

Dundas Street Name Review Consultations

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Regis Korchinski-Paquet in 2020 sparked protests and uprisings in cities across North America, around the world and here at home. As people protested against the hierarchy and systematic racism that makes life infinitely harder for Black, Indigenous and other equity-seeking communities, statues were toppled and protesters called for historical commemorations and honours to be stripped from those accused of acts of racism and supporting slavery.

Calls for justice for those who continue to be victimized by systematic racism have added a sense of urgency to conversations about the importance of place-making. This approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces collectively reimagines them with the goal of creating safer city spaces that foster inclusiveness and belonging, especially for the Black and Indigenous communities in Toronto. A park named after someone who enslaved people or an institution named in honour of a person who had a hand in the founding of residential schools is not going to feel like a welcoming environment to Black and Indigenous members of our community.

In June 2020, an [online petition](#) was created calling for Dundas Street to be renamed. The petition, which was signed by more than 14,000 people, objected to the street's namesake, Scottish politician Henry Dundas. Dundas is accused of being instrumental in delaying the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, causing more than half a million more Black people to be enslaved in the British Empire. In response to the petition, Mayor John Tory asked City Manager Chris Murray to form a working group of City staff, including the City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and the Indigenous Affairs Office, to examine the issue and report back.

On September 30, City Council unanimously adopted the City Manager's [report](#) responding to the Dundas Street renaming petition. The report commits to holding inclusive public consultations with Torontonians and Black, Indigenous, Accessibility and other equity-seeking communities.

What's in a name?

The consultations will allow you to weigh in on whether you think Dundas Street should be renamed and, if so, how:

- Keep the name Dundas Street, but provide additional historical information through plaques and signage
- Rename City properties with Dundas in their name (except TTC), but retain the street name of Dundas
- Rename the street and all City properties with the Dundas name.

But this is about more than Dundas Street. This is about how we name and who we choose to honour. Who is represented, and who is not? Do our names reflect the society in which we live and the one we aspire to be? The consultations will also seek recommendations for the creation of an overall commemorative framework for the City

of Toronto, including guiding principles for the naming and renaming of City assets and other forms of recognition.

The review and public consultations align with the City's commitment to take action to address anti-Black racism and racism against the Indigenous community. This commitment includes City Council's unanimous adoption in 2017 of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism and official recognition of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent and the City's ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous communities. Public consultations will also include the representation of other equity-seeking communities, including the accessibility community and women.

You will be able to have your say and learn more through:

- A speakers' panel event
- Telephone town hall public events
- Meetings and discussions with key stakeholders, including the City's Partnership & Accountability Circle, Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, Indigenous PlaceMaking Circle, Toronto Accessibility Advisory Council and Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group, as well as historical societies, Business Improvement Areas and community organizations
- Meetings for traditional territory and treaty holders, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat
- A public opinion poll
- A web page with an online survey
- A dedicated email and phone line for commenting

Find out more at toronto.ca/dundasreview.