

From: Tom and Marlene Knezevich [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2024 3:52 PM
To: Lillianne Dunstall <lillianne.dunstall@wilmot.ca>; Steven Martin <steven.martin@wilmot.ca>; Steven Martin <steve.martin@wilmot.ca>
Cc: Harvir Sidhu <harvir.sidhu@wilmot.ca>; Natasha Salonen <natasha.salonen@wilmot.ca>; Kris Wilkinson <kris.wilkinson@wilmot.ca>; Stewart Cressman <stewart.cressman@wilmot.ca>; Clerks <clerks@wilmot.ca>
Subject: The statues

Hello Lillianne and Steve,

I hope you had a joyful Christmas and Happy New Year.

I am writing regarding the statues. I am happy to hear that this issue has come up and will come to a resolution. I am concerned about the article I saw in the record and seeing the agenda that a referendum is being considered. I feel this would be unnecessary and a polarizing method.

The last thing I heard, the recommendation was the creation of a working group comprised of community members and community groups to have meaningful discussions. We have people in our community who have expertise in conflict resolution and other talents. Let us engage them in this. The process cannot be rushed if we wish to avoid further polarization. Many people did not feel they were heard so this would be the opportunity. Also, I believe many people have no real understanding of the issues and I wonder as a new council, if you have had the time to read, hear and be familiar with all the issues.

I do not know what the right answer is regarding the statutes and I want to hear from the community, especially indigenous voices. I have had conversations with non-indigenous members who want the statutes and others who don't. I find most have no understanding really of the issues to those who said, 'They are lazy and just sit at home getting their cheques'. This was the most disturbing one I heard on July 1st, 2020 in front of McDonald's statue.

Please, no referendum and let's listen and HEAR from our community.
Thank you for your time.

Marlene Knezevich
[REDACTED]