

## Revitalization of Queen's Park North: First meeting with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Tuesday, October 21, 2025; 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Participants: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, City of Toronto Parks & Recreation (Queen's Park North team), Janet Rosenberg & Studio, Trophic Design, Third Party Public

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the City of Toronto held their first meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to introduce the Queen's Park North revitalization project and to begin discussion about the relationship between the Mississaugas and the City as the project unfolds. This summary was written by Third Party Public and was shared with participants for review before being finalized. No suggested edits were received so the draft was finalized as written.

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### Summary of Discussion

The Queen's Park North team presented slides introducing the project and explained that they are interested in how to articulate the Indigenous presence in the revitalized Queen's Park North. They also shared that there has been engagement feedback to date that expressed interest in seeing a stronger Indigenous presence in the park, whether that be through native plantings, interpretive signage, art, programming, storytelling, places for fire, or other ideas. There were also participants in the engagement process who said that the statue of King Edward the 7<sup>th</sup> on a horse in the middle of the park is a colonial presence that is inconsistent with Truth and Reconciliation.

Participants from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation shared several points during the discussion.

1. **We have to preserve the trees, we're very supportive of that.** It's also good to hear that you're working to move out the Norway Maples and you're doing it not just by chopping them down but doing it kindly and making something out of the process.
2. **Subtlety is important in the park.** Everything should feel very natural, as if it belongs. This includes subtlety in including appropriate Anishinaabe dodems throughout the park so people realize that this was a First Nations landscape (dodems are typically represented by an animal, bird, or fish and carries specific roles and responsibilities that contribute to the social and spiritual well-being of the community). The dodems reflect general representation from various places, including from other Williams Treaty First Nations (e.g., whitefish, reindeer).
3. **The relocation of King Edward the 7<sup>th</sup> makes sense.** This includes support for moving him out of the park and used in some other way as a resource to the City of Toronto or in the Province.
4. **If Indigenous communities are invited to use fire in the park, it's important that they not be targeted by police.** Indigenous governance of fire space and stewardship of the park is critical to address this.
5. **Support for the plan to manage the decline of Norway Maples and like the plan to use native plants.** Natural landscapes are messy and this can generate tensions. Education of the public and public outreach will be very important for this type of park design. Indigenous ecological knowledge is critical to this as well, along with education around Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Future Indigenous stewardship of the park can help incorporate Indigenous ecological knowledge into the park in the future and create sustainability.

### Next steps:

The Queen's Park North team is currently developing design ideas informed by engagement feedback. They will be ready for sharing on November 4<sup>th</sup> (including the slide introducing the idea of a Council fire in the park) at a public meeting and also posted online. The City is keen to reconnect with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation before the end of the year to share and seek feedback.