

Meeting Details

The City of Toronto held their first Indigenous Sharing meeting to introduce the Queen's Park North revitalization project and to begin discussion about the relationship between urban Indigenous organizations and communities and the revitalization of the park. 34 organizations were invited to participate, including those working in a range of different sectors, including Métis and Inuit, education, business, social services, and housing.

This summary was written by Third Party Public and was shared with participants in draft for review before being finalized.

Date and Time

Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants

- Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (ALFDC) – the Indigenous Community Entity for Toronto on the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy
- City of Toronto Parks & Recreation (Queen's Park North team)
- Trophic Design (Indigenous engagement and Landscape Architecture)
- Janet Rosenberg & Studio (Landscape architects)
- Third Party Public (Engagement)

Discussion Summary

The **Queen's Park North team** presented slides introducing the project and explained that they are interested in how the revitalized Queen's Park North can connect to urban Indigenous priorities. They also shared that there has been engagement feedback to date that expressed interest in seeing a stronger Indigenous presence in the park, and that the park story should go beyond only focusing on its colonial past. Suggestions included things like 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.

Participant Feedback

Good relationships are reciprocal.

Asking for Indigenous feedback through the engagement process is one step, but along with that, the City needs to be thinking about what opportunities are available for Indigenous communities.

Queen's Park North Revitalization

First Indigenous Sharing Meeting

Offer opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in the project and in the park.

For example:

- Make space for Indigenous people through the procurement process.
- Involve Indigenous artists in creating art in the park.
- Indigenous governance in the park.
- Engage with many Indigenous service providers in the area (e.g., Native Women's Resource Centre, Native Child and Family Services and their 7th Generation Image Makers, etc.) to understand their priorities for how Indigenous people can and want to use the park.
- Consider connecting with the Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board that advises the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle.
- Intentionally reach out to ALFDC and Miziwebiik to discuss ways that Indigenous labour training programs can support Indigenous participation in future stages of project development.

Indigenous governance of fire space and stewardship of the park is critical.

This is critical to ensure equitable use of the space within Indigenous people having their access impeded or having access dictated by other parties.

There is no Indigenous land ownership in the park.

There is irony in seeking Indigenous feedback to inform an area called Queen's Park. One alternative future could see land given to Indigenous people so it can be used to build the affordable housing.

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 will be convening a second Indigenous Sharing Meeting before the end of the year to share and seek feedback on these emerging design ideas.