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**Subject:** Council response to staff report regarding the Prime Ministers Path statues

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Dear members of Wilmot Council,

Thank you for your willingness to provide leadership in Wilmot, and for your commitment to addressing the unfinished work related to the Prime Ministers Statues path in Baden.

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED] and a member of Wilmot's Ecumenical Working Group. I **strongly support the recommendation made by the staff** in their recent report, that is to "Maintain Current Direction and Create a Working Group Comprised of a Balanced Representation of the Individuals and Communities within Wilmot Township."

Our country and our township are in a critical season, as we face the harm done to Indigenous peoples through residential schools and other oppressions. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which examined the shameful legacy of residential schools, brought forward recommendations to guide Non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples forward. We have an opportunity to recognize past and current injustices and take measures to right wrongs and reconcile community divisions. This work is being done across Canada, including in Wilmot Township.

**People in the Region of Waterloo and elsewhere are looking to Wilmot**, seeking examples of community healing and reconciliation. **The current council is well-poised to lead** Wilmot in a process that honors our complex history, and through respectful, civil dialogue leads to a stronger, safer and more peaceful community.

This takes time and patience. Opportunities need to be provided where all voices can be invited to come to the table for respectful listening and speaking. While the current focus is the Prime Minister's Path, we are wise to heed these words from the report, "(The) First Peoples Group indicated that the divisiveness and challenges that the Township faced with extreme polarization runs much deeper than the Prime Minister's Path project alone and that by discontinuing any further commitment to the project would not erase the fear, harm, hate and division in the community. They advised that working to restore relationships and community cohesion will not only take dedicated effort, but it will also take time."

I ask the council to embrace the opportunity provided by this conflict, and to lead with maturity, wisdom and open hearts.

Respectfully,  
Melissa Miller

[REDACTED]