

# Summary: Third Meeting with Six Nations of the Grand River

Queen's Park North Revitalization

Community Engagement Phase 3: Setting the Direction

April 1, 2026



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# Introduction

On April 1, 2026, the City of Toronto hosted a third meeting with the Six Nations of the Grand River via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the meeting was to share and discuss updates on the Queen’s Park North revitalization planning process, including the proposed operations and maintenance framework, the draft design concept and core elements, including the workshop, tree walk, café and washrooms, and the proposed Scope of Work for Indigenous Rights Holders. Key points shared by participants are summarized below. Text *in italics* reflects responses from the Queen’s Park North Project Team, where provided.

## Attendance

**Six Nations of the Grand River.**

**Queen’s Park North Revitalization Project team:** City of Toronto, Janet Rosenberg & Studio, Trophic Design, Third Party Public.

For more information about the project and to review summaries from other community engagement activities, visit the project webpage: [toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth](https://toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth)

# Meeting Summary

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

- **Concern about the significant rollback of restoration areas, particularly the removal of the meadow.** There was a question about why restoration areas were reduced substantially in the design since it was last shared, rather than making a more modest adjustment. There was particular concern about the removal of the meadow as a habitat that could play an important role for birds. They emphasized the need for long-term ecological thinking and highlighted the intrinsic and educational value of diverse natural systems. *The project team explained that the restoration-to-lawn balance changed significantly between Phases 2 and 3 of the project in response to public feedback. While the park today is approximately 88% lawn, Phase 2 proposed reducing lawn to about 25%, with extensive restoration areas. Phase 3 revises this to roughly equal proportions—about 41% lawn and 41% restoration. This adjustment was driven largely by strong public input emphasizing the importance of lawn as critical to current park use and experience. The Queen’s Park North team said they prioritized preserving the most valued lawn areas while locating restoration zones to support the health of the oldest and most sensitive trees. They also said that overly concentrating people into fewer lawn areas could damage tree roots, so the design seeks a balance that protects trees while maintaining usable public space.*
- **Concern that the Carolinian forest reference system was removed from the draft design.** The Six Nations has a long-standing emphasis on protecting and enhancing Carolinian forests given their declining status throughout southern Ontario and said that opportunities to highlight Carolinian forests are always valued. *The project team acknowledged this concern and committed to working with the team to explore bringing Carolinian forest elements back in targeted areas of the site where conditions are appropriate.*
- **Support for the educational opportunity presented by the project, particularly the tree walk.** Participants said that if the tree walk is done right, it will be very interesting. They said that many people –particularly newcomers – are largely unaware of Indigenous history in Toronto. They stressed the importance of visibly conveying that Indigenous peoples live and work throughout the city, not only on reserves. Making Indigenous presence visible across the city is essential to counter harmful perceptions. *The City welcomed the positive feedback on the tree walk while noting that it is being reassessed due to concerns raised by some community leaders at Committee and Council. The team referenced the March 10 Executive*

*Committee meeting, where 17 deputations expressed concerns about tree impacts and were critical of the tree walk. Given the volume and nature of that feedback, no final decision has been made, and the City emphasized the importance of having supportive perspectives formally on the record as this element continues to be reviewed.*

- **It is important to tell the full and uncomfortable history of Sir John A. Macdonald, including his role in the Indian Act, land dispossession, and introducing residential school system.** Erasure risks losing critical history and said that Queens Park North presents an opportunity to create a linkage or dialogue with the Macdonald statue currently located on the south side of the Legislative Buildings. Ideas included pairing the statue with Indigenous counter-narratives or artworks in Queen's Park North that explicitly address Macdonald's impact on Indigenous rights and survival. Participants emphasized this as an educational responsibility, particularly for newcomers, noting that "truth and reconciliation require telling the truth." Participants said that Six Nations had raised this before, so they want to know that if the idea is being rejected, this be clearly communicated at the next meeting, and expressed interest in approaches that are more intentional and substantial than scattered text panels. *The project team said that there is a whole layer around education, storytelling, and interpretation that is outlined but not yet developed, and apologized that opportunities to make this connection have not yet been considered (i.e., between the Sir John A Macdonald statue in the park on the south side of the Legislative buildings and the Indigenous presence integrated into the proposed design concept for Queen's Park North). The Queen's Park North project team clarified that this is not a rejection of the concept and expressed strong interest in pursuing it. They said that the scope of work is designed to give Six Nations authorship to provide direction about important stories through a 30-page document that would inform integration into the park through signage, artworks, and interpretive features.*
- **Concern about the land acknowledgement provided at the beginning of the meeting referencing both Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples, but the presentation only shows Anishinaabe language with no Iroquoian representation.** Participants requested more intentional inclusion going forward and shared Haudenosaunee language contacts to support this work. *The project team explained that Anishinaabe language appeared in the slides because a Trophic team member speaks Anishinaabemowin and the team has worked directly with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. They have limited in-house knowledge of Iroquoian languages but emphasized that addressing this gap is a key intent of the proposed scope of work. The team appreciated Six Nations' support and said they see integrating Iroquoian dialects (through plant names and ecological features) as an important next step.*

# Next Steps

The project team asked Six Nations of the Grand River to review and provide feedback on the proposed Scope of Work, particularly Sections 4.1-4.3 of the proposed Scope of Services (Interpretive Plan, Planting and Ecologies, and Art Jury/Panel) and submit a fee proposal and work plan by April.

The project team thanked participants for their time and feedback and reminded them that the online public survey remains open until the end of this week. The draft design concept will continue to be refined through engagement feedback, Executive Committee direction, Design Review Panel input, and Council review. A City Staff report will be submitted to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on May 27, presented to the Committee on June 10, and reviewed by City Council on June 24–26.