

East Bayfront CRC: Indigenous Naming

**Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee
July 29, 2025**

Agenda – Why are we here?

- Bestow the East Bayfront Recreation Centre with an Indigenous language name
- Build connections – both new and pre-existing, find opportunities for programming
- Find opportunities for gathering, ceremony, and celebrating Indigenous cultures along the waterfront
- Plan for future generations
- Honour the water and its significance
- Address policy gaps and contradictions
- Build relationships, and address lack of previous Indigenous engagement



Background – How did we get here?

Why name the East Bayfront Community Recreation Centre?

- Build relationships with Indigenous organizations and communities in Toronto
- Strengthen Treaty relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Honour Indigenous languages and cultures
- Help promote visibility and learning opportunities
- Respond to RAP actions (#2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19): Reconciliation Action Plan – City of Toronto
- Council direction to support this action: Agenda Item History - 2025.TE20.45
- City of Toronto’s Commemorative Naming Framework: Commemorative Framework – City of Toronto

What other Indigenous initiatives are underway in the surrounding area?

- Programming at Biidaasige Park
- Lower Don/”Wonscotonach” Naming
- Placekeeping on the Toronto Islands

Background – What's in the CRC?

Recreation Programs for the new Community Recreation Centre (CRC) include:

Gymnasium

- double gym with mezzanine running track
- bleacher seating
- storage
- gender-neutral washrooms and lockers

Multi-purpose spaces

- activity rooms
- multi-purpose rooms
- dance studio
- storage

Public/administrative support spaces

- community kitchen
- washrooms
- lobby/reception
- staff room
- administrative workspace
- recycling/custodial space
- maintenance office
- mechanical/electrical space



Project Timeline – Indigenous Naming

Setting the Stage

- *Pre-Engagement phase*
- Develop ideas and timelines for engagement
- Propose plan to AAAC and MCFN for feedback

Community Engagement

Grounding and Preparation

- Develop Community Charter
- Prepare site for welcome
- Begin staff training
- Build partnerships

Place Based Relationship Building

- Invite groups to experience the space
- Share knowledge
- Program and encourage connections
- Preliminary name exploration

Coordinating Insights and Honouring Naming

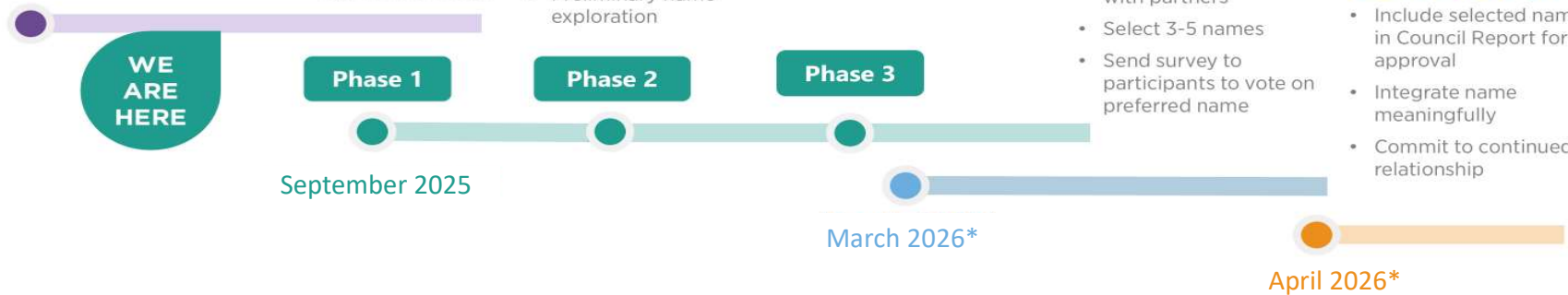
- Synthesize learnings and ideas
- Work with partners to explore themes
- Reflet on names and process

Stewardship and Ongoing Relationship

- Maintain relationships with partners
- Select 3-5 names
- Send survey to participants to vote on preferred name

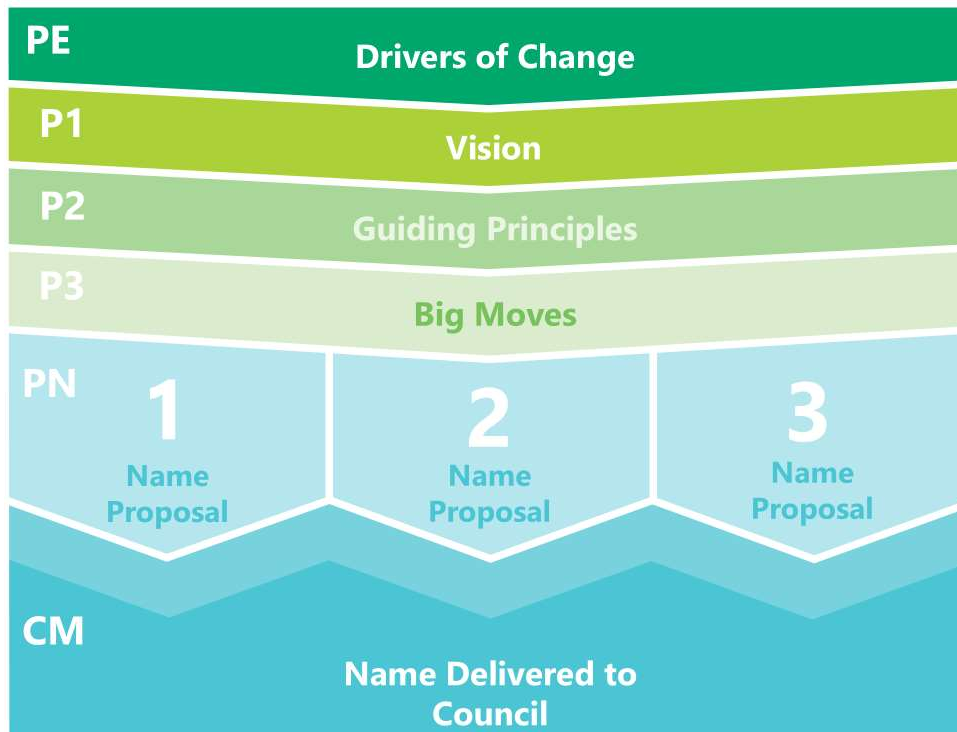
Council Report

- Include selected name in Council Report for approval
- Integrate name meaningfully
- Commit to continued relationship



*Timeline based on Council Direction [2025.TE20.45](#)

Proposed Engagement Plan



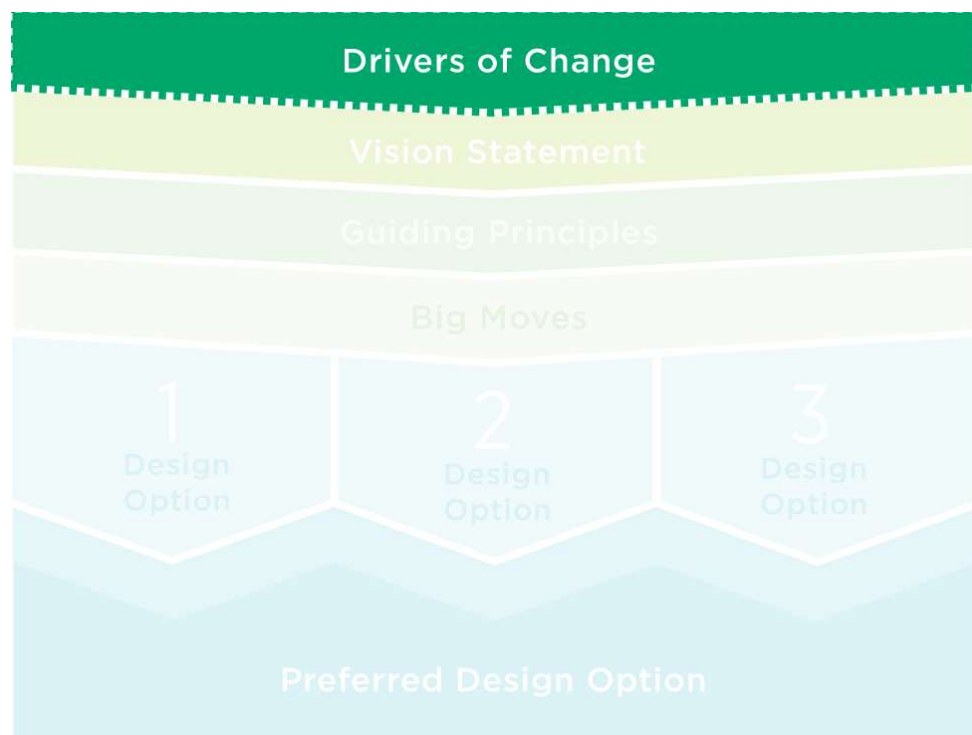
The following slides will lay out the foundation for engagement.

The proposed plan suggests several engagement opportunities.

The proposal will be brought to life through active partnerships and a shared path forward.

Community participation is essential in moving forward in a good way.

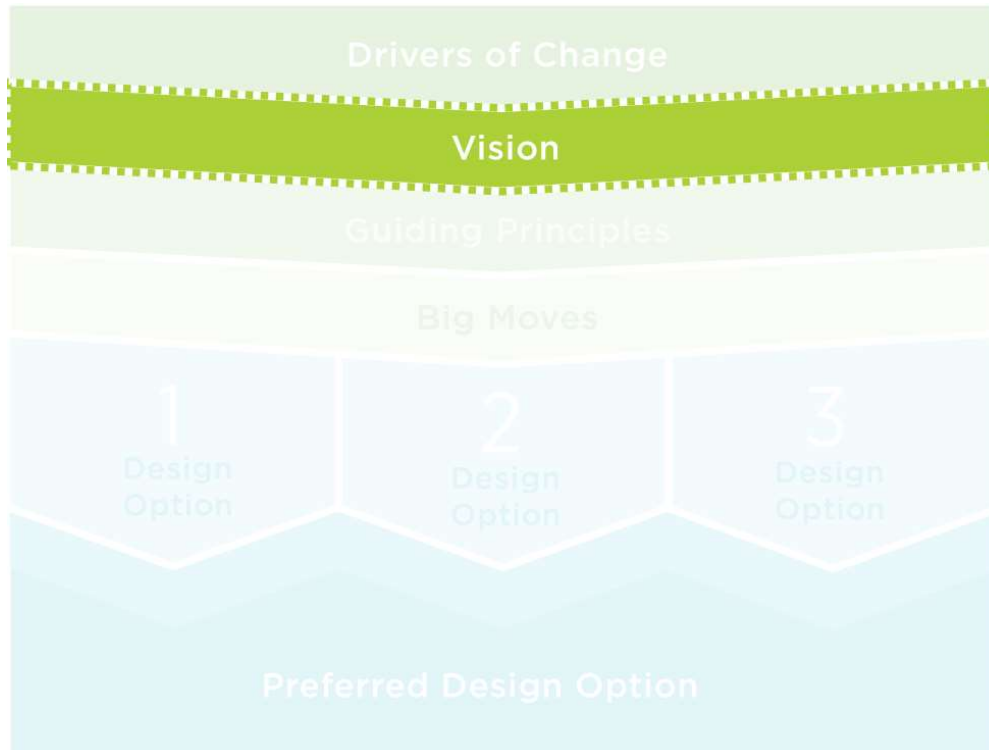
Drivers of Change – “Why are we doing it?”



To increase visibility of, and honour the rich diversity and significance of, Indigenous cultures, languages, and communities in Toronto.

To bring the Centre to life, through programming, connections, and celebrations of Indigenous cultures.

Vision – “What are we going to achieve?”



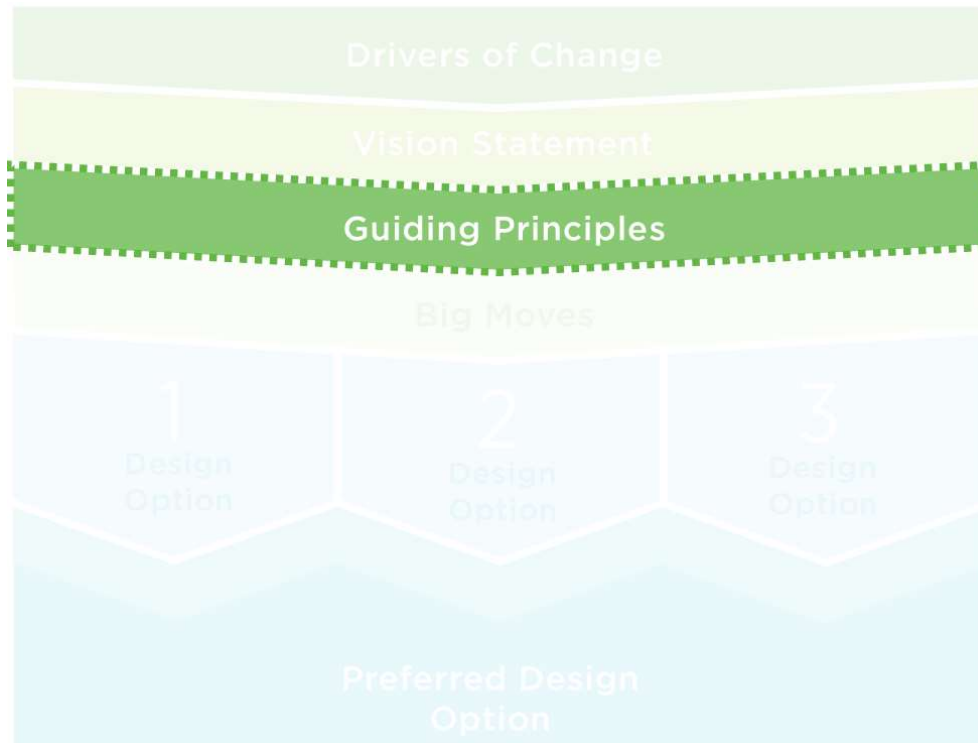
An Indigenous name for the East Bayfront Community Recreation Centre, requested by Council

Stronger connections – both new, and preexisting – with local Indigenous community organizations

Opportunities for learning and sharing of cultures

Opportunities for Indigenous communities to access the waterfront for ceremonies, activities, and celebrations – and whatever else might be envisioned!

Guiding Principles – “What are our values?”



Relationships

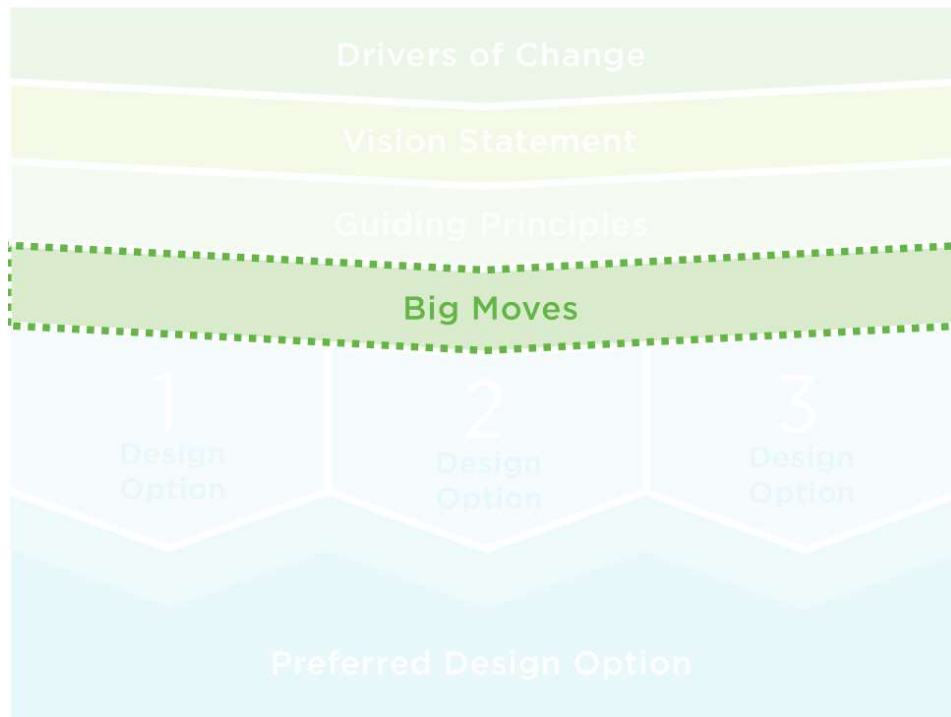
Honouring Indigenous languages

Shared vision

Cultural markers and increasing
Indigenous presence along the
waterfront

Better understanding of the City's
responsibilities to Indigenous peoples

Big Moves – “How do we achieve it?”



Community Charter

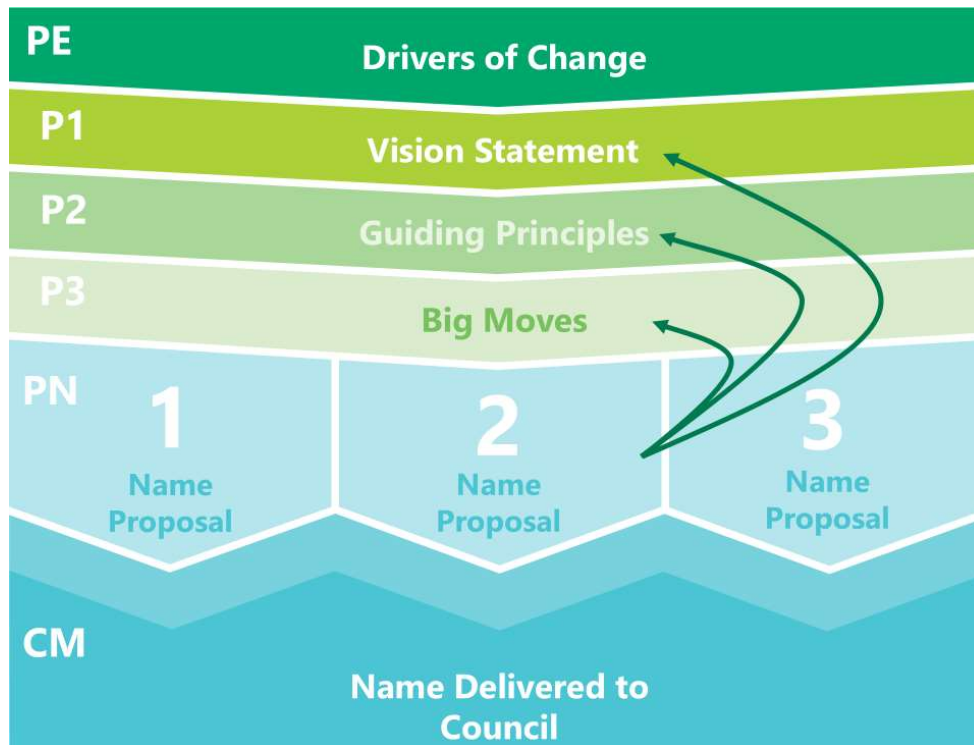
Series of community Sharing Circles

Ceremony

Active support to access space and amenities

Open dialogue and transparency

An Indigenous Name – “How will we decide?”



Names suggested throughout engagement period to be compiled and shared.

“Top 3” names brought to participants to vote.

Name with most votes to be included in Motion to Council.

What's the ask?

Join us in connecting your organization and members to the East Bayfront Community Recreation Centre

Help us refine our engagement plan, and provide your suggestions for moving forward in a good way

Join our engagement sessions - starting in September, 2025

Connect us with (or suggest) members of your community who might be interested to partner with us!

Questions

**Thank you, Miigwetch,
Maarsii, Nia:wen!**