

Summary: Third Meeting with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Queen's Park North Revitalization

Community Engagement Phase 3: Setting the Direction

March 30, 2026



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Introduction

On March 30, 2026, the City of Toronto hosted a third meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation 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

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

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

Meeting Summary

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

- **Overall appreciation for keeping MCFN informed and support for the tree walk and railing concept, and the attention to the tree protection zones.** Participants thanked the project team for keeping them informed and said it was helpful to understand where the project stands, including the background on the King Edward sculpture from New Delhi, India. They expressed support and complimented the team for the tree walk and interpretive elements on the railing concept, and appreciated the careful attention given to the trees and tree protection zones. They are interested in continuing the conversation as the project moves forward. *The City explained that it's good to hear support for the tree walk, and at the same time the City also noted that the Queen's Park North team is revisiting the tree walk because of concerns that have been expressed by some community leaders at Committee and Council. A final decision about the tree walk has not yet been made.*
- **Concern about the fire pit design.** A participant was uncomfortable with the idea of a fire pit that could be walked over given its sacred significance. They compared this to how Wampum Belts would not be placed on the ground to be walked on. Participants would need to speak with other community members and provide further feedback. *The project team clarified that the fire pit is not intended to function as a permanently activated sacred fire or include fixed seating, as is sometimes the case with other Council Fire locations. The design needs to remain flexible to support a wide range of uses at Queen's Park, including demonstrations and Indigenous gatherings such as National Indigenous Peoples Day, Truth and Reconciliation Day, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Day. The team explained that fire is already part of many demonstrations on site, and the intent is to formally accommodate this through safe, manageable infrastructure. Stewardship by an Indigenous advisory group or circle was discussed as a way to guide appropriate access and use. The fire pit design is still being worked through internally, with the broader vision being for the site as a whole to operate as a Council Fire. The project team said they are seeking direction from MCFN and welcomed further feedback following the meeting.*
- **Suggestion to include accessible storage for events.** Participants would like to see an accessible, keyed storage space for supplies for fire pit and events (including chairs, firewood, fire-starting materials, smudge kits, and traditional ceremonial items such as a Grandfather stone). They suggested an in-ground bunker or concrete storage facility located outside of the main building, where materials could be easily accessed without extensive coordination.
- **Interest in potential bidding opportunities related to mass timber.** Participants asked if there may be opportunities for their Business Development Corporation to

bid on project components related to mass timber. They said that they have existing relationships with mass timber facilities and requested that, if information becomes available, it be shared so it can be passed along for future consideration. *The project team said that procurement details are not yet defined and will be shared as the project develops. They said that the City's Purchasing and Materials Management Division is preparing a report to City Council this year on Indigenous procurement, with the intent of aligning projects with the City's Reconciliation Action Plan, where possible.*

There were a range of questions of clarification asked including:

- **What is the construction method to build and raise the platforms for the tree walk?** There were concerns about soil compaction from heavy equipment. *The project team explained that construction methods are being explored with the arborist and urban forester, including modular approaches and the potential for future deconstruction, if needed. Minimizing impacts to soil and tree roots is a priority.*
- **What is the capacity of the Heart area?** *To provide a response, the project team showed a demonstration image from the park with approximately 1,500 people. Seating would be on resin-bound granular paving, which is textured and permeable. The area is intended to remain adaptable for performances, fire use, and other activities.*
- **Are there opportunities for historical interpretive signage?** *The project team said that they are planning a combination of approaches – plant translations including cultural narratives around the history of butternuts, pawpaws, and other plants, and reflecting MCFN's history from pre-colonial, colonial to contemporary – and integrating those stories into the site.*
- **What is the approach for providing input on the planting list?** How will input on the planting list be provided? Will the project team develop an initial planting list and share it for review, or are First Nations being asked to propose plant species they would like to see included in the space? *The project team said that the plant list is being co-developed by a large team of biologists, ecologists, and urban tree planting experts, including Trophic Design, JRS, Dougan Ecology, and Cohen & Master, informed by analysis of existing forest conditions. A draft species list will be shared for review and refined based on feedback, with opportunities for MCFN input during the design development stage.*
- **What is the scope of the public artwork?** Specifically, they wanted to know whether public art is limited to permanent installations, such as the fire pit cover, or if there are opportunities elsewhere in the space, including on the café side, within table or seating structures, or integrated into pathway design through elements like stone patterning. They want to understand where public artwork is expected to be located to better understand the range of public artwork envisioned and how it will be integrated within the park. *Following recent Council direction, the project team is*

now developing a broader public art strategy for the project in coordination with the City's Public Art Office, the City staff who oversees public art. While this work is still in the early stages, the intent is that the strategy will help define additional and more specific public art opportunities across the site. For now, the scope is being kept intentionally open and currently described as "artwork or artworks" in the draft scope of work. The fire pit cover has been identified as one initial element to move forward, but the team acknowledged there may be additional, yet-to-be-defined opportunities. The current focus is on establishing an initial scope, committing to a series of meetings with an MCFN representative, and providing a clear commitment to ongoing engagement, authorship, and meaningful involvement as the project and potential art scopes continue to evolve.

Next Steps

The project team asked MCFN 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.