

## Wilmot's Prime Ministers Path: Collective Reflections Future Directions

### What We've Heard So Far

This is a high-level summary of the key themes heard at the first Prime Minister's Path community gathering – Nov 12 2024

#### General Sentiments

Two prominent themes emerged from the discussions:

- **Concerns About Harm:** Strong concerns were expressed about the harm caused to Indigenous, and other minority communities. The project must be approached carefully, fostering inclusivity, acknowledgment of history, and reconciliation.
- **Support for Keeping the Path:** Many residents see it as a unique educational and tourist destination with the potential to highlight Canada's history comprehensively.

### Key Themes

#### Education and Context

- The project offers an opportunity to present a comprehensive account of Canada's history, addressing both achievements and failures.
- It can serve as a platform to educate people about the harmful impacts of colonialism on Indigenous communities and the environment.

#### Inclusivity and Awareness

- Indigenous voices must be centered in the decision-making process.
- Township spaces should ensure inclusivity and avoid causing harm to any community members.

#### Art and History

- The statues are seen as artistic expressions of history and potential tourist attractions.
- Suggestions to expand the project beyond colonial leaders were highlighted.

### Ideas for the Future

#### Reimagining the Path

- Relocate statues to indoor spaces (e.g., museums) for better contextualization and ability for people to choose to engage with them
- Add detailed plaques or educational programs to provide a balanced perspective on Canadian history.

#### Healing and Reconciliation

- Create spaces, such as a healing circle garden, to encourage reflection and reconciliation.
- Integrate Indigenous narratives alongside settler histories to foster understanding and dialogue.

#### Financial Considerations

- Ensure transparency in funding and costs associated with maintaining the statues.
- Explore options for returning statues to the artist or repurposing them if storage is not viable.

**Project website:** <https://www.wilmot.ca/en/living-here/prime-ministers-path-public-engagement.aspx>

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