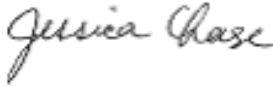





# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	June 9, 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Landmarks and Monuments Review Update (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Jessica Chase Director, Children's and Community Services Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## BACKGROUND:

The City began a Review of City-owned landmarks and monuments in 2021 to address Indigenous and historical landmarks and determine opportunities to honour the Indigenous community in accordance with the Urban Indigenous Strategy actions. This work will contribute to the City of Hamilton's journey towards meaningful reconciliation. Guiding the next phase of work in the Review are the report [HSC21025\(a\)/PED21149\(a\)/PW21038\(a\)](#), approved by Council in May 2022, and the Honouring our Roots: Creating Space for Indigenous Voices report by First Peoples Group, endorsed as supplementary to the City's Urban Indigenous Strategy.

## PROGRESS UPDATE:

The purpose of this Communication Update is to inform Council of the progress that has

been made on a few of the recommendations in report [HSC21025\(a\)/PED21149\(a\)/PW21038\(a\)](#), namely:

- (a) (ii) Create and action a communications plan that includes interpretive signage at the high priority sites that indicates that the city is aware that these sites are problematic and educates the public about the need for further consultation and action;
- (a) (iv) Hire an Indigenous curatorial team composed of a Curator;
- (a) (v) Hire an Indigenous Community Liaison to lead engagement with local First Nations and the urban Indigenous community in Hamilton;
- (c) That interim interpretive communications be developed and installed at the high priority sites (Sir John A MacDonald, Queen Victoria, Augustus Jones, and United Empire Loyalist) as well as Ryerson Recreation Centre (at such time as the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's renaming process has concluded and the City of Hamilton initiates renaming of the attached recreation facility) including but not limited to signage to educate the public towards a collective and shared pathway as a way forward.

An engagement strategy and communication plan are being finalized to guide the next stages of work in the Review. Interim signage at high priority sites, [project updates on the website](#) and various other communication channels will be used keep the community informed and share opportunities to engage, as appropriate.

The wording of temporary, interpretive signage to be placed at four of the high-priority sites (Sir John A MacDonald, Queen Victoria, Augustus Jones, and United Empire Loyalist) was developed in consultation with the Circle of Experts, which includes Elders, historians, artists and leaders from the Indigenous community with diverse backgrounds. This signage is meant to let the community know that we have identified these sites as potentially problematic for Indigenous people, and that we are working on gathering the true history behind them. The temporary interpretive signage is being installed over the next week as weather permits.

Interim signage will not be placed at the Ryerson Recreation Centre as the school was renamed the "Kanétskare Elementary School" in June 2022, and on May 24, 2023, following Report HSC23031 being approved by the Facility Naming Sub-Committee, Council approved the renaming of the attached Recreation Centre to "Kanétskare Recreation Centre" which includes updating the building sign.

The signage includes text in three languages: English, as well as translations in the Mohawk and Anishinaabe languages. For accessibility, and so that the two Indigenous languages can be heard, a QR code has been added under each of the respective texts

that will link to a YouTube video. These videos will play the audio of each language spoken over the text so that viewers can see exactly which words are being said (these are located on the City's website at <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/equity-diversity-inclusion/indigenous-relations/indigenous-landmarks-monuments> ).

The cost of the four signs is approximately \$17,000, which has been approved by Council to be funded from any available source deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services including, but not limited to, one or more of the following: first from Provincial or Federal funding sources and second the overall City of Hamilton surplus or the Tax Stabilization Reserve, # 110046. The installation is occurring in the second week of June. A copy of the wording on the panel is attached in Appendix "A".

In January 2023, both the Curator, Indigenous Culture and Heritage and the Indigenous Community Outreach and Research Coordinator were hired. These two positions will work together closely to implement the next phases of the Review in the coming months.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Shelly Hill, Manager of Indigenous Relations ([shelly.hill@hamilton.ca](mailto:shelly.hill@hamilton.ca)) or John Summers, Manager of Heritage Resource Management ([john.summers@hamilton.ca](mailto:john.summers@hamilton.ca)).

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" – Interpretive signage for the high priority sites