

Revitalization of Queen's Park North: First meeting with Wendat Nation

Online via Teams on Thursday, October 2, 2025; 9:00 – 9:45am

Participants: Wendat Nation (Consultation and Archaeology/Research), City of Toronto Parks & Recreation (Queen's Park North team), Janet Rosenberg & Studio, Trophic Design, Third Party Public

On October 2nd, the City of Toronto held their first meeting with the Wendat First Nation to introduce the Queen's Park North revitalization project and to begin discussion about the relationship between the Wendat 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. Suggested edits have been made.

Summary of Discussion

The Queen's Park North team presented slides introducing the project (attached) 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 7th on a horse in the middle of the park is a colonial presence that is inconsistent with Truth and Reconciliation.

The Wendat Nation shared that:

1. It's important for the City to be clear on what the team is looking for from the Wendat Nation. This will help support internal discussions within the Wendat Nation on the role they may be interested in having.
There are a few ways the Queen's Park North team said they are thinking about this, including:
 - *The unique location of the park next to the Provincial Legislature creates opportunities to integrate / recognize traditional First Nations perspectives on governance in the park whether that be through imagery, ceremonial infrastructure, or other ways.*
 - *The unique ecology of the park, including the trees, the canopy, and the need for ecological re-balancing creates an opportunity to integrate ecological knowledge that the Wendat Nation may be interested in sharing.*
 - *There are opportunities to integrate consideration of the Indigenous archaeological context.*
2. The Nation is overwhelmed with consultation requests. Additional steps are required before deciding about their level of involvement, including seeking guidance from a supervisor regarding who could be involved and how. *The City team noted that they are conscious that the City asks a lot of First Nations. The City wants to be welcoming and open to working together in a way that works best for the Wendat Nation.*
3. Understanding how funding will work to support Indigenous engagement is important. Typically, the Wendat Nation works on an hourly basis and it is possible to send a quote for services, it that's something of interest to the City. The amounts allocated for the implementation of First Nations projects will influence the Wendat Nation's involvement in the revitalization of the park *This would be of interest to the City. It's a City principle to make sure people are properly compensated. Representatives of the City of Toronto and Trophic Design indicated that they do not yet know the amounts that will be allocated to the Indigenous consultation process and the integration of their projects. The operation and distribution of the funding is still being refined and developed.*

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 4th at a public meeting and also posted online. The City offered to share materials with the Wendat Nation before November 4th by email and/or to have another meeting before then. The Wendat Nation team will connect with their supervisor internally about the project.