

Summary Report: Meeting with Wendat First Nation

Queen's Park North Revitalization
Engagement Phase 2: Exploring Design Options
December 2, 2025



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Introduction

On December 2nd, the City of Toronto held their second meeting with the Wendat First Nation to both share and seek feedback on emerging design ideas and to respond to the proposal from the Wendat First Nation on how they see being involved in the Queen's Park North Revitalization project. This summary was written by Third Party Public and was shared in draft with participants for their review before being finalized.

Attendance

Wendat Nation: Consultation and Archaeology/Research).

Queen's Park North Revitalization Project team: City of Toronto Parks & Recreation, Janet Rosenberg & Studio (JRS), Trophic Design, Third Party Public.

For more information about the project and to review summaries from previous community engagement activities, visit the project webpage:

toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth

Meeting Summary

The Queen's Park North team presented slides with an update on the revitalization process, including feedback received to date, the final vision and guiding principles for the work, and an update on the timing of next steps with Toronto City Council. The design team (Janet Rosenberg & Studio and Trophic Design) presented the emerging design ideas.

As part of their presentation, the City shared their response to the Wendat Nation proposal, including:

- Their thanks for the proposal and for taking the time to put meaningful thought towards how the Queen's Park North Revitalization project could open the way to several forms of participation by Wendat Nation.
- The City is committed, along with the donor, to compensate for ongoing hourly engagement at the rates suggested.
- The City and the Donor are also grateful for the Wendat Nation's content creation proposal and are committed to exploring options for ongoing involvement and engagement in ways that best align with the Nation's priorities.
- The design team has put together a preliminary list of potential opportunities for further consideration, and to explore possible areas for involvement.
- The City would like to continue meeting the Wendat to identify a scope of work that could be incorporated into the larger project. Similarly, the City is interested in having these discussions with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) and Six Nations and would hope to develop parallel and complimentary scopes of work with all three nations.
- The City remains committed to meaningful consultation with Indigenous Nations, ensuring Indigenous perspectives and Ways of Knowing are reflected in the Park's design, consistent with the City's Reconciliation Action Plan, and acknowledge the importance of supporting economic reconciliation and increasing Indigenous authority over design elements, in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

The Wendat Nation shared their thanks the team for the presentation and noted that there doesn't seem to be anything negative with the emerging design ideas. They liked the fire pit and tree walk, and the intention to respect the consultation process described. Their main interest is in understanding the Queen's Park North Revitalization team's thoughts on the Wendat proposal.

Considerations raised during discussion by the City and the Queen's Park North Design team:

- Trophic Design and the City reiterated their appreciation for the Wendat proposal and their commitment to exploring different ways the Wendat could be involved in the process, including potentially a role for artist collaboration, language and translation, cultural iconography and storytelling, research and ongoing engagement, procurement and construction, etc.
- The design team is still refining the overall park program, which is influencing how they approach the proposed scope from the Wendat, including research and interpretive signage. One challenge is that there is still uncertainty about interpretive signage particularly since it is not that big a park and the need to represent all three First Nations.
- There is interest from the design team and City to co-design the scope directly with the Wendat, noting that similar discussions will be happening with both MCFN and Six Nations. There is also an interest in understanding whether there's an opportunity for an incremental step forward that focuses on a smaller scope for each of the Nations, including whether there's an opportunity to identify a minimum scope that may be workable to begin the work (e.g., phasing the work).
- The team is exploring whether to separate governance discussions from design discussions.

Considerations raised during discussion by the Wendat team:

- The Wendat team explained that what excites them about this project is the unique opportunity to share their own story in their own words in this unique location in Ontario and Toronto. That's why the Wendat proposal focuses on research. Often people do not understand what the Wendat history is, when the Wendat were present and for how long, and why it's relevant. There seems to be a clearer understanding of MCFN and Six Nations history. This project is an opportunity to create more content for Ontario and Toronto. Art is one way to contribute, but that's an opportunity that is very typical in parks – there's an opportunity to do more here. That being said, they also noted that just because the Wendat put forward a

proposal, it doesn't mean that's the only thing they're willing to work on. They are open to additional discussion.

- It's important to note that artists cannot represent the Wendat Nation and they wouldn't be authorized to work on behalf of the Wendat government.
- The Wendat team explained that they have good working relationships with MCFN and Six Nations and are in discussions regularly. They encouraged the City to move towards a more collaborative approach to engagement that brings the Nations together. This can be more productive, supporting the sharing of ideas among the Nations and understanding what other Nations are bringing and think about what we can add to each other.
- The Wendat team is in high demand and are approached regularly for involvement in multiple projects. It can take time to access the resources required to participate in an opportunity like this one, and some skills (e.g., language) can take months. That's why a clear understanding of next steps and timing would be helpful. It would be difficult to identify a minimum scope without first understanding the nature of the work. Wendat Nation quotes vary depending on the focus on research, language, and culture and also on whether there's travel for meetings, if things happen in - person, etc.

Next Steps

The donation has not yet been accepted by the City and the negotiation of the agreement is currently underway. The donation acceptance agreement will be the focus of a Staff Report in January and going to Council in early February 2026. It will be important to identify what makes sense to integrate into the donation acceptance agreement and what makes sense to discuss following acceptance of the donation agreement.

The Wendat Nation team will connect with their Director internally about the project.

The facilitation team will send the slides shared during the meeting to the Wendat.