

## Summary Results from MMIWG Monument Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers Engagement Session Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Question 1: What should this monument represent for our community and what do you want to see?

<p><b>Key Themes:</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 1:</b> Monument/commemoration project should represent and honor the lives of MMIWG, strengthen family and community memory, and be a place where Indigenous peoples can share the messages of remembering, honouring, resiliency, and hope for future generations.</p> <p><b>Theme 2:</b> Monument/commemoration project should represent an educational instrument that shares truth and knowledge with a wider community audience.</p> <p><b>Theme 3:</b> The monument/commemoration should bear witness to injustice, provoke discussions, inspire action, and provide a platform for voices that may not get the opportunity to share their stories elsewhere.</p>	<p><b>Verbatim:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monument of girl in braids in red – represents/honors the lives of MMIWG</li> <li>• 4 colors of healing – wheel represents all people</li> <li>• Very little has changed in the past 25 years – “commemoration” is not the right word.</li> <li>• This monument should be for all of us – a message for the entire community.</li> <li>• This project must focus on Education and awareness which are both a symbols and signals for change.</li> <li>• This issue is not just the responsibility of Indigenous people – it is a community-wide issue.</li> <li>• Location – courthouse?</li> <li>• Learning &amp; remembering the lives of these women and girls.</li> <li>• The monument should create an opportunity for understanding and knowledge-sharing.</li> <li>• A peaceful monument but also a representing a heart of action – systematic racism is still occurring every day.</li> <li>• Lives that were sacrificed and what they left behind</li> <li>• Endurance, patience, understanding, possibilities for the future</li> <li>• We are all humans – this monument should represent common bonds.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Question 2:</b> What should be avoided to ensure the monument does not contribute to the trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples in our community?</p>		
<p><b>Key Themes:</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 1:</b> The monument/commemoration project has the power to change our society and outcomes by representing an educational/awareness piece for all members of the community.</p> <p><b>Theme 2:</b> The monument/commemoration project should support Indigenous peoples’ healing as they reclaim their identities and revitalize their cultures.</p>	<p><b>Verbatim:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project must not follow the normalization of the MMIWG initiative.</li> <li>• This project cannot avoid causing pain – it can, however, represent a path towards healing.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Theme 3:</b> The monument/commemoration project may not be able to avoid causing further pain but can instead focus on raising awareness, promoting community discussions, and igniting community action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone if on their own healing journey – what is important is that the monument move our community towards action for change.</li> <li>• Art can represent both spiritual and emotional healing as well as provoke discussion and action.</li> <li>• Monument should also represent a space for ceremony, reflection and prayer – maybe a few different spaces?</li> <li>• Can the space also incorporate the ability to make offerings to the spirits?</li> <li>• Do we want to avoid the trauma, or do we want this project to represent it in a way that ignites action?</li> <li>• Space can represent a place to remember but also process the grief and loss of a loved one.</li> <li>• Change &amp; awareness can be birthed in the pain of loss.</li> <li>• Monument cannot just be a token symbol – it must create awareness and represent change.</li> <li>• Draw attention to all members of our community and make it relatable to all people.</li> <li>• Most Indigenous people know where to go to deal with trauma.</li> <li>• Art if used for change to educate, is beneficial for healing.</li> <li>• Should not be a symbol of tokenism.</li> <li>• Draw awareness to the community about systematic racism (broken promises, false actions, assimilation practices).</li> <li>• An image of non-Indigenous turning back – turning away or turning toward - who are you?</li> <li>• We cannot keep putting our heads in the sand to the violence in our community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question 3:</b> Who should be involved in this project (monument &amp; community response to the Calls to Justice) how should they be involved? (Group B responses only)</p>		

Key Themes	<p><b>Theme 1:</b> Families should be active participants in the project, and should both advise and make recommendations on all aspects of the monument/commemoration(s).</p> <p><b>Theme 2:</b> The monument/commemoration project should represent both living legacy of commemoration for MMIWG but also a starting point and commencement where both family members and the Indigenous community can make recommendations on the best ways to respond to the Calls to Justice.</p>	<p><b>Verbatim:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families of MMIWG &amp; children</li> <li>• Equitable process – open and accessible to all families</li> <li>• Develop different ways to participate to accommodate families who cannot directly be involved.</li> <li>• All projects must be trauma-informed and family-centered.</li> <li>• Approach families in person with an elder</li> <li>• Provide aftercare for triggered trauma</li> <li>• Resources to engage families could include newsletters, Facebook posts, other social media, etc.</li> <li>• Inclusion of missing and murdered men?</li> <li>• Develop corresponding communication strategy</li> <li>• Treaty 4 – call for smaller group of families?</li> <li>• Calls to Justice – what’s after the monument/commemoration project? How do we continue the momentum?</li> <li>• Ceremony to begin responses to Calls to Justice</li> <li>• Cognizant of time and expertise – families and people should be compensated for their time and feedback.</li> <li>• Projects must include larger community population not just Indigenous peoples.</li> <li>• As soon as possible = process that is fair and equitable.</li> <li>• Develop different forms of how they can be involved – choices for how they want to participate.</li> <li>• The families feel like they are always forgotten.</li> <li>• Trauma-informed process.</li> <li>• Efficient and quick process to get project completed.</li> <li>• Some families feel that MMIWG funding is being used for other initiatives.</li> </ul>
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