIX B: Follow Up Email Regarding Draft Secondary Plan Input



Zahra Joseph-Wilson

From: Zahra Joseph-Wilson
Sent: December 1, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Peter Graham; Lonny Bomberry; dawnrussell@sixnations.ca; Lauren Vanderlingen
Cc: Vincent Kayseas; Sagaki Armitage-Smith; Leah Birnbaum; Andrew Farncombe
Subject: Jane Finch Initiative: Draft Planning Documents Now Available for Input

Greetings Peter, Lonny, Dawn and Lauren,

Through [Innovation 7](#) (copied), the City of Toronto has been engaging Treaty Holders, traditional caretakers, Indigenous residents, and Indigenous-serving agencies on the Jane Finch Initiative. In our previous meetings, we discussed reaching out once a draft Secondary Plan was available for input. I am pleased to inform you that draft planning framework documents for the Jane Finch area are now available for your review and feedback on the [project website](#). These documents (and policies of potential interest) include:

- [Jane Finch Secondary Plan \(draft November 2023\)](#)
 - Historic Context (Section 2)
 - Vision and Goals (Policy 3.1)
 - Area Structure (Policy 4.1)
 - Public Realm (Policies 6.5, 6.10, 6.11, 6.13, 6.14)
 - Community Development (Policies 9.1, 9.31)
 - Heritage (Section 10)
- [Jane Finch Urban Design Guidelines \(draft November 2023\)](#)
 - 1.2 Study Area, Settlement History and Area Character
 - 1.5 Guiding Themes
 - 2.1 Natural Heritage System and Water
 - 3.1 Gateways and Views
 - 3.3 Public Art
- [Jane Finch Community Services and Facilities Strategy \(draft November 2023\)](#)
- [Jane-Finch Historic Context Statement](#) and [Appendix A: It Happened Here](#)

You are invited to review and provide input on the draft Secondary Plan, draft Urban Design Guidelines and related documents by **Friday, December 22nd, 2023**. Honoraria are available to support your review and there are three ways to provide your feedback:

1. Send us an **email** at janeфинch@toronto.ca
2. Call us by **telephone** at 416-338-0775
3. **Request a meeting** with the project team by emailing or calling us. Time slots are available weekday afternoons **from Monday, December 4th to Wednesday, December 20th, 2023**.

Also available online are the [Information Boards](#) for the Jane Finch Initiative Public Meeting #5, held in-person and virtually from November 25th to 30th, 2023.

Through the Jane Finch Initiative, the City of Toronto is developing an updated planning framework for the Jane Finch area that advances social equity and economic inclusion for current and future residents, encourages the appropriate kinds of growth and development, and guides investment in community improvements. This framework will include a proposed Official Plan Amendment (OPA) including a new secondary plan for the area, which will advance to City Council through the Etobicoke York Community Council in early 2024. The OPA will be accompanied by a Jane Finch Community Development Plan.

As part of this process, **Innovation 7** will summarize all input on the draft documents received through the project's Indigenous engagement stream in a final engagement report to be shared publicly. Indigenous engagement to-date on the land use planning framework update has highlighted a desire to: celebrate the story of place in the public realm; protect and enhance access to land and water; provide prominent and accessible sites for ceremony; and leverage opportunities to connect future landmark local community facilities to the City's wider parks and trails network.

Broader community engagement on the project is through a collaboration with the [Jane/Finch Centre](#). Summaries of consultation events undertaken to date can be found [here](#). Our engagement process has been structured in three phases:

- Phase 1 involved taking stock of existing conditions, establishing priorities, and creating a vision and guiding principles, which included release of a [Background Report](#) (2021)
- Phase 2 involved community conversations on a range of policy directions for the area, outlined in the [Jane Finch Initiative Ideas Report](#) (2022-23)
- Phase 3, our current and final phase of work, includes refining our draft planning framework based on public and stakeholder input before recommending it for adoption by City Council.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Zahra Joseph-Wilson

Planner, Strategic Initiatives

416-338-0775

City Planning Division | City of Toronto

APPENDIX C: Indigenous Engagement Timeline

Date	Engagement Activity	Groups Engaged	Follow Up Actions
June 24, 2021	CAC member recruitment Invitations mailed to all study area residential and business addresses and posted to city, partner and local Indigenous community social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Finch community members Indigenous residents City-wide 	Participation was prioritized for Jane Finch community members who applied and self-identified. Members then provided input on the Indigenous engagement strategy.
October 20, 2021	Letters to Treaty Holders and traditional caretakers Project introduction and invitation to shape the engagement strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations) Huron-Wendat First Nation (HW) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2022 MCFN requested further information April 2022 City staff replied to MCFN's request via formal letter and email
March 8, 2022	Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee Presentation (AAAC) Project introduction and invitation to shape the draft Indigenous engagement strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAAC membership Speakers: Katherine Gandy, Tiffaney Malley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2022 Outreach to AAAC member Frances Sanderson regarding suggested facilitators (no response received).
April 16 and 23, 2022	Black Creek Walks Talks & Dances Cultural walking tours throughout the Black Creek Ravine lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents throughout Jane and Finch 	
November 2022	Partnership with I7 begins		
February 17, 2023	Six Nations Introductory Meeting	Six Nations staff and an elder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 11, 2023 Follow up email to Six Nations with updates on the North West Cultural Trail
April 30, 2023	SweetWater Local Indigenous art installation and closing ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SweetGrass Roots Collective Grandmother Vivian Jane Finch Residents Myseum Toronto staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 5, 2023 Email to Star Nahwegahbo (SweetGrass Roots Collective) about Indigenous and arts engagement on JFI
June 14, 2023	TASSC Introductory Meeting	TASSC administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 29, 2023 I7 meeting request sent
June 27, 2023	MCFN Introductory Meeting	MCFN staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 18, 2023 Follow up email to MCFN about availability of funding to support material review
August 15, 2023	I7 update to JF Community Advisory Committee	Full CAC membership	
August 18, 2023	Six Nations Update Meeting	Six Nations staff and an elder	
December 1, 2023	Draft Study Documents Update and Input Request Email letter inviting input (in writing or a meeting) on the draft study documents available for review , highlighting policies, guidelines and actions addressing Indigenous themes and input received.	Full project Indigenous engagement contact list (9 Nations and groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 11 Jennifer LaFontaine indicated intent to provide comments December 14 Six Nations feedback received

APPENDIX D: Innovation Seven JFI Engagement Log

Date	Purpose	Format	Recipient(s)	Reply	Notes
01/06/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Six Nations	Yes	Six Nations request meeting, I7 requested Feb 17
01/06/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Huron-Wendat First Nation (HW)	None	No Response
01/06/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFM)	Yes	June 20, 2023 - J. Maurice indicated interest in meeting on June 27; i7 to coordinate.
01/16/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	HW	None	No Response
01/16/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	MCFN	None	No Response
02/10/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Six Nations	Yes	Dawn Russel confirmed Feb 17/'23 meeting date
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)	None	No Response
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Phone	TASSC	None	No Response; VoiceMail for call-back
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Social Media	Sweet Grass Roots Collective	None	No Response; No phone or email for formal contact/outreach
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Metis Nation of Ontario	None	No Response
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Phone	Metis Nation of Ontario	None	No Response; VoiceMail for call-back
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Email	Inuit Tapiriit Kanaatami	None	No Response
02/13/2023	Initial outreach	Phone	Inuit Tapiriit Kanaatami	None	No Response; VoiceMail for call-back
02/14/2023	Initial outreach	Phone	TASSC	None	No Response; VoiceMail for call-back
02/15/2023	Initial outreach	Email	York University Indigenous Students Association	None	No Response; cissinfo@yorku.ca, maraclel@yorku.ca, maraclel@yorku.ca
02/17/2023	Primary meeting	Virtual	Six Nations	Yes	Virtual meeting: Six Nations, City, I7
02/17/2023	Primary meeting	Virtual	MCFN	Yes	Virtual meeting: MCFN, City, I7
02/28/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	HW	Yes	D. Ste. Marie interested in meeting; i7 to coordinate.
04/26/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	TASSC	None	No Response; email sent to info@tassc.ca
05/18/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	TASSC	None	No Response; email sent to info@tassc.ca
05/23/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	Metis Nation of Ontario	Yes	D. Dillbough redirected I7 to Lands Division
05/23/2023	Follow up outreach	Phone	Metis Nation of Ontario	Yes	No reply from Lands Division; VoiceMail left
05/23/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	Inuit Tapiriit Kanaatami	None	No Response
05/23/2023	Follow up outreach	Phone	Inuit Tapiriit Kanaatami	None	No Response
05/23/2023	Follow up outreach	Phone	Inuit Tapiriit Kanaatami	None	No response; VoiceMail for call-back
05/23/2023	Initial outreach	Email	TASSC	None	L. Kretchmer, Executive Director
05/24/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	TASSC	Yes	LK responded with an invitation to meet
05/24/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	TASSC	Yes	i7 proposed meeting date(s) to LK
05/25/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	TASSC	Yes	LK responded with an invitation to meet
05/25/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	TASSC	Yes	i7 proposed meeting date(s) to LK
06/06/2023	Follow up outreach	Email	Metis Nation of Ontario	None	No reply from Lands Division; VoiceMail left

APPENDIX E: Engagement Presentation



Jane Finch Initiative

Presentation to Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation | June 2023

Agenda

- Jane Finch Initiative Overview
- Discussion: How would MCFN like to shape this work?
- Next Steps



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land within the Jane and Finch area is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). In addition, it is acknowledged that Toronto has historically been a gathering place for many Indigenous people including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to diverse First Nation, Inuit, and Metis peoples.

The Jane Finch Initiative

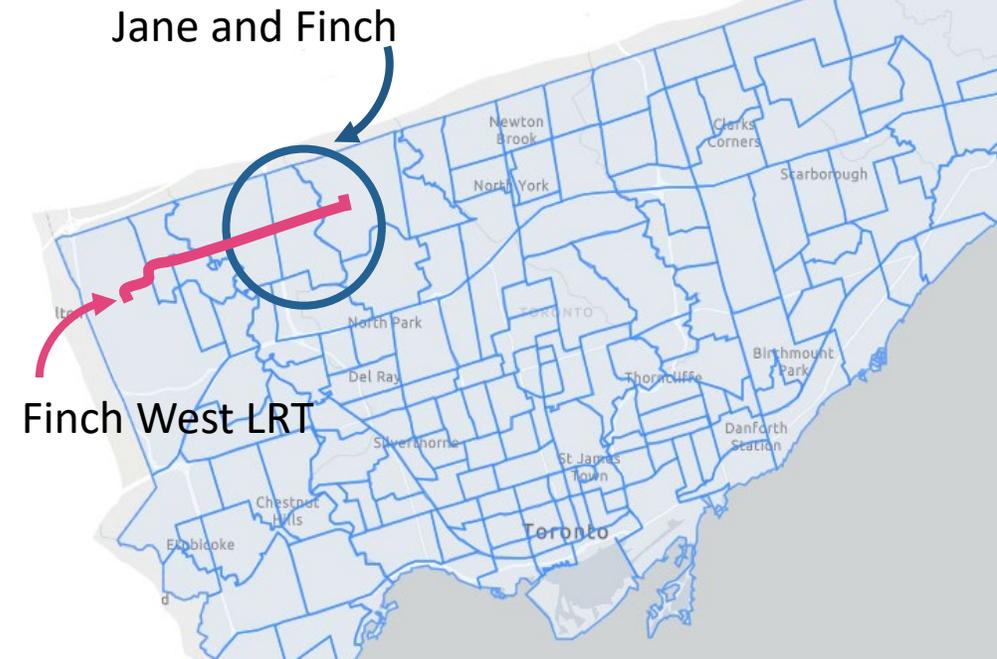
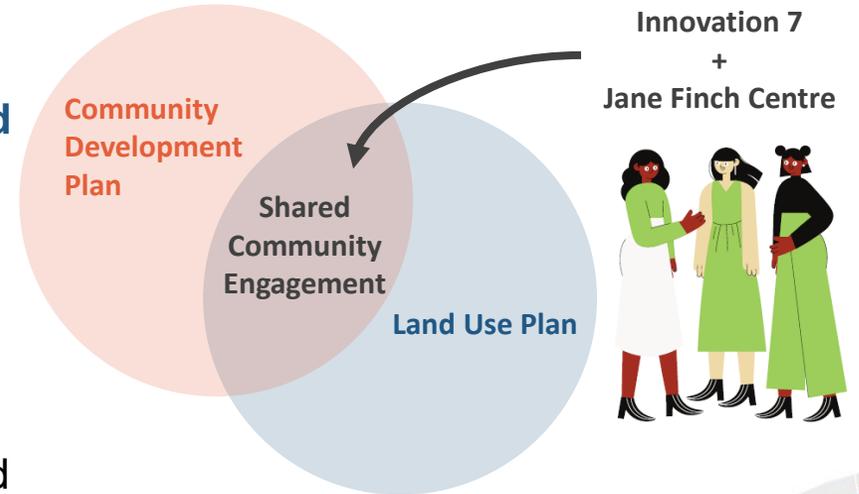
The City of Toronto is developing two community-informed plans – a **land use plan** and a **community development plan** – to support local residents and businesses through growth and change ahead of the opening of the Finch West Light Rail Transit line in 2023.

These plans will:

- advance social equity and economic inclusion,
- encourage the appropriate kinds of development in the area, and
- guide investment in community improvements.

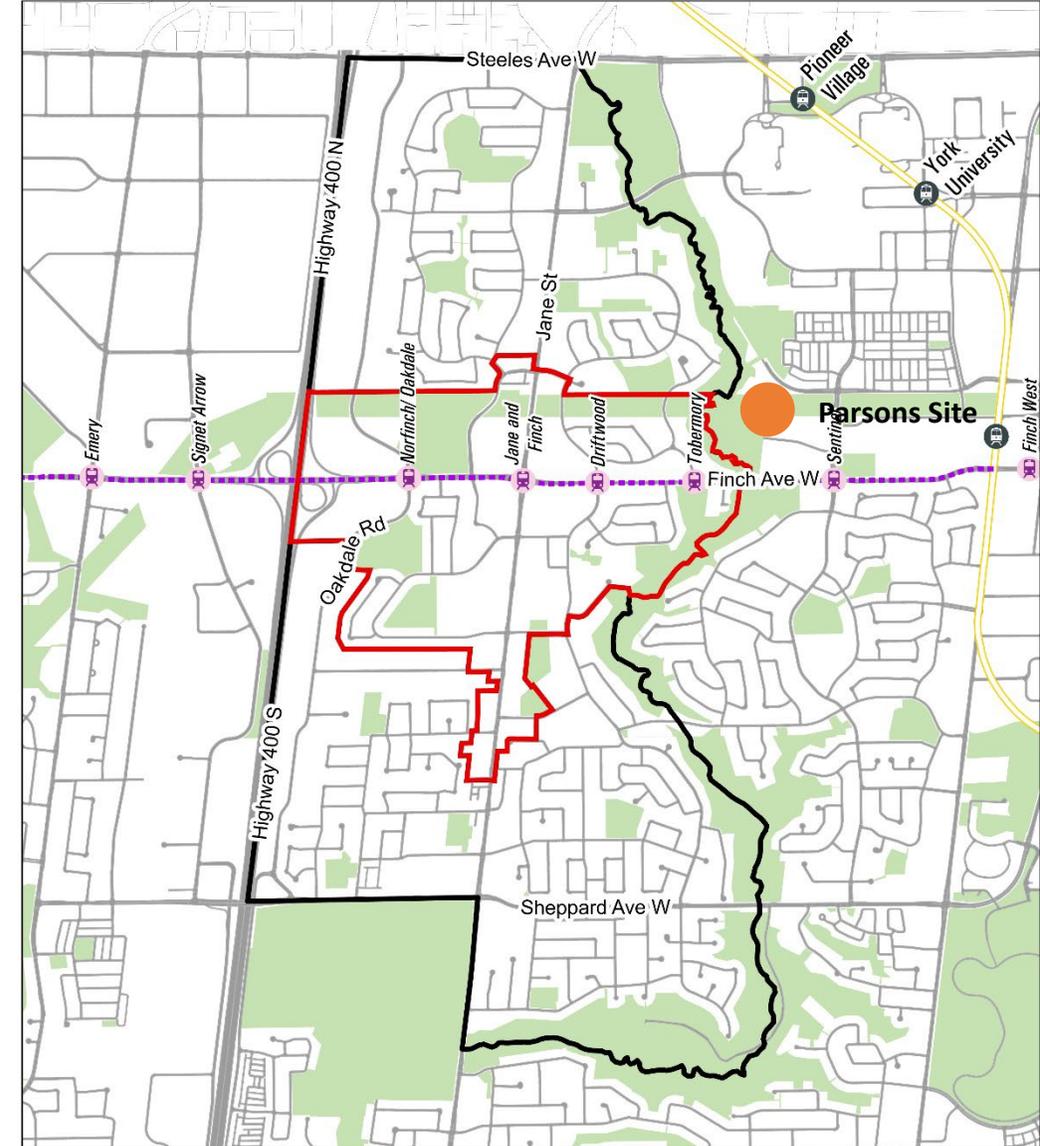
Building on related city work:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Toronto Heritage Survey
- Confronting Anti-Black Racism Action Plan
- Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy
- RapidTO: Jane Street rapid transit
- Finch West Goods Movement Plan
- Firgrove-Grassways Revitalization
- ConnectTO
- Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts
- Community Music School



Study Area

- Secondary Plan policies will be scoped to the intersection, where growth will be concentrated
- 2016 Census recorded **365 Indigenous residents** out of a total 52,235 people living in Jane and Finch
- Nearby are the **remains of a 15th-century ancestral Wendat village**, a significant and well-documented archaeological site known to archaeologists as the Parsons Site



TORONTO

Jane Finch Initiative
Draft Secondary Plan Area

- Draft Secondary Plan Area
- Study Area
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Finch West LRT Line
- Finch West LRT Stations
- Subway Stations
- Subway Line

Process



Indigenous engagement with 3 groups

Treaty holders & original caretakers

Residents

Indigenous community-serving agencies

Build relationships, respect, learn, reflect and reconcile by:

- Contacting and seeking input from First Nations and original caretakers (Oct. 2021)
- Ensuring Indigenous membership on the Jane Finch Community Advisory Committee (Ongoing)
- Confirming our approach with the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (Mar. 2022)
- Engaging Innovation 7 to co-design and facilitate an Indigenous outreach plan (Ongoing)
- Participating in local Indigenous events (Ongoing)
- Identifying areas of interest and input opportunities with First Nations and original caretakers and with Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) (Ongoing)

Priorities and Opportunities



Priorities from Indigenous residents

- Affordable living
- Safe communities
- Indigenous inclusivity and consultation
- Community development and sustainability
- Indigenous economic development initiatives
- Functional greenspaces for cultural and environmental stewardship

What is up for influence?

The Jane Finch Initiative is not a construction project; it's a process to update City policy that will guide future land development and construction. The opportunities may include:

- Providing opportunities for prosperity
- Celebrating local heritage and diversity
- Protecting access to land and water
- + opportunities identified in engagement

What would we be asking you to provide input on?

- The Parks and Public Realm Strategy (e.g. space for ceremony, identifying important sites, public art locations etc.)
- The Urban Design Guidelines (e.g. incorporation of Indigenous design principles that are important to Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation)
- Social development programs, economic development opportunities, supports for local artists and art organizations, and partnership building

Thank you!

Innovation 7

Dale Booth

dbooth@innovation7.ca

613-316-8256

City of Toronto

Zahra Joseph-Wilson

Zahra.Joseph-Wilson@toronto.ca

416-338-0775



APPENDIX F: JFI Six Nations Primary Engagement Summary

February 17, 2023 12:00PM – 1:00PM Virtual via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

JFI Indigenous Engagement Session – Six Nations | City of Toronto, Six Nations, Innovation Seven (I7)

Attendees

Name	Organization
Zahra Joseph-Wilson	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI engagement lead
Andrew Farncombe	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI land use plan
Samantha Giguere	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI heritage
Gary Miedema	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI heritage lead
Dawn Russell	Six Nations
Lauren Vanderlingen	Six Nations
Peter Graham	Six Nations
Lonny Bomberry	Six Nations
Dale Booth	Innovation Seven
Vincent Kayseas	Innovation Seven

Meeting Summary and Purpose

The City of Toronto’s Jane Finch Initiative (JFI) team is looking to engage with the Traditional Territory Holders in the Jane Finch Initiative, which focuses on the development and future of the Jane and Finch area. This was an initial and primary engagement meeting for the JFI Team, I7 and Six Nations to introduce and discuss the JFI Project and how Six Nations wishes to engage in the project. Six Nations indicated interest in reviewing the project deliverables when available and requested an update on the Northwest Cultural Trail.

Overview

Item	Description	Action
1.0	JFI Team opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and round-table introductions of the JFI and I7 team members.	<i>nil</i>
1.1	JFI Team presented Six Nations representative Dawn Russel with a project deck explaining the project, its current activities and expected outcomes.	<i>nil</i>
1.2	Six Nations indicated interest in the Northwest Cultural Trail and Black Creek & Valley areas for potential place-keeping and cultural expression opportunities.	<i>nil</i>
1.3	Six Nations expressed concern regarding protecting greenspace within the project area and they would like to be kept informed of the plans as the project progresses.	<i>nil</i>
1.4	Six Nations are interested in the plans or strategy on how the City intends to inform the residents and community at large regarding how the original inhabitants of the region lived and how those contrast with Aboriginal residents today - this could be accomplished through an official acknowledge of the original inhabitants of the region through awareness campaigns such as signage and/or providing learning opportunities in a compelling and on-going manner that outlives the project	<i>nil</i>
1.5	Six Nations (Peter) would like further information surrounding where the Cultural trail extension will go, what are the plans for this section? Zahra will follow up	<i>JFI</i>

APPENDIX G: JFI TASSC Primary Engagement Summary

June 14, 2023 4:00PM 4:30PM Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes JFI Primary Engagement Meeting | TASSC, Innovation Seven (I7), City of Toronto

Attendees

Name	Organization
Zahra Joseph-Wilson	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI engagement lead
Susan Kitchen	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI community services and facilities lead
Jedrek So	City of Toronto – Social Development, Finance and Administration, JFI community development plan representative
Leah Birnbaum	City of Toronto – City Planning, JFI land use plan lead
Lindsay Kretschmer	TASSC
Dale Booth	Innovation Seven
Wendy Jocko	Innovation Seven
Vincent Kayseas	Innovation Seven
Sagaki Armitage-Smith	Innovation Seven

Meeting Summary and Purpose

The City of Toronto engaged TASSC to connect with local Indigenous organizations and their residents on the Jane Finch Initiative (JFI). This was an initial and primary engagement meeting with the JFI team, I7 and Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) to introduce the Project and discuss how TASSC would like to be engaged in the project. The meeting resulted in an invitation to a future meeting to present the draft documents to broader TASSC membership for their input and support outreach to clients served by the member organizations, as well as signal booting to other urban Indigenous organizations, for Indigenous engagement on the project.

Overview

Item	Description	Action
1.0	JFI team opened with a land acknowledgement and round-table introductions.	<i>nil</i>
1.1	JFI Team presented TASSC representative Lindsay Kretschmer with a project deck explaining the project, its current activities and expected outcomes.	<i>nil</i>
1.2	TASSC inquired if the JFI team had engaged the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC). JFI engaged the AAAC and Indigenous Affairs Office in 2022.	<i>nil</i>
1.3	JFI inquired about TASSC meeting frequency and if external groups, specifically the JFI team, could attend given sufficient notice. To avoid rushing the process, TASSC agreed this is possible and they will be planning a full TASSC membership meeting in late Sept '23. Due to scheduling conflicts, a follow-up meeting with the TASSC group was not possible.	TASSC
1.4	JFI asked about TASSC members themes of interest. TASSC noted likely areas include Housing, Census Reach, Better Services/Programs, Use of Space & Land as well as ideas or strategies surrounding expanding Social Services.	<i>nil</i>
1.5	Meeting adjourned at 12:28PM	<i>nil</i>



APPENDIX H: JFI MCFN Primary Engagement Summary

June 27, 2023 12:00PM – 1:00PM Virtual via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Jane Finch Initiative Primary Engagement Meeting | MCFN, Innovation Seven (I7), City of Toronto

Attendees

Name	Organization
Zahra Joseph-Wilson	City of Toronto – JFI Team
Leah Birnbaum	City of Toronto – JFI Team
Dan Rosen	City of Toronto – JFI Team
John Smith	City of Toronto – JFI Team
Jessica Maurice	MCFN
Dale Booth	Innovation Seven
Vincent Kayseas	Innovation Seven
Sagaki Armitage-Smith	Innovation Seven

Meeting Summary and Purpose

The City of Toronto's is looking to engage with Treaty holders and Traditional caretakers of the Jane Finch area in the Jane Finch Initiative. This primary engagement meeting between the JFI team, I7 and MCFN provided a project overview and discussion on if/how MCFN would like to be involved in the project. This meeting resulted in City staff exploring the potential to provide funding to Indigenous Nations to support study document review (separate from meeting participant honoraria).

Overview

Item	Description	Action
1.0	JFI team began with a land acknowledgement and round-table introductions.	<i>nil</i>
1.1	JFI team presented MCFN representative Jessica Maurice with a project deck explaining the project, its current activities and expected outcomes.	<i>nil</i>
1.2	MCFN inquired if the JFI team could provide documentation surrounding the project, such as the Phase 2 Ideas Report, and any other relevant project documents that will better inform MCFN.	<i>JFI (06-29-23)</i>
1.3	MCFN inquired if economic and social development opportunities would be a part of the policy, JFI responded that there would be provisions in place to address those areas through general strategic direction, these strategic directives might include programming that specifically identifies entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.	<i>nil</i>
1.4	MCFN inquired if those program directives would be geared towards specifically Indigenous businesses or would this be more of a generalized program approach? JFI indicated that there aren't Jane & Finch indigenous population-specific actions, so the approach would be more generalized action to link local candidates to city incubator programs including the Indigenous Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.	<i>nil</i>
1.5	MCFN asked about 'capacity funding' and JFI confirmed that there would be funding made available.	<i>JFI (18-08-23)</i>
1.6	Meeting Adjourned 11:38am	<i>nil</i>



APPENDIX I: SweetWater - Myseum Intersections Festival Event Summary

April 30, 2023, 2:00pm - 6:00pm Black Creek Community Farm (public event)

Attendees

Name	Organization
Zahra Joseph-Wilson	City of Toronto – JFI Team
Emmy Pantin, Jennifer LaFontaine	Sweet Grass Roots Collective

Meeting Summary and Purpose

Indigenous outreach and relationship building for the Jane Finch Initiative.

Overview

Item	Description	Action
1.0	ZJW attended a local Indigenous art installation and closing ceremonies produced by Sweet Grass Roots Collective in partnership with Myseum Sunday April 30 th at Black Creek Community Farm; (~30) in attendance despite persistent rain	<i>nil</i>
1.1	Personal stories and statements accompanied mounted maple tapping buckets decorated by the artists and speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • history of maple syrup and its relationship with the Sweet Water Moon • effects of maple as medicine • celebrating culture, finding community off the reservation, being a steward of the land 	<i>nil</i>
1.2	Closing ceremony – began with smudging, storytelling with Grandmother Vivian about personal relationship to the land and moon + her experiences during the 60’s Scoop, ceremonial ingesting of hot sweet water and heart berries (strawberries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Creek Community Farm = important gathering space to connect with nature (trees, stream, chickens and food growing space) + covered seating area with outdoor oven; also, location of a wiigwaam for contemplation and connection 	<i>nil</i>
1.3	Relationship building - spoke with Emmy Pantin and Jennifer LaFontaine of Sweet Grass Roots Collective + Sarah Tumaliuan from Myseum about the event itself as well as the JFI; told to connect with Star Nahwegahbo (starnahwegahbo@gmail.com), who organized the exhibit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Followed up with Nahwegahbo Friday, May 5 via email to connect about Indigenous and arts engagement on JFI, copied Innovation Seven 	<i>nil</i>

APPENDIX J: Six Nations of the Grand River - Secondary Engagement Summary

August 16, 2023, 10:00AM – 11:30AM Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes Six Nations Follow-up Meeting | City of Toronto, Six Nations, Innovation Seven (I7)

Attendees

Organization	Name
City of Toronto	Zahra Joseph-Wilson, Andrew Farncombe, Samantha Giguere, Gary Miedema
Six Nations of the Grand River	Dawn Russell, Lonny Bomberry, Tayler Hill, Phil Monture, Tanya Hill-Montour, Peter Graham, Daylon Gee, Lauren Jones, Trevor Bomberry
Innovation Seven	Dale Booth, Vincent Kayseas

Meeting Summary and Purpose

Follow-up meeting with Six Nations to provide updates on project progress and policy document drafting. City staff presented draft ideas and will share draft documents when available. Six Nations indicated desire to continue providing input on the draft materials but highlighted capacity constraints for ongoing engagement beyond the initiative and the need for better engagement plan coordination for meaningful participation.

Overview

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Phil noted that at first glance the CDP actions seem reasonable and achievable but noted the number of City projects that Six Nations has been commenting on presents a real strain on their resources, without providing tangible benefits to Six Nations residents and community members. There is a strong desire to coordinate engagement efforts into a streamlined approach.	Nil
1.1	There is insufficient capacity at present for the Six Nations to contribute to a long-term Partnership Circle but there is some desire to help shape the CDP work. Investment is required to maintain partnerships.	Nil
1.2	Peter noted a frustration that where is still not an approach to providing capacity funding for input, especially on larger projects and EAs. Smaller municipalities have been able to provide capacity funding and yet the City of Toronto still does not have clear direction on this matter.	Nil
2.0	<p>Other general feedback on the presented materials included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for more ravine access points, understanding that this needs to be balanced with ecological preservation/environmental protection • Depending on the wildlife in the ravine, food access and sovereignty can be supported by providing exclusive access to Indigenous residents for a set range of dates (few days) each year for hunting and fishing. • Detailed guidance on placekeeping/placemaking should be included in the developing planning framework documents to reduce the amount of individual application consultation required on development proposals throughout the secondary plan area. Peter would like to provide a Six Nations review when those are available. 	Nil

2.1	City staff noted that although not technically capacity funding, staff have budgeted for the provision of honoraria for this work in the interim. Peter indicated that this can be discussed further once draft documents are shared.	Nil
2.2	<p>Next Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City to share presentation (attached) and Planning Framework Information Boards 2. City staff to share draft policy documents once available for review including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Community Development Plan • Draft Parks and Public Realm Plan • Draft Urban Design Guidelines • Draft Secondary Plan • Six Nations to comment on draft documents and connect with Innovation Seven regarding provision of honoraria 	Nil

APPENDIX K: JFI Record of Consultation – Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee

March 8, 2022 [Virtual via WebEx](#)

Participants

City of Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)	Cynthia Bell-Clayton, Leonard Benoit, Nora Boyer, Suzanne Brunelle, Andrea Chrisjohn, Isaac Crosby, Larry Frost, Pamela Hart, Tracey King, Millie Knapp, Ruth Koleszar-Green, Chris Lefebvre, Christine Luza, Saige McMahon, Angus D. Palmer, Patricia Pettigrew, Frances Sanderson, Jeffrey Schiffer, Tristen Schneider, Tanya Senk, Suzanne Stewart, Steve Teekens, Bryan Winters (with Councillor Mike Layton and Nancy Martin)
Speakers	Katherine Gandy Tiffany Malley
City of Toronto Jane Finch Initiative Team	Zahra Joseph-Wilson

Notes

- City staff gave a [presentation](#) on the Jane Finch Initiative’s [draft Indigenous Engagement Strategy](#) and sought feedback from the Committee on the proposed strategy.
- Katherine Grandy asked about the city’s process for selecting an Indigenous Engagement consultant. ZJW explained the Request for Quotes process and noted the list of invited firms was developed in consultation with other City divisions, including the Indigenous Affairs Office.
- Tiffany Malley requested that the Committee create a parallel engagement table to coordinate public consultation across city projects to make civic engagement opportunities more easily accessible and reduce consultation fatigue.
- Member Frances Sanderson noted that in future it would be prudent to consult the AAAC to provide additional options for consultant lists. City staff reached out to follow up with the member for additional input on the list but received no response.
- The Strategy was received by the Committee for information and no further action was required.

