

Excerpt from Minutes of July 28, 2025 Wilmot Council Meeting:

“Council now voted on the main motion, as amended.

Moved by: Councillor L. Dunstall

Seconded by: Councillor S. Martin

THAT the Wilmot's Prime Ministers Path Working Group Recommendations to Council, as included as Attachment 1 of CAO-2025-10, be received for Council consideration; and,

WHEREAS the Township of Wilmot has completed an extensive community engagement process regarding the future of the Prime Minister's Path; and,

WHEREAS the Township has previously incurred expenses related to statue removal and storage, but did not fund the project beyond routine park maintenance prior to 2021; and,

WHEREAS the Township seeks to conclude this matter with clarity, fiscal responsibility, and respect for both public input and past investments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the re-establishment of the Prime Minister's Path project under the following terms:

Ownership & Reinstallation

The Township shall retain ownership of all Prime Ministers Path statues and proceed with their full reinstallation at the current site, including the public unveiling of the four additional statues currently in storage. Relocation of the statues to another site or municipality will not be considered.

The Township will consider the logistical and financial burden of the reinstallation as a one-time expense, to be covered from existing capital or operational resources pending the return of a Staff Report or quote of such work.

No Further Public Funding

From this point forward, no additional municipal tax dollars shall be allocated to the Prime Minister's Path project. Ongoing Township financial involvement shall be limited to routine park maintenance, which is already part of existing operations. Additionally, some staff time or consultation may be required from departments such as Public Works and Parks & Recreation to support the volunteer committee in matters of site access, logistics, or infrastructure compatibility; however, this support shall be limited, non-programmatic, and provided only as necessary to ensure safe and responsible use of Township property.

Macdonald Statue Placement

The statue of Sir John A. Macdonald shall be relocated to a less prominent location within the park that requires individuals to make a self-directed decision to visit. The final location shall be determined by the volunteer committee in consultation with the broader community.

Volunteer Governance

Staff shall support the creation of a volunteer committee. Membership shall be application-based and composed of community volunteers. Council will select the committee members. The committee's mandate shall be to direct the continuation of the original Prime Minister's Path concept and to develop an educational plan that presents Canadian history in a way that is accessible to a broad audience.

The group's educational focus shall remain on Canadian political leadership and governance history, with the educational component highlighting significant policy initiatives during their term of office, including both positive and negative impacts ("the good, the bad, and the ugly"). Broader social or identity-based themes, including advocacy on past injustices or contemporary political movements, should not be its focus nor form part of its mandate. The committee shall report to Council quarterly and shall operate independently, without access to municipal funds for programming, operations, or educational development. The committee's detailed terms of reference and governance structure will be established following its formation, in consultation with Township staff and subject to Council review.

External Partnerships & Funding Contingency

The volunteer committee is encouraged to collaborate with CreateScape and other community stakeholders to secure private funding, donations, and grants to further the project.

The continuation of the project beyond reinstallation is contingent on securing adequate external financial support. Should sufficient funding not be secured, the project shall not expand or evolve beyond the reinstated statues.

Township Staff Role

Township staff involvement shall be limited to regular park maintenance and consultative services. Castle Kilbride museum staff may identify programming synergies between the Path and the museum, but shall not be tasked with managing or delivering Path-related educational content.

Project Naming

Council will consider renaming the Prime Minister's Path in consultation with the community to reflect a renewed, inclusive, and educational mandate for the project.

Committee Engagement

That the volunteer committee engage with community groups such as Crow Shield Lodge, the Horticultural Society and other relevant community groups to establish a community garden in conjunction with this project at a location to be determined; and,

That the volunteer group is to continue with the mandate in spirit with the work completed by LURA Consulting, including working with local community groups on truth and reconciliation.

Motion Carried Unanimously"