

To: Members of Wilmot Council

First of all, I would like to thank the working group and LURA for their hard work to try to develop a plan for the PMP statues. I am glad to see the focus on inclusivity and reducing harm.

Secondly, I would like to draw attention to the following Staff Feedback:

*"The work required to deliver the recommendations of the Working Group is not within the mandate of a municipality and is beyond the capacity of the current organization. A project of this scope and scale would be a challenge for a major city with dedicated resources within an established Culture Department. The Township does a great job in programming Castle Kilbride and ensuring that it operates in a sustainable manner, however the work required for this project is beyond Castle staff's capacity. Installation and maintenance of the statues would require additional resources within Parks & Facilities area to meet the expectations of the recommendations."*

I share the staff's concerns. I agree this project is beyond Wilmot Township's mandate and resources (both in staff expertise and financially). Already, \$221,000 in taxpayer dollars have been spent on the project which does not include staff or council time which also has a cost.

As has been outlined by the Working Group, any future PMP project will be complex and I expect will continue to be contentious due to the wide range of resident opinion.

I worry that this project will continue to cost Wilmot Township both financially and in community discord, both of which we cannot afford. This is not a project for a township of only 22,000 people which is already struggling financially. Residents are already having to cope with large tax increases to maintain our existing infrastructure. Note, that public history displays typically cost the government to maintain them and are not money makers.

These statues belong in a museum or large municipality where they have the in-house expertise to manage a large exhibit and create the appropriate educational content needed to meet the TRC recommendations.

I urge Council to return the statues to the organization that donated them so they can find a more appropriate home for them outside our Township.

Sincerely,

Helen Lammers, Wilmot Resident