



# **Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization – Indigenous Engagement Summary Report**

November 2023

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## Acknowledgements

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat Peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

We also acknowledge that the Treaties processes of Tkaronto referred to many issues and that these Treaties are not settled with regards to discussions about the ownership and stewardship of these lands. Therefore, concrete actions that advance a continuous process and practice of reconciliation are important to give meaning to land acknowledgements by putting words into action.

We would like to thank the numerous First Nations, Elders, Indigenous organizations, City of Toronto divisions, partners and agencies who have generously contributed their time and ideas to this project. Your energy and dedication are an inspiration to us all. Without your support this project would not have been the success that it has been.

Chi Miigwetch!

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Forward .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Background.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Indigenous Engagement Process.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. What We Heard: Key Takeaways .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6. Goals and Recommendations .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7. The City’s Response: Next Steps for Action .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>8. Conclusion .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Appendix A: Discussion Questions.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Appendix B: Waterfront Revitalization Engagement Presentation .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Appendix C: Winter Solstice Ceremony Invitation and Handout .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Appendix D: Interview and Engagement Contact List.....</b>	<b>33</b>

# 1. Forward

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As told by Grandma Pauline Shirt, Water Protector of the Plains Cree First Nation:

*Niiganii Gchi Gamig (Leading Lake), also known as Lake Ontario, continues to sustain and cultivate all life within the depths of her water and along her shores; as this is her promise to Creation, for she is the nurturer of life; the Water. For thousands of years Indigenous Nations have gathered along her shores, netted and fished from her waters, building homes and communities, living in a reciprocal way, always being mindful, respectful to the lake and her inhabitants.*

*Keeping this in mind as we move forward together in the protection and sustainability of the lake and all that call her home, it's important to reach back to the original relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the lake; our worldview is clear and focused as we see all life as part of a Sacred Hoop that honours all of Creation; every living thing plays a vital role in life; no less than or greater than, there is balance.*

*As we come together in this work for the waterfront of Lake Ontario, we need to uplift and support her in her work as the nurturer of all life, for she needs our help now so future generations can live with good health and harmony within the Sacred Hoop of Life.*

## 2. Executive Summary

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Over the last 20 years, the City has remained committed to ensuring the waterfront is a place of local, provincial and national pride and public enjoyment that provides social, economic and environmental benefits. However, the original vision developed through a tri-government partnership must also evolve to stay forward-thinking, reflect today's priorities and include the needs and perspectives of all communities. Toronto today is very different from the city in 2000, when City Council approved the original waterfront vision [\*Our Toronto Waterfront\*](#). In the context of a changing city, progress of revitalization and flood protection on the waterfront, and social, economic and environmental needs and opportunities, it is time to consider what the next phase of waterfront revitalization looks like and how it may be funded.

With that in mind, in 2021, Council directed staff to reflect on the history of revitalization and renew the waterfront vision for the next generation. To ensure that a renewed vision for the waterfront is reflective of today's priorities, City staff initiated a broad process of engagement with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities.

Engagement began in January 2022. The City sought input from residents and stakeholders across the City through meetings, online surveys, a website and a social media campaign. This

engagement process was led by Dillon Consulting and culminated in the *Public and Stakeholder Engagement Summary*. An Indigenous engagement process ran concurrently; from April 2022 until December 2022. Led by Johnston Research Inc., in coordination with the City of Toronto’s Waterfront Secretariat, the engagement process sought to understand the perspectives of rights-holders, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples living in Toronto, and urban Indigenous groups and organizations regarding a renewed vision, priorities and its implementation. The ongoing engagement informed a preliminary staff report, *Update on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization*, which advanced a refreshed vision for the 43 kilometer waterfront and was approved by City Council in July 2022. Ongoing engagement will inform a follow-up report to City Council in the fall of 2023 that will inform the Waterfront Secretariat’s and City Planning’s long-term relationship building and engagement with Indigenous communities.

## 2.1 Reconciliation Action Plan

In April 2022, the City of Toronto’s *Reconciliation Action Plan* was unanimously approved by City Council. It is a 10-year strategy that provides the foundation for actions to achieve truth, justice and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Toronto. Every City Division has a role to play in building relationships, prioritizing and implementing actions and being accountable to Indigenous communities and City Council. The Waterfront Secretariat, along with its partners in waterfront revitalization, is grounding discussions on specific actions found in the Reconciliation Action Plan that can be advanced through waterfront revitalization processes, projects and outcomes.

## 2.2 Renewed Vision

As a result of the engagement processes, the priorities of the renewed vision for waterfront revitalization are:



- Truth, justice and **reconciliation**, including through Indigenous engagement
- Strategic and inclusive **economic** development
- **Equity, inclusion** and **access**, including through housing and community benefits
- **Climate** resilience and sustainability

## 2.3 Engagement Activities

### Engagement activities included:

- 9 interviews with about 25 individuals representing First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous community organizations
- 2 discussions/teachings with Elders and/or Knowledge Keepers
- 1 community event with over 30 urban Indigenous youth, community members and Elders
- 1 Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee meeting
- Internal meetings with City Divisions, Agencies and Committees, including the Indigenous Affairs Office and Indigenous Affairs Community of Practice, to learn from past input and Indigenous engagement processes

### Staff training/learning activities included:

- 1 staff education session with Treaty Partner’s Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator

## 2.4 Key Takeaways

Several key themes emerged from the engagement process, that relate to both the renewed vision’s priorities and the City’s Reconciliation Action Plan, including:

What We Heard		
Key Takeaway	RAP Actions	Vision Priorities
<b>Theme: Engagement and relationship building</b>		
<b>Culturally responsive, distinctions-based engagement</b> that is focused on <b>intentional relationship building</b> with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous youth, First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities	Actions #5, #6	• Reconciliation
Build capacity and establish appropriate <b>protocols, practices and processes</b> for engaging different Indigenous communities (consider fee for service models, honoraria, cash gifts, tobacco offerings)	Actions #5, #6, #21	• Reconciliation
<b>Theme: Affordable housing, returning land and stewardship rights</b>		

## What We Heard

Key Takeaway	RAP Actions	Vision Priorities
Affordable housing that is <b>Indigenous-owned</b> , affordable for future generations and accessible/inclusive, potentially by establishing Indigenous community set asides co-developed with Indigenous housing and service providers	RAP Mission Actions #14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
Seek ways to discuss and implement <b>pathways to return land and stewardship rights</b> , explore co-management and co-monitoring approaches	RAP Mission, RAP Action #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Climate</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
<b>Theme: Environment</b>		
Balance <b>environmental needs and impacts along the waterfront</b> , protecting and preserving the water, land, local fauna and flora and natural resources for future generations	Actions #13, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
Place a stronger emphasis on the significance and health of <b>water</b> in “waterfront revitalization” plans - involve <b>Indigenous women and water keepers</b>	Actions #12, #13, #15, #18, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
<b>Theme: Economic development</b>		
Identify <b>equitable economic opportunities</b> that prioritize Indigenous businesses or social enterprises, including through waterfront project procurement processes	Actions #4, #5, #9, #10, #20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
<b>Theme: Access/ placekeeping/ arts and culture/ health and wellbeing</b>		
Ensure <b>placekeeping</b> , cultural heritage and commemoration initiatives include the history of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, as well as the urban Indigenous population	Actions #15, #16, #17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Economic Development</li> </ul>
Improve overall <b>physical access</b> to the water and waterfront, this includes dedicated spaces for Indigenous communities (with recreational, cultural, ceremonial and sustaining opportunities)	Actions #15, #16, #18, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
Consider how <b>heritage/placekeeping initiatives</b> are not solely about remembering and celebrating the past but also about <b>preserving the environment</b> and natural resources for future generations	Actions #13, #15, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>

## 2.6 Report Organization

This report summarizes engagement with Indigenous communities on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization. It includes: background on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization; a description of the Indigenous engagement process; a review of detailed findings (key takeaways and related goals); Johnston Research Inc.'s recommendations for action and ideas for change; and the City's next steps for action, in response.

## 3. Background

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### 3.1 A Renewed Vision for Waterfront Revitalization

Over 20 years ago, the Waterfront Revitalization Task Force presented a vision for Toronto's waterfront entitled *Our Toronto Waterfront: Gateway to the New Canada*. Then in 2003, the City's Central Waterfront Secondary Plan established core principles to support that waterfront revitalization vision. Further planning processes and documents have continued to guide the construction of complete communities and public realm improvements to achieve goals along the waterfront. Toronto's downtown waterfront has been physically transformed to bring significant economic, social and environmental outcomes to residents and businesses. While this vision remains relevant, it is important that it evolves to stay forward-thinking and continues to reflect today's priorities. A renewed vision is needed to reflect today's pressing factors such as advancing reconciliation, addressing the climate crisis, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, providing affordable housing and making progress on social equity issues. There is also an opportunity to advance these priorities beyond Toronto's central waterfront – to the wider waterfront, from Etobicoke to Scarborough.

In 2022, the Waterfront Secretariat, as directed by City Council, commenced engagement on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities to renew the vision for Toronto's waterfront. Four draft priorities guided the basis for discussion:

- Indigenous Reconciliation and Engagement;
- Strategic Economic Development;
- Equity and Inclusion, including housing and;
- Climate Resilience and Sustainability.

### 3.2 General Public and Stakeholder Engagement Processes

A general Public and Stakeholder Engagement process began in 2022 and is distinct from the focussed engagement with First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities discussed in this document. Information, materials and observations are shared between the respective project teams as appropriate.



A report summarizing the first round of the public and stakeholder engagement process, led by Dillon Consulting, can be found here:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-228122.pdf>

The City sought input to help shape a renewed vision that sets a path forward for what Toronto will achieve along its 43-kilometer waterfront, from Etobicoke to Scarborough, including anticipated economic development, social equity and environmental priorities.

The goals of engagement were to:

1. Share the context and history of tri-government investments in waterfront revitalization, the successes of the last 20 years, the prevailing visions and ongoing projects;
2. Present the renewed vision for the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization, and explore opportunities to advance priorities across the 43-kilometer waterfront; and,
3. Solicit input on the vision's priorities and how they apply to the waterfront.

### 3.3 City Council-approved Staff Report

The engagement processes with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities informed a presentation to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) and a subsequent preliminary report to Executive Committee, [EX 34.10 Update on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization](#), approved by City Council in July 2022.

The *Update on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization* report and recommendations were approved by City Council, with the following minor modifications in **bold**:

“City Council endorse the following four interconnected priorities to guide a further phase of waterfront revitalization:

- a. strategic **and inclusive** economic development;
- b. truth, justice and reconciliation, including through Indigenous engagement;
- c. equity, inclusion and access, including through housing **and community benefits**; and
- d. climate resilience and sustainability.”

The related motion is below:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.EX34.10>

## 4. Indigenous Engagement Process

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The waterfront has thousands of years of history as an important place for Indigenous Peoples. As such, Indigenous engagement is a key component of the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization project. Waterfront revitalization presents a generational opportunity to advance the City's commitment to truth, justice and reconciliation and build meaningful partnerships and opportunities with Indigenous communities, notably through implementing the most recent, Council approved, Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2032. City Council and staff, as well as the

public and stakeholders, also identified the importance of Indigenous engagement as a key priority of the renewed vision for the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization.

Johnston Research Inc., in coordination with the City, led the Indigenous engagement plan and meetings, with a focus on pre-engagement and relationship building to ensure an ongoing process that extends beyond the project.

This engagement process sought to understand the perspectives of, and input from, Indigenous rights-holders, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, and urban Indigenous groups and organizations living in Toronto, to inform the renewed vision for waterfront revitalization and its implementation. Introductory meetings involved exchanging learnings and information about the past, present and future of waterfront revitalization, learning how to best engage with First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities, Elders, youth and Knowledge Keepers and discussing opportunities for waterfront revitalization to advance truth, justice and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The input collected and outlined in this report will inform a long-term strategic approach to embed Indigenous engagement in the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization, improving coordination and meaningful engagement across the waterfront.

## 4.1 Engagement Approach

### *Team Collaboration*

The project used a collaborative approach between Johnston Research Inc. and the City of Toronto Waterfront Secretariat team. This approach reflected the following three priorities:

1. Inclusive of a team-based approach between JRI and the City of Toronto project team,
2. Ensuring an open dialogue process is taken that involves reciprocal data-exchange with dialogue contributors<sup>1</sup>,
3. Ensuring the approaches include the 4 R's<sup>2</sup> and Chapter 9 of Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2014)<sup>3</sup>. The 4-Rs include Respect, Reciprocity, Relevance and Responsibility – originally described by Kirkness and Barnhardt.<sup>4</sup>

Indigenous Knowledge Translation (KT) – using research to create positive change – is an **ethical** issue and pursuit. Indigenous Peoples (First Nation, Inuit, and Métis) in Canada have unique rights and responsibilities. Thus, research involving Indigenous Peoples requires particular consideration. Ethical guidelines have been articulated by national organizations, including the recent *CIHR*

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<sup>1</sup> In conjunction with the term dialogue process, contributor is often used to refer to those individuals who partake in the dialogue and “contribute” to its process. World Health Organization. (2015) [WHO Financing Dialogue Evaluation](#).

<sup>2</sup> Estey M.A., Elizabeth, Janet Smylie, M.D., & Ann Macaulay, M.D. (2009). Aboriginal Knowledge Translation: Understanding and Respecting the Distinct Needs of Aboriginal Communities in Research. <<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41392.html>>

<sup>3</sup> Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. (2014). [Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#).

<sup>4</sup> Kirkness, V.J. & Barnhardt, R. (1991). First Nations and Higher Education: The Four R's--Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility. *Journal of American Indian Education*, 30(3): 1-15.

*Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal People*<sup>5</sup> and a new version of Chapter 9 – "Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples" – of the *Tri-council Policy Statement*.<sup>6</sup> The 4 R's of research – **respect, reciprocity, relevance, and responsibility** – originally described by Kirkness and Bernhardt (1991) are embedded in each of these guidelines and provide a simple framework for understanding and engaging in Indigenous research ethics.

### ***A Distinctions-based Approach***

The engagement process used a distinctions-based approach involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. A "distinctions-based" approach refers to the individual engagement with each of the three distinctions in Canada: First Nations, Inuit and Métis, as separate groups. This approach acknowledges their distinct and unique cultures, histories, rights, governments, priorities and concerns.

The First Nations focus included one-on-one meetings with Treaty and Territorial partners outlined below (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Huron Wendat Nation, and Six Nations of the Grand River). Urban Indigenous organizations were also engaged separately, either through one-one-one interviews or group interviews when meeting with committees.

A wider community in-person event was also held, focused on hearing from urban Indigenous youth and Elders, and invitations were shared with urban Indigenous organizations and education centres.

## **4.2 Engagement Activities**

### **Engagement activities included:**

- 9 interviews with about 25 individuals representing First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous community organizations
- 2 discussions/teachings with Elders and/or Knowledge Keepers
- 1 community event with over 30 urban Indigenous youth, community members and Elders
- 1 Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee meeting
- Internal meetings with City Divisions, Agencies and Committees, including the Indigenous Affairs Office and Indigenous Affairs Community of Practice, to learn from past input and Indigenous engagement processes

### **Staff training/learning activities included:**

- 1 staff education session with Treaty Partner's Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator

<sup>5</sup> CIHR. (2007). *ARCHIVED - CIHR Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples*. Retrieved April 12, 2009

<sup>6</sup> Interagency Panel on Research Ethics. (2008) *Chapter 9: Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples*. Draft 2nd Edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Retrieved April 12, 2009.

## ***Individual Interviews – First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous community organizations***

Johnston Research Inc., in coordination with the City, conducted nine (9) meetings with 13 staff as individual interviews from the following groups, held two (2) discussions with Elders/Knowledge Keepers, and participated in one (1) staff learning session with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation's Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator.

A complete list of participants both contacted and met with is outlined in [Appendix D](#). The list below outlines those met with.

### First Nations:

- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Huron-Wendat Nation

### Métis:

- Toronto and York Region Métis Council
- Métis Nation of Ontario

### Urban Indigenous Organizations:

- ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency
- Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB)
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)

### Elders/Water Knowledge Keepers:

- Elder Dr. Duke Redbird
- Grandmother Pauline Shirt

*Note: Several organizations had limited capacity to engage or felt that feedback provided by other groups represented their interests. Some preferred to meet through TASSC or TICAB, rather than individually, which represent multiple Indigenous organizations, as outlined in Appendix D.*

Each engagement meeting was held virtually on WebEx or via telephone. Notice was provided by email invitation. The format included a visual presentation from the City and JRI team outlining the project team, engagement schedule, what waterfront revitalization is, the vision for and history of waterfront revitalization within Toronto and the City's Reconciliation Action Plan.

The presentation was followed by a questions and answers period; and ended with a discussion to generate input on the distinct significance of the waterfront and water to First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities, the renewed vision and preferred engagement process.

### ***Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Engagement in Waterfront Revitalization***

The Waterfront Secretariat first reached out directly to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), who identifies as treaty holder along Toronto's central waterfront, covered by Treaty 13, in April 2022 via the Department of Consultation & Accommodation.

This discussion took into account that MCFN was already aware of the City's waterfront revitalization initiative, having been involved in numerous waterfront projects and files in recent years, including:

- Working with Waterfront Toronto on the Port Lands Flood Protection project;
- Working with Waterfront Toronto on an MOU to guide ongoing collaboration;
- Working with PortsToronto, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and other waterfront agencies on a variety of smaller projects;
- Working with the Province of Ontario on Ontario Place.

Given the above, the discussion went well beyond a high-level conversation on priorities for a Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization; it led in the short-term to several outcomes/actions, including:

- MCFN's involvement in a meeting of the City's "Audacity" panel, discussing a renewed vision for waterfront revitalization (May 2022);
- An introductory meeting between MCFN and CreateTO (May 2022);
- Regular City and MCFN staff check-ins on engagement related to Ontario Place;
- MCFN-led History and Education session for Waterfront Secretariat and CreateTO staff (October 2022);
- Overview meeting on waterfront projects (November 2023);
- The establishment of a funded position in the City's Indigenous Affairs Office that is dedicated to Indigenous engagement in the waterfront.

In the longer-term, the Waterfront Secretariat will be taking additional steps to pursue a close relationship with MCFN and develop preferred engagement processes.

The Waterfront Secretariat will closely follow the implementation framework of the City's Reconciliation Action Plan, including any engagement procedures and protocols that are to be part of the ongoing relationship between the City of Toronto and MCFN.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How can we best engage with you/your community on this project?
2. In what ways can traditional Indigenous knowledge be meaningfully integrated into the engagement process? Into waterfront revitalization projects?
3. What are your thoughts on the following priorities for Toronto's waterfront?
  - a) Truth, justice and reconciliation, including through Indigenous engagement
  - b) Inclusive and strategic economic development
  - c) Equity, access and inclusion, including through housing and community benefits
  - d) Climate resilience and sustainability
4. What areas or initiatives along the waterfront could be especially important to your organization or your community?
5. What other goals, processes or types of waterfront revitalization projects could support your organization's interests?
6. How will we know if we're doing well and if changes need to be made along the way?

### ***Community Event – Urban Indigenous communities, youth and Elders***

The City of Toronto held a Winter Solstice Water Ceremony and Dialogue on December 20, 2022.

This event was a result of input and recommendations heard during some of the individual interviews, which focused largely on Indigenous community organizations, partners and board members. The City and Johnston Research Inc. actioned advice to engage further with Elders, water knowledge keepers, youth and the wider urban Indigenous community. Recommendations (in Section 6.2 JRI Recommendations for Action and Ideas for Change) included exploring other methods of engagement, such as in-person gatherings in non-colonial settings and sharing meals together, rather than only digital engagement.

The purpose of the event was to discuss restoring and revitalizing the waterfront, through hearing and listening to experiences, opinions and ideas from youth and community members for now and the future. The event placed great importance on youth voices as the next generation so that the City and partners involved in waterfront revitalization can carry the torch forward in daily work of waterfront revitalization.

The event was co-developed in coordination with Johnston Research Inc. and in close collaboration with Grandma Pauline Shirt. The event was opened by Andrea Johnston, of Johnston Research Inc. and Grandma Pauline Shirt, with an hour-long water ceremony and teachings, as

well as singers and drummers. Elder Dr. Duke Redbird then shared his wisdom and experiences involving the waterfront, posing questions to the youth. Andrea Johnston then facilitated a discussion with the youth. The event was conducted in English with some segments in Cree. Grandma Pauline Shirt translated any Cree components into English. The day closed with a traditional feast and sharing of gifts.

#### **Other speakers included:**

- David Stonehouse, Director, Waterfront Secretariat, City of Toronto
  - Illustrated the projects the Waterfront Secretariat is currently working on, which can be found under “Current & Future Projects” on the City’s [website](#).
- Fred Martin, Senior Project Manager (Waterfront), Indigenous Affairs Office, City of Toronto
  - Indicated there may be a future youth symposium to hear their voices to help provide ongoing input.
- Elder Dr. Duke Redbird, poet, activist, educator, artist
  - Elder Dr. Redbird shared his many experiences involving the waterfront, including leading the [Wigwam Chi-Chemung](#) (Big House Canoe) project, a floating art installation celebrating the enduring Indigenous Peoples’ presence, who since time immemorial, resided in the lands, waters, lakes, streams in the Toronto Port Lands and surrounding territories.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What do you want to plan, see, build for the future waterfront?
- What you like about waterfront?
- What you want to see in the future?

#### **Handout Questions:**

1. a) How do you currently use or experience the waterfront?  
b) How do you wish you or your community could use or experience the waterfront in 5, 10 or 50 years?
2. What personal meaning or cultural values does the waterfront hold?
3. What are your priorities or ideas for advancing truth and reconciliation along the waterfront?
4. What values and processes are important to consider for ongoing discussions about waterfront revitalization with Indigenous communities?
5. How would you like to stay involved in discussions with the City about the waterfront?

#### **Participants included:**

- 20-30 Kapapamahchakwew (Elem) Wandering Spirit School students and teachers
- Senator Suzanne Brunelle, Toronto and York Region Métis Council
- Urban Indigenous community members/residents

- Drummers, singers and Grandma Pauline Shirt’s helpers

The event information/invitations were shared via email with urban Indigenous community organizations and education centres, including:

- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Native Women's Resource Centre Toronto
- ENAGB
- Council Fire
- Toronto Inuit Association
- Two Spirited People of the First Nations
- Indigenous Centres at Toronto Metropolitan University, York University and Humber
- Toronto and York Region Métis Council

The event invitation, handout, and information shared by speakers is included in [Appendix C](#).

The City of Toronto will consider collaborating with Indigenous communities to host other Winter Solstice Ceremony and Dialogue events in the future, integrating lessons learned from the event, including more time for planning and outreach.

#### *Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee*

As the Indigenous engagement plan and process progressed, the Waterfront Secretariat team and Johnston Research Inc. presented to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee to receive input on approaches to engaging with First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities and organizations. The meeting was held on June 13, 2022, deferred from May 12, 2022. A follow-up meeting will be held in 2023.

The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/aa/bgrd/backgroundfile-226550.pdf>

The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee moved a motion, which was later adopted by City Council:

“City Council reassert the Mission of the Reconciliation Action Plan which states that ‘The City will dedicate time, space, and money with the goal of Returning land to Indigenous governments, communities, collectives, and organizations’ and further include that the mission of the Reconciliation Action Plan applies to agencies, boards and commissions, including Waterfront Toronto and CreateTO, and should be a core consideration in redevelopment of all City-owned properties.”

The related AAAC and City Council motions reasserting the mission of the Reconciliation Action Plan, are below:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.AA18.2>

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.EX34.38>



## City Divisions, Agencies and Committees

In addition to engaging with First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities and organizations, internal meetings were held with City Divisions, Agencies and Committees to learn from, and build on, past Indigenous engagement processes and input already heard. A full list is in [Appendix D](#).

- City of Toronto’s Indigenous Affairs Community of Practice (IACOP)
- City of Toronto Divisions and Agencies (e.g., Indigenous Affairs Office; City Planning; Shelter, Support & Housing Administration; Parks, Forestry and Recreation; City Manager’s Office; Waterfront Toronto)

## 5. What We Heard: Key Takeaways

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The “What we Heard” table below outlines the key themes and input heard throughout the individual interviews, community event and other engagement sessions.

The table highlights how input heard relates to: a) the renewed vision’s priorities and b) the City of Toronto’s Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The table is followed by a brief summary of goals, recommended actions and ideas for change and the City’s response and next steps.

### Legend 1: Renewed Vision Priorities

1. **Reconciliation:** Truth, justice and reconciliation, including through Indigenous engagement
2. **Economic:** Strategic and inclusive economic development
3. **Inclusion/Access:** Equity, inclusion and access, including through housing and community benefits
4. **Climate:** Climate resilience and sustainability

## **Legend 2: Reconciliation Action Plan**

The City of Toronto's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) includes 28 actions. The actions not displayed below are specific to the Indigenous Affairs Office. The italicized actions are of particular focus for the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization.

### **Actions to Restore Truth**

1. Conduct City-wide Reconciliation Audits
2. *Enhance Indigenous Education*
3. Apologize to the Métis
4. Establish a Commitment to Reconciliation with Businesses and Organizations

### **Actions to Right Relations and Share Power**

5. *Improve Relationships with Treaty and Territorial Partners*
6. *Improve Relationships with Indigenous Organizations and Collectives*
7. *Enhance Indigenous Civic Engagement*
8. *Advocate for Indigenous Peoples to Provincial and Federal Governments*

### **Actions for Justice**

9. *Address Racism*
10. *Promote Prosperity*
11. Improve Community Safety and Wellbeing
12. Implement the Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)
13. *Support Indigenous Health and Well-being*
14. *Increase Access to Affordable Housing*
15. *Support Indigenous Placekeeping*
16. *Celebrate Indigenous Arts and Culture*
17. *Support the Revitalization of Indigenous Languages*
18. *Improve Access to Traditional Foods and Medicines*
19. *Return Land and Stewardship Rights*

### **Actions to Make Financial Reparations**

20. *Improve Indigenous Economic Development*
21. *Decolonize Honoraria Practices*
22. Enhance Indigenous Recruitment and Retention within Toronto Public Service
23. Provide Sustainable Fiscal Supports for Reconciliation

Many Indigenous engagement participants, including non-Indigenous public and stakeholders, acknowledged that the four priorities are interconnected to each other and are all relevant today. The priority of reconciliation, including through Indigenous engagement, was found to be of strongest importance, followed by climate and sustainability and access, where several participants focused on the concept of preserving land stewardship and returning land. Economic opportunities were mainly highlighted by Treaty and Territorial partners.

What We Heard		
Key Takeaway	RAP Actions	Vision Priorities
<b>Theme: Engagement and relationship building</b>		
Build relationships early and intentionally, as it takes time – <b>pre-engagement</b> is a good approach for strengthening trust, gauging interest and developing appropriate engagement processes	Actions #5, #6	• Reconciliation
After pre-engagement meetings, be clear about the <b>substantive questions/topics for input</b> and transparent about impacts, potential constraints or barriers	Actions #5, #6	• Reconciliation
Include <b>Elders, Indigenous youth and Knowledge Keepers</b> into discussions about waterfront revitalization	Actions #5, #6	• Reconciliation
Conduct large focus groups with <b>youth</b> that enable them to talk amongst themselves and share back with the City - compensate them for their time	Actions #5, #6	• Reconciliation
Ensure <b>Métis and urban Indigenous communities are included</b> in two-way communication between the Waterfront Secretariat and Indigenous Peoples, as citizens, tax-payers and residents of Toronto who are not represented by First Nations engaged as Treaty or Territorial Partners	Actions #5, #6, #7	• Reconciliation
Build <b>accountability</b> into projects identifying measurable goals, direct benefits, monitoring frameworks and report backs	Actions #5, #6, #8	• Reconciliation
Understand, build capacity and establish appropriate <b>protocols, practices and processes</b> for engaging different Indigenous communities (consider fee for service models, honoraria, cash gifts, tobacco offerings)	Actions #5, #6, #21	• Reconciliation
<b>Theme: Affordable housing, returning land and stewardship rights</b>		

## What We Heard

Key Takeaway	RAP Actions	Vision Priorities
Seek ways to implement <b>Indigenous-owned affordable housing</b> and returning land (e.g., affordable housing that extends beyond Indigenous-led or managed models and 99-year leases) through solutions co-developed with Indigenous housing and service providers as part of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan	RAP Mission Actions #14, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
Housing development on the waterfront is not accessible, <b>affordable</b> or created for Indigenous Peoples	Action #14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
Recognize the ongoing <b>caretaking</b> role and responsibilities of all Indigenous Peoples, this may include co-monitoring and co-management approaches	RAP Mission Action #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
Many indicate a measurable benefit is <b>returned land</b>	RAP Mission Action 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Climate</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
<b>Theme: Environment</b>		
Needs and priorities should be balanced carefully on the waterfront to <b>protect the water, land and natural resources</b>	RAP Mission Action #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
For many, <b>preservation</b> of marine habitats, watersheds, species of fish, local fauna and flora should take priority over housing development	Actions #13, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
Study <b>land and water contaminations</b> and <b>solutions</b> , this may include co-monitoring and co-management approaches. (e.g., water filtering system)	Action #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
Place a stronger emphasis on the significance and health of <b>water</b> in waterfront revitalization plans – involve <b>Indigenous women and water keepers</b>	Actions #12, #13, #15, #18, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
Consider how <b>heritage/placekeeping initiatives</b> are not solely about remembering and celebrating the past but also about <b>preserving the environment</b> and natural resources for future generations	Actions #13, #15, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
<b>Theme: Economic development</b>		

## What We Heard

Key Takeaway	RAP Actions	Vision Priorities
Pursue tiered <b>procurement processes</b> that prioritize Indigenous businesses and/or social enterprises, particularly along the waterfront	Actions #4, #9, #10, #20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
Consider ways to promote and advertise Indigenous businesses and/or social enterprises along the waterfront. (e.g. activities, events and products, etc.)	Actions #10, #20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
Consider <b>equitable economic opportunities</b> and discuss with Treaty and Territorial partners	Actions #5, #20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Economic</li> </ul>
<b>Theme: Access/ placekeeping/ arts and culture/ health and wellbeing</b>		
Ensure <b>place-keeping</b> , cultural heritage and commemoration initiatives include the history of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples	Actions #15, #16, #17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Economic Development</li> </ul>
If creating a <b>water acknowledgement</b> is something the City would like to pursue, it is recommended to co-develop with Indigenous communities to ensure the acknowledgement is specific and inclusive	Actions #5, #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> </ul>
Placekeeping and renaming opportunities can <b>educate</b> the public as well as <b>celebrate</b> Indigenous culture	Actions #15, #17, #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> </ul>
Consider how to create <b>accessible learning spaces</b> that can be used by both education institutions and Indigenous organizations	Action #2, #15, #16, #17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> </ul>
Improve overall <b>physical access</b> to the water and waterfront, this includes exploring <b>recreational, cultural and sustaining opportunities</b> along the waterfront specifically for Indigenous communities (e.g., swimming, fishing, skating, boating, pow wow and ceremony spaces, etc., in areas like Ontario Place or Ashbridges Bay)	Actions #15, #16, #18, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> <li>● Climate</li> </ul>
<b>Accessible, welcoming and dedicated</b> community spaces for Indigenous communities to practice <b>ceremonies</b> together. It is recommended that these spaces be close to transit, safe, and have accessible amenities (e.g., washrooms, kitchenette, fire pits). Indigenous groups	Actions #13, #15, #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reconciliation</li> <li>● Inclusion/Access</li> </ul>

## What We Heard

Key Takeaway	RAP Actions	Vision Priorities
should not have to “rent” their own lands, especially for ceremonial practices.		

*“Include cultural reconnecting to traditions and a space where you feel welcome. A place you can go and reconnect again. Currently there is a lack of empathy and understanding. Unity and understanding for culture and traditions is required to allow Indigenous Peoples to thrive.”*

*“I have gone to the lake for healing and to try to find secluded spaces to sing and do my offerings. I don’t want to be in a position of having to teach others, answer questions or be on display to others passing by.”*

*“It’s a beautiful thing to have for the city. A place to go to clear your head and give thanks for what water gives to us.”*

*“Different procurement systems where Indigenous-led firms and businesses are considered first [at dedicated percentages] for different kinds of projects is key.”*

*“Have a call-out to all traditional knowledge keepers/Elders, and keepers of the water. [Those that] have a vested interest in the water and food is a good thing. Women know the teachings of the water; it is our very existence, and without it we wouldn’t be alive.”*

## 6. Goals and Recommendations

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### 6.1 Goals for Ongoing Engagement

As the priority “truth, justice and reconciliation, including through Indigenous engagement,” was found to be of most importance through engagement sessions, the following goals related to ongoing Indigenous engagement were developed in response to input provided.

Short-term goals include:

- Determine how best to integrate Indigenous knowledge and ways of doing into waterfront revitalization project(s) and processes;
- Identify how projects can directly benefit Indigenous Peoples and communities of Toronto and set goals that are measurable and realistic; and,
- Open communication lines and make commitments geared at preserving land stewardship and returning land.

*“It is terrific, the [City’s] Waterfront planning bodies’ recognition of importance to consult with the Indigenous community, [but] if the consultation doesn’t result in concrete benefits for the Indigenous community, it is time consuming.”*

Long-term goals include:

- Objectives and commitments related to preserving land stewardship and returning land are executed and decision-making processes fully involve Indigenous Peoples.
- Communication channels are established for consistent sharing of information (i.e. decisions, actions and outcomes) with First Nations rights-holders, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities of Toronto. For example, through regularly scheduled meetings, sharing sessions or newsletters.
- Reconciliation Action Plan-related decisions and advancement that relates to the waterfront are made available to the Indigenous Peoples and communities of Toronto, beyond what is posted via City of Toronto internal channels.
- Regular measurement and check-backs about the extent to which waterfront revitalization projects, goals and outcomes meet the needs of the First Nations rights-holders, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous communities of Toronto.

*“I always see that vision, we are borrowing this land off our future generations and need to think of our children’s children and our great-great grandchildren. Sacrifice housing for protecting the water, we need to ask more questions about developments, such as industrial buildings. Focus on nature trails and creating.”*

*“If you want to continue to engage youth (and you should) consider consulting teachers so we can help structure discussions. Youth should have time to think and talk in small groups and then share with the larger group. They have so much to offer!”*

## 6.2 JRI Recommendations for Action and Ideas for Change

As seen in previous engagement sessions in 2021, one of the most critical issues in the engagement sessions and interviews conducted was returning land to Indigenous communities and creating pathways to land ownership and stewardship. The topic of “Returning Land” traversed between all priorities, reconciliation, economic development, equity and climate sustainability. Reconciliation is rooted in the land, and returning land has immeasurable positive impacts in supporting Indigenous prosperity, equity and maintaining land stewardship.

*“[On Land back] The reason is not greed, it is an asset and not for profit Indigenous organizations would own and ensure it stays in community for generations to come. [This would] grow assets in the city and [provide] safety and a stable place to call home.”*



**Reconciliation:** With the understanding that relationship building and trust takes time, build time for relationship building into the process. Consider the following:

- Consider other methods of engagement such as in person gatherings in non-colonial settings rather than only digital engagement, host in a comfortable setting that isn't in a colonial context, share a meal, attend community gatherings to learn, host sharing circles to work towards building relationships and trust to attend gatherings.
- Maintain transparency and reflect on how progress, agreements and engagement with one First Nation may impact the relationships, trust and perceptions among other First Nations.
- Ensure that the goals and outcomes of projects are measurable and realistic. Develop suitable mechanisms for regular knowledge sharing and reporting back to Indigenous communities. Many indicate that *“a measurable benefit is land back.”*
- Create opportunities for all City of Toronto staff, contractors and subsidiaries to engage in comprehensive cultural competency training that extend beyond the current City-wide Indigenous awareness trainings, incorporating Indigenous perspectives on water, land, treaties and urban planning. Also, consider opportunities for cultural competency education for the broader public.
- Consider the potential to name or rename spaces using Indigenous names and languages.



**Economic Development and Equity/Access:** Support the economic development of Indigenous business/Indigenous-led firms and collaborate on projects that benefit the City and Indigenous communities/organizations. Consider the following:

- Give priority in the procurement process, this will also contribute to reconciliation in a financial sense.
- Through further engagement, identify the projects that would have a direct benefit to Indigenous communities and organizations. Wendake, for example, indicates they have capital project investments and interest in infrastructure investments and other



opportunities that may arise. MCFN indicated interest in exploring housing opportunities.

- Consider how best to promote Indigenous-led projects, events and social enterprises to boost engagement and revenue. This will also contribute to reconciliation in a financial sense.
- Consider prioritizing projects based on geographic location in proximity to the waterfront (i.e. Scarborough Bluffs, Toronto Islands, etc.), while ensuring that all nations are represented, particularly in regards to education materials (i.e. signage and information plaques).
- As youth are the future, it is critical to capture their interest in various areas of economic development. Some indicate there is also a benefit to differentiating reporting between the voices of youth, Elders/traditional teachers where applicable.
- Improve access to the waterfront for recreational, ceremonial and cultural activities.



**Climate:** Give agency to, and continue to collaborate with Indigenous organizations, Elders, youth, communities and water knowledge keepers on how best to care for and utilize the land. Consider the following:

- Continue to reflect on the significance in protecting not only the waterfront, but the entire lake, land and natural resources that surround it.
- Place priority on preserving marine habitats, watersheds, species of fish, local fauna and flora and mitigate the encroachment of invasive species. For many, this should take priority over housing developments.
- Consider how heritage initiatives are not solely about remembering and celebrating the past but also about preserving the environment and natural resources for future generations.

*“Interest is more focused on how the environment and natural resources will be left for future generations, than it is about commemorating specific historical places [such as] where a longhouse was built in the past... The lens used by city planning can tend to bring a colonial perspective, identifying and discussing specific projects and areas without considering how they impact or relate to the broader environment.”*

## 7. The City’s Response: Next Steps for Action

In response to the key input heard through the Indigenous engagement process so far, as well as the Reconciliation Action Plan action areas, the Waterfront Secretariat has identified the following as potential next steps for action:

### Enhance Indigenous education – RAP Action #2

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase staff membership and knowledge from the City’s Indigenous Affairs Community of Practice (IACOP)</li> </ul>	<i>In progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in a City Planning Division Indigenous Engagement Staff Committee</li> </ul>	<i>Complete and in progress</i> <i>Launched February 2023</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create opportunities for staff, subsidiaries and consultants, to engage in trainings that extend beyond City-wide Indigenous awareness trainings and incorporate, and Indigenous perspectives on water, land, treaties and urban planning, taking a deeper lens in every effort made</li> </ul>	<i>Complete and in progress</i> <i>Blanket exercises and Treaty history sessions run in Fall 2023</i>

### Improve relationships with Indigenous organizations and collectives and with Treaty and Territorial Partners – RAP Actions #5 and #6

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop guidance to support the Waterfront Secretariat, in coordination with Divisions and Agencies, with ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<i>In progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue engaging with First Nations, urban Indigenous organizations and communities on the goals of the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization through individual projects, including about ways the waterfront is currently used and experienced, desired uses and experiences, and barriers</li> </ul>	<i>In progress</i> <i>Projects include: Villiers Island, Port Lands, Quayside, Scarborough Bluffs West Study/EA, Western Beaches Public Realm Plan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend distinctions-based engagement plans for waterfront projects that identify engagement channels with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, urban Indigenous organizations and communities, and Elders, knowledge holders, youth and Indigenous professionals with expertise</li> </ul>	<i>In progress</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities for hosting annual Solstice Ceremony and Dialogue, in collaboration with Indigenous communities, Elders and youth</li> </ul>	<i>In progress</i>

## Increase access to affordable housing – RAP Action #14

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities on the waterfront to advance progress on the 5,200 affordable rental home commitment through the City’s “For Indigenous, By Indigenous” partnership with Miziwe Biik</li> </ul>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><i>Led by: Housing Secretariat</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with relevant Divisions, Agencies and Partners to communicate the Reconciliation Action Plan’s overall mission to “dedicate time, space, and money with the goal of... returning land to Indigenous governments, communities, collectives, and organizations”</li> </ul>	<p><b>In progress</b></p>

## Support Indigenous placekeeping, language revitalization and arts and culture - RAP Actions #15, #16 and #17

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities across the waterfront for Indigenous placekeeping, arts and culture and language revitalization, in partnership with Waterfront Toronto, the TRCA and other City Divisions (e.g., Indigenous Affairs Office, Parks, Forestry and Recreation; Economic Development and Culture)</li> </ul>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><i>Projects include: PIC Core Urban Design Guidelines, Villiers Island, Scarborough Bluffs West Study/EA</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness of the history and current presence of Indigenous culture by using Indigenous names for public spaces</li> </ul>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><i>Projects include: Waterfront / Port Lands Place Naming <a href="#">Member Motion 5.3 Place Names in the Port Lands, adopted by Council on March 29, 2023</a></i></p>

## Improve Indigenous economic development and prosperity – RAP Actions #10 and #20

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore social procurement processes for Indigenous businesses, in partnership with Waterfront Toronto and other City Divisions (e.g., Purchasing and Materials Management Division)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Future</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities for increasing Indigenous job opportunities in waterfront revitalization projects (e.g., using Waterfront Toronto’s Port Lands Flood Protection field monitoring liaison agreement as a model)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Future</b></p>

- Identify opportunities for integrating Indigenous economic development in the next steps for advancing the recommendations in the report titled, "[Igniting Innovation: A Call to Action for Innovation-led Economic Development on Toronto's Waterfront](#)" in the climate action, health/life sciences and creative industries/arts and culture

**Future**

### Return land and stewardship rights – RAP Action #19

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Divisions, Agencies, partners and Indigenous communities to advance models for Indigenous land and water stewardship, control, ownership and co-management along the waterfront</li> </ul>	<b>Future</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize improved access to waterfront land, facilities and water as a key outcome in waterfront revitalization projects</li> </ul>	<b>In progress</b>

### Enhance Indigenous recruitment and retention within Toronto Public Service – RAP Action #22

Action	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire a dedicated Indigenous Waterfront Project Manager within the Indigenous Affairs Office as a liaison with the Waterfront Secretariat</li> </ul>	<b>Complete</b>

## 8. Conclusion

While the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization discussions focused on the renewed vision and priorities for waterfront revitalization, including “truth, justice and reconciliation,” future engagement with Indigenous communities will shift to focus on more specific waterfront projects and related opportunities for advancing the Reconciliation Action Plan. Projects include those in the Port Lands, including Villiers Island precinct plan updates and Port Lands Indigenous Place Naming, the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan, and other projects in partnership with Waterfront Toronto (Quayside), TRCA (Scarborough Bluffs West Revitalization Study) and CreateTO (McCleary Precinct Plan).

This report and further updates will be shared through the City’s website ([www.toronto.ca/waterfront/current-projects](http://www.toronto.ca/waterfront/current-projects)), social media (@CityPlanTO, @waterfront.to), Waterfront Toronto’s newsletter ([www.waterfronttoronto.ca/newsletter](http://www.waterfronttoronto.ca/newsletter)) and directly with communities interested in, and involved with, specific waterfront project engagements.

## Appendix A: Discussion Questions

1. How can we best engage with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities?
2. In what ways can traditional Indigenous knowledge be meaningfully integrated into the engagement process? Into waterfront revitalization projects?
3. What are your thoughts on the following priorities for Toronto's waterfront?
  - a. Indigenous engagement and reconciliation
  - b. Strategic economic development investments
  - c. Equity and inclusion, including through housing
  - d. Climate resilience and sustainability
4. What are the specific areas or initiatives along the waterfront that are especially important?
5. What other goals or types of waterfront revitalization projects could support First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities?
6. How will we know if we're doing well and if changes need to be made along the way?

## Appendix B: Waterfront Revitalization Engagement Presentation

The Waterfront Revitalization presentation made before each interview/engagement session can be found on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization [project website](#).

The presentation version of this Summary Report can be found by clicking the image below:



## Appendix C: Winter Solstice Ceremony Invitation and Handout

# Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Winter Solstice Water Ceremony & Dialogue with Elders and urban Indigenous youth

**December 20, 2022 @ 12:00 – 3:00 PM EST**  
Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (dance studio)  
627 Queens Quay West



Led by **Grandma Pauline Shirt, Elder Dr. Duke Redbird** and Andrea L.K. Johnston, the City welcomes urban Indigenous communities, particularly Elders and youth (up to age 29), to join a:

1. **Water Ceremony**, led by Grandma Pauline Shirt with singing, drumming, teachings
2. **Dialogue**, led by Andrea L.K. Johnston and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird, asking participants about their vision and priorities for waterfront revitalization, with City of Toronto staff listening deeply with intention to action
3. **Ceremonial Feast**

Earlier this year, the City of Toronto established its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as well as a renewed vision for the next phase of waterfront revitalization. The City and its partners are interested in listening intently to Elders and urban Indigenous youth about their priorities for the waterfront and opportunities for advancing the RAP through waterfront revitalization projects and processes.

**Please sign up in advance!**

**Online:** <https://bit.ly/3iA48J3>

**Email:** [info@johnstonresearch.ca](mailto:info@johnstonresearch.ca)



# Winter Solstice Water Ceremony & Dialogue – Dec 20, 2022

**Agenda** *(please note times are fluid and subject to change)*

- 12:00 - 1:00pm**      **Water Ceremony**, led by Grandma Pauline Shirt
- 1:00 - 2:30pm**      **Dialogue**, opened by Elder Dr. Duke Redbird and led by Andrea L.K. Johnston, asking participants about their vision and priorities for the waterfront, with City of Toronto staff listening with intention to action
- 2:30 - 3:00pm**      **Ceremonial Feast**

## Discussion Questions

1. a) How do you currently use or experience the waterfront?  
b) How do you wish you or your community could use or experience the waterfront in 5, 10 or 50 years?
2. What personal meaning or cultural values does the waterfront hold?
3. What are your priorities or ideas for advancing truth and reconciliation along the waterfront? (Flip over to check out the Reconciliation Action Plan actions)

## Other Questions (to write on flip charts)

4. What values and processes are important to consider for ongoing discussions about waterfront revitalization with Indigenous communities?
5. How would you like to stay involved in discussions with the City about the waterfront?

## Ways to Participate

- Add your thoughts to sticky notes and attach to large papers around the room
- Fill out a comment form to let us know what you thought of today's event and include your email if interested in receiving updates about waterfront projects
- Email us at [wps@toronto.ca](mailto:wps@toronto.ca) with any thoughts or questions after the event
- Contribute your thoughts, meet new people and enjoy yourself!

Thank you for your participation!

## Learn More!



**Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization**

[www.toronto.ca/next-phase-action-plan](http://www.toronto.ca/next-phase-action-plan)

**Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization - Project Information**



**Reconciliation Action Plan**

[www.toronto.ca/reconciliation-](http://www.toronto.ca/reconciliation-)

A report advancing a renewed vision for the next phase of waterfront revitalization and recommended next steps was adopted by City Council in July 2022. The renewed vision includes the following priorities that will inform the continued transformation of Toronto’s 43-kilometer waterfront, from Etobicoke to Scarborough:

- Truth, justice and reconciliation, including through Indigenous engagement;
- Climate resilience and sustainability;
- Strategic and inclusive economic development;
- Equity, inclusion and access, including through housing and community benefits.

The City continues to engage with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples and urban Indigenous communities, along with the public and stakeholders. Input heard through these processes, along with the results of intergovernmental discussions on a further scope of work and potential funding, will inform the next report to City Council in Fall 2023.

## The City of Toronto’s Reconciliation Action Plan

The City of Toronto’s Reconciliation Action Plan will guide its actions to advance truth, justice and reconciliation for the next 10 years, from 2022 to 2032. It builds on the City’s existing commitments to Indigenous Peoples and takes them further through 28 meaningful actions across five themes. A selection of actions relevant to waterfront revitalization include:

Themes	Actions
Actions to Restore Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance Indigenous Education (among City staff)</li> <li>• Conduct City-wide Reconciliation Audits</li> </ul>
Actions to Right Relations and Share Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Relationships with Indigenous Organizations and Collectives</li> <li>• Improve Relationships with Treaty and Territorial Partners</li> <li>• Enhance Indigenous Civic Engagement</li> </ul>
Actions for Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Indigenous Health and Well-being</li> <li>• Increase Access to Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Support Indigenous Placekeeping</li> <li>• Celebrate Indigenous Arts and Culture</li> <li>• Support the Revitalization of Indigenous Languages</li> <li>• Improve Access to Traditional Foods and Medicines</li> <li>• Return Land and Stewardship Rights</li> </ul>
Actions to Make Financial Reparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Indigenous Economic Development</li> <li>• Enhance Indigenous Recruitment and Retention within Toronto Public Service</li> </ul>
Actions for the Indigenous Affairs Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Indigenous Community Engagement</li> <li>• Enhance Communication between Indigenous Communities and City Divisions</li> </ul>



## Appendix D: Interview and Engagement Contact List

	Organization	Contacts
Elders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grandmother Pauline Shirt (Plains Cree First Nation), Water Protector</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elder Dr. Duke Redbird (Saugeen First Nation), poet, activist, educator, artist</li> </ul>
First Nations	Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark LaForme, Director, DOCA</li> <li>Darin Wybenga, Traditional Knowledge and Land Coordinator</li> <li>Casey Jonathan, Manager, Major Projects</li> <li>Jessica Maurice, Major Projects Assistant</li> </ul>
	Huron-Wendat Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominic Ste-Marie, Land Management Advisor</li> </ul>
	Six Nations of the Grand River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tammy Martin, Chief of Staff</li> <li>Tayler Hill, Consultation Lead</li> <li>Dawn Russel, Consultation Administrative Assistant</li> <li>Robin Vanstone, Consultation Supervisor</li> </ul>
Métis	Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senator Suzanne Brunelle, Toronto &amp; York Region Métis Council</li> <li>Laura Desaulniers, MNO Branch Coordinator, Thunder Bay Office</li> <li>Debra Keeny, President, Credit River Métis Council</li> <li>Shirley Debassige, President, Toronto &amp; York Region Métis Council</li> <li>Helen Giacchetta, President, Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council</li> </ul>

Urban Indigenous Organizations/Service Providers	ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynthia Bell-Clayton, Executive Director</li> </ul>
	Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Debassige, Community Consultant</li> <li>• Suzanne Brunelle, Senator, TYRMC</li> <li>• Angus Palmer, Director, Wigwamin</li> <li>• Elder/Grandmother Dorothy Peters</li> <li>• Patti Pettigrew, Founder and Executive Director</li> </ul>
	Toronto - Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Martin, Executive Director of Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment &amp; Training</li> <li>• Frances Sanderson, Executive Director, Nishnawbe Homes Inc.</li> <li>• Kevin Wassegijig, Chief Executive Officer, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto</li> <li>• Melissa Hamonic, MFA MSW Associate Director, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto</li> <li>• Steve Teekens, Executive Director, Native Men's Residence (Na' Me' Res')</li> <li>• Pamela Hart, Executive Director, Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto</li> <li>• Andrea Chrisjohn, Council Fire Coordinator &amp; Director</li> </ul>
	** Organizations represented in TASSC and TICAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigwamen</li> <li>• Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre</li> <li>• Aboriginal Legal Services</li> <li>• Native Men's Residence</li> <li>• Thunder Woman Healing Lodge</li> <li>• Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle</li> <li>• Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment &amp; Training</li> </ul>
Youth	Kapapamahchakwew (Elem) Wandering Spirit School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20-30 grade 9-12 students and teachers</li> </ul>

<p>City of Toronto Divisions and Agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Affairs Office</li> <li>• City Manager’s Office</li> <li>• City Planning</li> <li>• Housing Secretariat</li> <li>• Parks, Forestry &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Shelter, Support &amp; Housing Administration</li> <li>• Waterfront Toronto</li> <li>• Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)</li> <li>• CreateTO</li> </ul>
<p>Contacted, but did not meet with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anishnawbe Health Toronto</li> <li>• Haudenosaunee Development Institute</li> <li>• Miziwe Biik</li> <li>• Native Women’s Resource Centre of Toronto</li> <li>• 2 Spirited People of the First Nations</li> <li>• Toronto Inuit Association</li> <li>• Native Canadian Centre of Toronto</li> <li>• Native Women in the Arts</li> </ul>