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# Storytelling Engagement

Wela'lin - Thank you for your interest in contributing to storytelling in the Cogswell neighbourhood!

## About the Workbook

This workbook was designed for the Mi'kmaw and Urban Indigenous community to offer information on the Cogswell Project, and invite you to offer ideas for how to integrate and honour Mi'kmaw culture and history here in the new neighbourhood.

Feel free to complete this workbook on your own, with friends, family or as a group. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and expertise!

Please return your workbook by August 16th, 2024. See the back page of this book for dropoff and mailing addresses.

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If you have any questions, please get in touch by contacting us at:  
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Kristen Elkow [kristen@elkplan.ca](mailto:kristen@elkplan.ca)



## Background

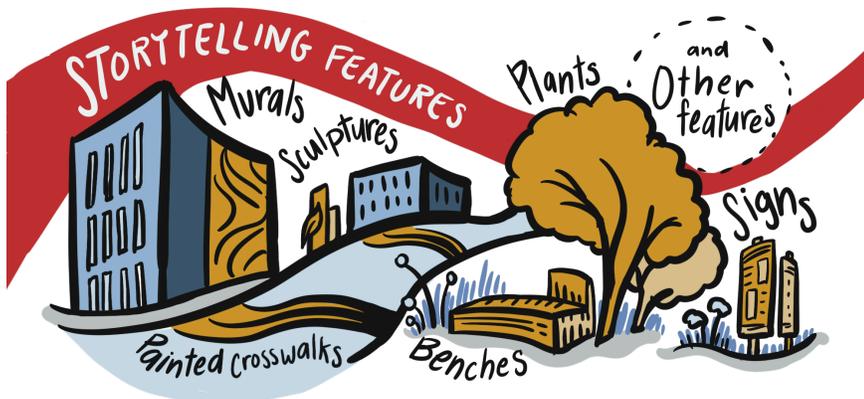
The Halifax Regional Municipality is undergoing a redevelopment project to remove the Cogswell Interchange and create a new neighbourhood that connects the downtown, waterfront area, and north end neighbourhood. The Cogswell District is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people and the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory recognizes we are all Treaty People.

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Culture & Community and Cogswell Project Teams are reaching out to the Mi'kmaw and Urban Indigenous community to participate in an engagement event that will inform storytelling within the Cogswell District neighbourhood. Through this engagement program, participants will consider what stories to tell that integrate and honour Mi'kmaw culture and history here in the new neighbourhood, and how to present these stories.

## Storytelling

In this engagement program, the word storytelling is meant to be a broad term. As you consider what might work best for storytelling here, feel free to consider any aspects of culture, history, art, teachings, stories, or other things that are relevant to you, and your community.

The words storytelling elements means how these stories are presented in the neighbourhood. For instance, storytelling elements could include things like murals, sculptures, plants, painted crosswalk designs, benches, signs, or other features that resonate with you and your community.



## Cogswell District Location

This map shows the general location of the Cogswell District.





## Project Timeline

The Cogswell planning and construction program is underway. Right now if you visit the area you will see a lot of changes taking place - overpasses are being removed, new roads are going in, and properties are being prepared for new parks, buildings, and public spaces.

As this construction program is underway, the Halifax Regional Municipality’s Culture & Community and Cogswell Project Teams are beginning engagement programs with both the Mi’kmaq and Urban Indigenous community and the African Nova Scotian community. These engagement projects will identify storytelling features and implementation plans for adding these features onto the site.

While the specific locations of parks, buildings, and roads are set, there is still room to add storytelling elements. Your ideas and insight will help to determine what storytelling elements are needed, which will ultimately lead to adjustments and additions to the construction program.

The graphic below outlines the project timeline for the Mi’kmaq and Urban Indigenous community Storytelling Engagement.

All the ideas and insight that is shared during this engagement program will be presented in a What We Heard Report. This report will help the Halifax Regional Municipality understand what storytelling elements are most important to the Mi’kmaq and Urban Indigenous community, set next steps for further engagement, and ultimately install storytelling elements in the neighbourhood.



Project timeline for the Mi’kmaq and Urban Indigenous community Storytelling Engagement

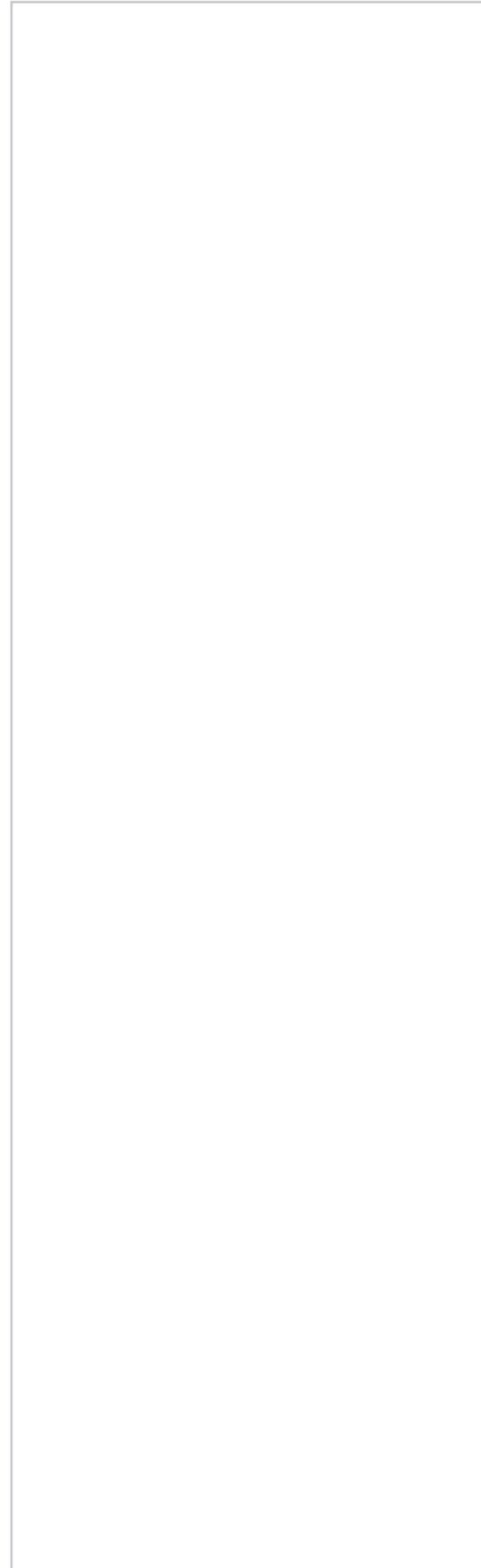


## ACTIVITY 1: IMPORTANT PLACES

The Cogswell District is located in Mi'kma'ki. This map shows the location near downtown Halifax, as well as the surrounding area of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

What places here are important to you and the Mi'kmaw and Urban Indigenous community? Why are these places important?

Mark these places on the map, add notes and drawings.





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## ACTIVITY 2: EXPERIENCES

How would you like to connect with this place in the future within the existing design?

Think about your personal experiences or memories in this place. Check all that apply. Feel free to write or draw other ideas.

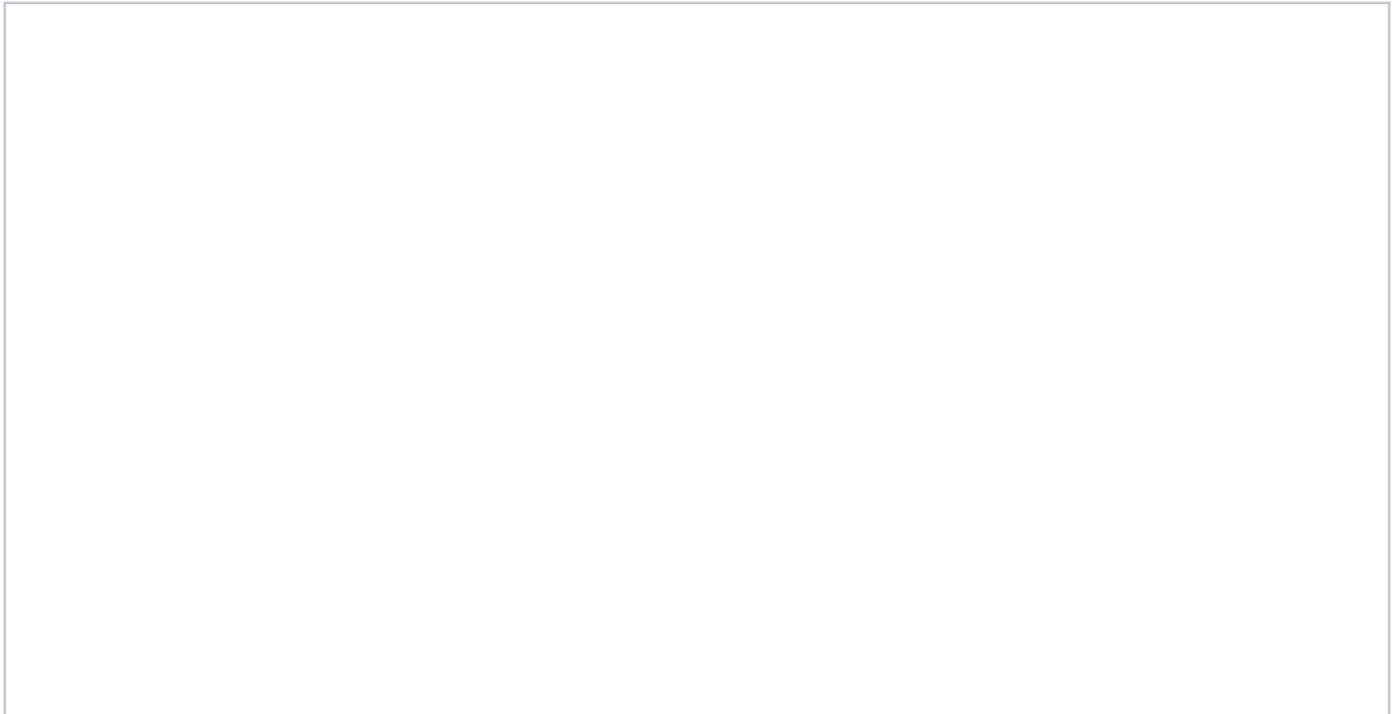
- Space to **gather** as a community
- Space for **teachings** and learning
- See my **Mi'kmaw culture and history** honored
- Celebrate our **Mi'kmaw art** and artists
- Space to **connect with the land** while in the city
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

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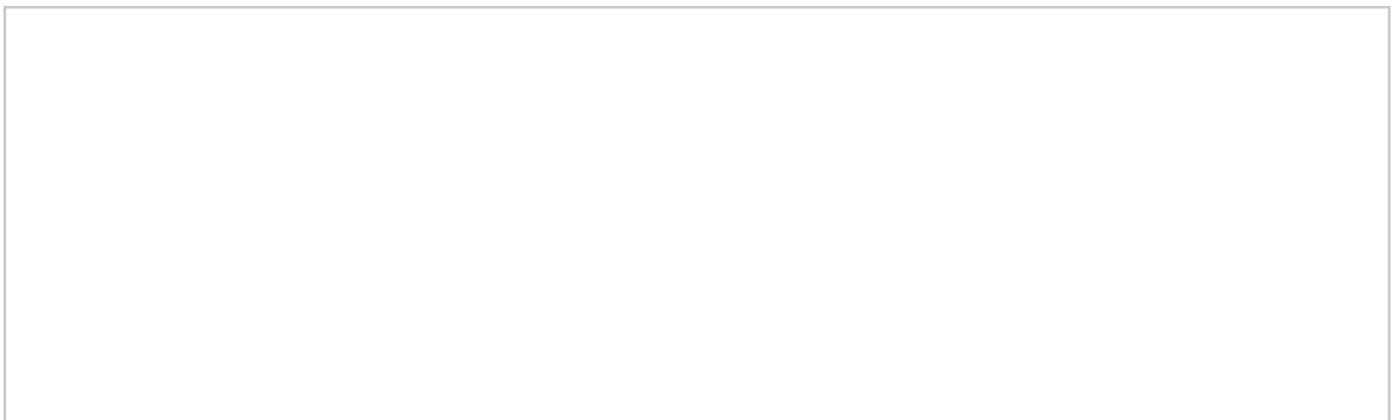
## ACTIVITY 3: CULTURE

What are some stories that represent Mi'kmaw culture and history that could be shared here?

Feel free to consider any aspects of culture, history, art, teachings, stories, or other things that are relevant to you, and your community.



Are there words or place names that might be suitable for naming future parks or plazas in the neighbourhood?



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## ACTIVITY 4: STORIES

What makes a story one that should be repeated and shared, and commemorated?

Check all that apply.

- Teachings:** The story has a teaching.
- History:** The story includes Mi'kmaw and Urban Indigenous community history.
- Future:** The story considers the future of the Mi'kmaw and Urban Indigenous community.
- Visual:** The story can be easily translated into art or graphics.
- Shareable:** The story does not contain private/confidential cultural information, so it can be shared with a wide audience in public space.
- Land Based:** The story is related to the land or in relation to the land.
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

What else needs to be considered when selecting stories to share in the Cogswell area?

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## ACTIVITY 5: FEATURES

What type of physical features could help to tell the stories?

Check all that apply. Feel free to write or draw other ideas.

- Visual Art**, such as murals, sculptures, carvings, photography
- Signage**, with photos, written information, QR codes, links to audio content
- Street furniture**, such as outdoor seating, tables, bike racks, play equipment
- Landscaping**, such as medicinal plants, plants that create habitat
- Ground level designs**, like painted crosswalks, plaza paving patterns
- Temporary Programming**, such as banners, artist-in-residence programs, festivals
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

# SUBMITTING YOUR WORKBOOK

Please return your workbook by August 16th, 2024, as follows:

**Drop Off In-person:**

Customer Service Desk  
40 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth NS  
Attn: Jesse Morton, Parks & Recreation

**Mail:**

Jesse Morton  
c/o Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

**Thank you for sharing your insight!** Stay tuned for our next engagement event, where we will be looking at different ways to tell these stories.