



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**
Staff Report

REPORT NO: CAO-2024-04

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Chambers, Chief Administrative Officer

PREPARED BY: Sharon Chambers, Chief Administrative Officer

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO

DATE: March 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Prime Ministers Path: Additional Information Relating to Option 2
Outlined in CAO Report 2024-03

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CAO-2024-04 regarding Additional Information Relating to Option 2 Outlined in CAO Report 2024-03, be received as information, and further,

THAT Council directs staff to proceed with Option #_____ as outlined in CAO Report 2024-03.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the potential implementation of Option 2 as outlined in CAO Report 2024 on the next steps as it relates to the Prime Ministers Path statues, in accordance with the following motion adopted by Council at its February 26, 2024, Regular Council Meeting:

THAT Council direct Staff to report back to Council on March 25, 2024, with details relating to the implementation of Option #2 with additional information including a potential timeline for implementation; and further,

THAT Council directs Staff to report back to Council on March 25, 2024, on the feasibility of removing the statues from off-site storage and returning the statues to a facility within the Township of Wilmot.

BACKGROUND:

On January 15, 2024, Council passed a resolution directing staff to report back to Council at the February 26, 2024, Regular Council Meeting on any interim actions taken since the statues were placed in storage, and options on ways to proceed with a permanent plan for the Prime Ministers Path Statues, including information relating to a potential referendum, for Council's consideration.

On February 26, 2024, Council received and considered staff report CAO-2024-03 – Prime Minister's Path: Options for Next Steps, which in addition to providing background information, provided three options for Council's consideration for the future of Prime Ministers Path:

Option 1 – Maintain current direction and create a Working Group of Individuals and Communities in Wilmot following completion of the Strategic Plan development.

Option 2 – Engage further on the Prime Ministers Path Project to Assess Community Support for Establishing the Working Group or Explore Alternative Approaches for Citizen Engagement and Decision-Making.

Option 3 – Conduct a Referendum on the future of the Prime Ministers Path, first sharing information with the community about the intention and history of the Prime Ministers Path. This option will require a reconsideration, which is a two-thirds yes vote (four of six Council members) to reopen the 2021 direction of Council.

As outlined in Report CAO-2024-03, staff have recommended that Council directs staff to proceed with Option 1. For convenience, Report CAO-2024-03 has been attached to this report as Attachment "A".

REPORT:

This report provides additional detail for Option 2 within Report CAO-2024-03.

Option 2 would direct staff to engage further on the Prime Ministers Path project to assess community support for establishing the working group or explore alternative approaches for citizen engagement and decision-making.

Engagement in 2021

The CAO's report recommended Option 1 to create a working group comprised of a balanced representation of the individuals and communities within Wilmot Township to discuss, develop and suggest plans for the implementation of next steps centred in community cohesion and healing, as recommended by First Peoples Group in their report to the Township in 2021.

Option 2 – Additional Engagement:

At the request of Council, staff have begun to investigate options for additional engagement led by another consultant on behalf of the Township. In the February 26 report, staff indicated that if this alternative is selected, the Township could use the CASMARI funding to hire a firm specializing in inclusive engagement to lead the work and report back on the findings and develop further recommendations for next steps.

To move forward on Option 2, the Township would issue a Request for Proposal to hire a firm specializing in inclusive engagement to lead the work and report back on the findings and develop further recommendations for next steps.

The CAO's office has been meeting with inclusive engagement experts as well as with municipalities that have led public engagement related to the relocation of statues. The information being gathered will help effectively design a Request for Proposal for community engagement as the Township moves forward on next steps in the Prime Ministers Path project.

The February 26th report also recommended that the Township's Strategic Planning process be undertaken as a first step to develop a community vision and values that will help to inform future decision making related to the Prime Ministers Path.

Linton Consulting Services has been engaged to develop the Township's Strategic Plan. Consultations with Council and staff are underway and Community Town Halls and focus group sessions will begin in April.

The RFP review team would include staff as well as a member of Council. If this option is chosen, a report would be brought back at a future council meeting to finalize the selection committee and council appointee. The team would review the draft RFP and use the rating process to choose a successful vendor.

Timeline

A suggested timeline for the RFP and engagement process in 2024 includes issuing and awarding the RFP by the end of April 2024. The goal is to complete the engagement within the timelines of the funding program.

It is also preferred that the engagement for the Township's Strategic Plan engagement process be completed or nearly completed at the time engagement begins on the Prime Ministers Path.

Everyone has a voice

Council has requested that all voices in Wilmot are heard during the discussion of the Prime Ministers Path statues. In the research phase of their work, the engagement consultant would benefit from knowledge and understanding of the social environment surrounding statues and monuments in North America, including

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#) (municipalities and museums)

- National thought leadership regarding monuments—[Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—Reckoning with History: Confederate Monuments in American Cities](#)
- [First Peoples Group—FINAL REPORT: Results, Considerations & Recommendations from the Prime Ministers Path Public Engagement Process](#)
- Statue decisions in other municipalities—City of Kitchener ([Queen Victoria statue](#)), City of Kingston ([statue of Sir John A Macdonald](#))

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Engaging with the community on the permanent home for the Prime Ministers Path statues support the goals of Community Engagement, Quality of Life and Responsible Governance. It aligns with the Township's values of Health and Wellbeing, Community, Legacy, Accessibility and Inclusivity, Forward-thinking and Balance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Total Estimated Costs

Range from \$45,000 to \$60,000

There is existing funding available for engagement related to the Prime Ministers Path. Pending certain conditions, including diversity and inclusion requirements, the grant can be used for engagement, which means Option 2 would be fully funded within the existing budget.

Total Funding Available

Capital budget	\$116,000
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Includes Canada Heritage Multiculturalism Program Grant of \$45,000
(Consultant identified as First Peoples Group) Available into June 2024

ATTACHMENTS:

Report CAO-2024-03 – Prime Ministers Path Option for Next Step