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PATH MATTERS

A Newsletter by the Shared Path Consultation Initiative

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INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL UPDATES

Welcome to 2021! 2020 may be over, but people across Turtle Island are continuing to deal with its repercussions. Like most, we at Shared Path had big plans for 2020, many of which had to be shifted or cancelled entirely due to the global pandemic. We also recognize that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate effect on marginalized communities including Indigenous communities, some of whom are Shared Path members and partners.

Given the unusual pressures we all faced this year, we are proud of our team's creativity and our ability to connect in a time of isolation. We are also thankful for the incredible support from our members and network of partners as we sought new ways to deliver our mission: to facilitate and support Indigenous and local governments, institutions, and organizations to navigate the challenges of an emerging reconciliation landscape through research, education, and relationship-building opportunities and resources. To read about all what we were able to accomplish in 2020, visit pages 7-11.

Despite the fact that we are not yet out of the deep water when it comes to the pandemic, we at Shared Path have high hopes 2021.

Welcoming new board members

At the Shared Path AGM in September, we were happy to welcome two new members to our board of directors. Chief Dave Mowat of Alderville First Nation is a former band council member, economic development officer and consultant. Dave brings with him a wealth of knowledge and leadership skills. We were also happy to welcome Stephanie Burnham, a member of the Cayuga Nation, Wolf Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, and a recent graduate of Guelph University's Master of Science Rural Planning and Development program. Stephanie is a planner with Dillon Consulting Limited.





This past spring, we were delighted to welcome Jonathon Charland to the board. Jonathon is a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. He is also a lawyer with Zarek, Taylor, Groxxmans and Hanrahan and a member of the Indigenous Bar Association. His legal expertise adds a necessary element to our well-rounded board of Indigenous community leaders, planning and archaeology experts, and academics.

We extend the best wishes to our departing board members, Dean Jacobs and Leigh Whyte, and look forward to working with them in their capacity as Shared Path general members. Thanks to both for your many important contributions over the years!

Staff Changes

Shared Path hired a new program coordinator this year. Dali Carmichael started with us as an intern last February and was hired in September. She recently completed her Masters in Environmental Studies at York University, with a specialization in Environmental Planning and Indigenous interactions with planning. Welcome, Dali!

Shared Path co-founder and executive director Clara Fraser, without whom Shared Path would not exist, has made the difficult decision to step away from her position as Executive Director. Clara is currently conducting a CGS-SSHRC funded Doctorate in Environmental Studies at York University, with a focus on the intersection of land use planning and Aboriginal & Treaty rights. To read her message to Shared Path members and partners, go to page 5. We wish her all the best in concluding her studies, and look forward to working with her in the future as a Shared Path member.

This year, Shared Path also said farewell to Research Manager Karen Travers who was a significant contributor to our research on Indigenous-municipal relationship building. Karen has accepted other research contracts and we wish her all the best!

Website relaunch

In the spring of 2020 Shared Path relaunched our website. The newer, sleeker iteration includes a database with informative resources for those looking to learn about the intersection of colonial land use planning systems and Indigenous peoples. More broadly, it is intended to support those starting or deepening their learning journey about the historical and current context of colonialism in Canada, and Indigenous-non-Indigenous relationships.

SHARED PATH CHAIR CAROLYN KING AWARDED ORDER OF CANADA



Shared Path co-founder and president of the board Carolyn King was named as a member of the Order of Canada on Dec. 30, 2020. The former Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, board member on numerous local community-based organizations, and creator of the Indigenous placemaking Moccasin Identifier Project, Carolyn has been a champion of First Nations community and economic development for over three decades.

She was awarded the Order of membership, "For her expertise in community development, her advocacy of Indigenous-led initiatives, and her efforts to improve Canadians' understanding of First Nations," states a press release from the Governor General of Canada's Office.

Carolyn said she was happily surprised when she received the call about the nomination, and was in fact ready to give a recommendation to someone else when she saw an Ottawa number come up on her phone.

An active community organizer since the early 1980s, Carolyn started her career as a secretary in the band office with a college level education and a strong drive to improve her community and provide opportunities for fellow band members. Over time, she worked her way up the ladder to become an economic development officer, and won the nation's trust when she was nominated as the band's first female chief from 1997 to 1999.



Much of Carolyn's on-the-job learning came from her participation in the Mississauga's of the Credit's comprehensive community plan, which was one of the first to be undertaken by First Nation in Canada. Through this work, she learned about everything from sourcing and allocating potable water to funding education and cultural revitalization initiatives, to negotiating and building relationships with neighbouring municipalities.

"Just being in community economic development, you have to understand the community needs and aspirations, and have a pulse on the

community all the time," she said. As the elected Chief, Carolyn was also part of the early work on the Toronto Purchase land claim, which was settled in 2010,

"I have known Carolyn for the better part of three decades having worked together on many important projects," said Shared Path Vice President Ron Williamson. He highlighted her leadership in establishing Brantford's 1996 archaeological management plan; Toronto's archaeological management plan, which was coordinated from 2004 to 2016; and York Region's archaeological management plan from 2010 to 2014. He added that Carolyn was also heavily involved in various projects carried out by his company Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI), from the shores of the Grand River to the Humber River Shared Path interpretive project, bus tours for Heritage Toronto, various planning policy development projects, and of course the Shared Path Consultation Initiative.

"I was also with her when she first visited the Bata Shoe Museum to examine moccasins that might be models for her famous project," Williamson said. Through all that time I have regarded Carolyn as a tireless and brilliant leader and advocate for Indigenous rights and recognition. But perhaps even as important, Carolyn is simply a lovely person, who I am very proud to call a friend. Congratulations on this well deserved award my friend!"

This is not the first time her significant efforts have been acknowledged by the Governor General. In 2012, she was awarded with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of her support for First Nations history and the advancement of Aboriginal Peoples. In 2016, she received the Special Recognition Award by Heritage Toronto for her effort to promote and advocate for First Nations. Congratulations, Carolyn, for this well-deserved recognition!

A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CLARA FRASER

I am sending my warmest greetings to you at the start of this new year, as we continue to work our way through tumultuous times. I hope you have been able to find moments of rest and rejuvenation over the past few weeks, and that you have found safe and fulfilling ways to gather with your loved ones. Although the way we gather has changed for the moment, the importance of building and nourishing our relationships has become clearer than ever. The Shared Path's mandate to raise awareness around the issues and opportunities that emerge where municipalities and Indigenous communities intersect continues to be critical.



Although this past year has seen some dark times, forcing organisations like ours to get creative in order to keep going in this new reality, Shared Path's continued momentum has been made possible by a strong foundation of our brilliant and diverse board of directors working closely with a small but dedicated staff. It is also made possible, of course, due to a variety of funding streams. The Shared Path has been supported over the past few years by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, and recently received a McLean Foundation grant as well as our first Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. We are also growing our small-donations donor base – equally important elements of our fundraising strategy. If you are able, I hope you will consider making a donation to the Shared Path (for which you will receive a charitable tax receipt), and perhaps even committing to regular donations.

Since last February, I have been watching the Shared Path from afar, as I stepped away in order to go on maternity leave. It has been a wonderful thing to witness the organisation that I co-founded with Carolyn King continue on its path without me. The exercise of preparing for my maternity leave gave us an opportunity to make the final efforts to shift the organisation from an initiative into a fully-fledged charitable organisation that it is now. I believe strongly that the Shared Path can make the biggest impact as a result of the collective of voices and perspectives that make up its Board of Directors, membership, partners, as well as staff. Although I was sad to miss out on the exciting things that have been happening, and the new developments in the works, it was a joy to watch from afar. >>



Clara and her family. Thanks for all your hard work, and good luck with your future endeavours!

>>With the confidence that the organisation is healthy and thriving, I have made the difficult decision to step down as the Executive Director. Over the past several years I have been pursuing a PhD at the same time as running the Shared Path, which has been both stimulating and challenging. It is now time for me to place my entire focus into the doctoral research in order to complete it. I am delighted that Morgan Peters will officially take the reins as Executive Director, having steered the organisation so deftly in her role as Manager of Operations over the past year. I hope to return in a volunteer capacity to the Shared Path when I have completed the dissertation, and look forward to supporting the Shared Path in the years to come.

Have an idea for a blogpost, newsletter article or database resource submission for Shared Path?



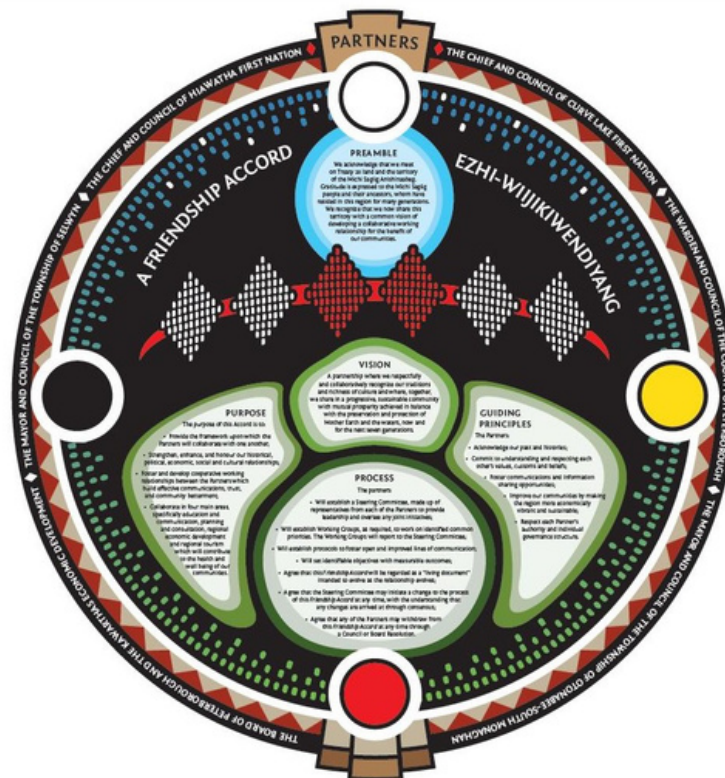
Submit your pitch to admin@sharedpath.ca

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Relationship Building: Learning from the Treaty 20 Friendship Agreement

What does relationship building between First Nations and Municipalities look like? Early in October, we asked three individuals who participated in the Treaty 20 Friendship Accord through the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) to share their experience. The panel discussion featured participants Tom Cowie, a Lands Resource Consultation Liaison at Hiawatha First Nation; Dr. Julie Kapyrka, a Lands and Resources Consultation Liaison at Curve Lake First Nation; and Mary Smith, the former Mayor of Selwyn Township. [Watch the panel here.](#)

CEDI, a program that supports joint economic development initiatives between First Nations and municipalities, first brought the communities together in 2016 along with Otonabee South-Monaghan Township, the County of Peterborough and Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development. The program is a collaboration between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) and it was the inspiration for Shared Path's Indigenous-Municipal Engagement Program (IMEP).



If you attended any of our webinars, we'd like to hear from you! [Find an evaluation form here.](#) Or email us to let us know what topics you are interested in: admin@sharedpath.ca

Peer to peer networking: Indigenous Perspectives Shaping Planning

Last year, Shared Path hosted a workshop called *Indigenous Perspectives Shaping Planning*, a space for a handful of Indigenous participants knowledgeable about Indigenous ways of knowing, land use and planning to connect. Many of the participants expressed that they would like Shared Path to keep creating these spaces where Indigenous leaders can meet with each other to discuss experiences and share ideas.

With this in mind, Shared Path has started hosting a series of Zoom meetings specifically for Indigenous community leaders, land, resources, and consultation workers to connect. The idea behind these informal meetings is to create a space for Indigenous peers to connect, share, and learn from each other. We hope that this will be a space for conversations to develop and new relationships to form. Our first session took place on October 30th. The next peer-to-peer sessions will take place on January 28th and in March 3rd. [Find more information and register here.](#)



Indigenous Municipal Engagement Program

The relationship-building workshop between our first set of partners in the Indigenous-Municipal Engagement Program (IMEP) was scheduled for spring, 2020. While the pandemic prevented us going through with the workshop, conversations have continued in preparation for the formal partnership process and we hope to get back on track in 2021.

The IMEP program, developed by Shared Path, supports the formation/formalization of Indigenous-Municipal partnerships in southern Ontario. This program is designed to improve communications between Indigenous communities and municipalities around land use planning and Treaty rights, and provide opportunities to share Indigenous knowledge and ideas about environmental protection, cultural preservation and issues of mutual interest.

Research and Resources: Setting a Baseline for Official Plans

How many official plans account for Indigenous peoples in Ontario, and in what ways? This was the guiding research question for student intern Dali Carmichael when she joined Shared Path last winter. With much assistance from operations manager Morgan Peters, they collected all of the up to date vision-setting official plans for Ontario municipalities and scoured them for key terms indicating recognition of Indigenous land use in the region and of the unique rights and responsibilities Indigenous peoples hold. The research also examined how Indigenous peoples were considered in these official plans, from land acknowledgements to involvement in cultural and archaeological activities, to being included in decision-making processes.

This research was presented with contextual information provided by board members Carolyn King and David Stinson, on June 26, 2020. [Find the recorded presentation here.](#) This research was also described in a blog post for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) [available here.](#)

Research and Resources: University of Toronto Collaboration

After collecting the official plans and laying them out in a functional spreadsheet, Shared Path partnered with University of Toronto graduate planning students to analyze the data, finding that less than half of official plans in Ontario recognize Indigenous peoples or their relationships to the municipalities. In addition, the students used the data to develop a colour-coded framework which will be further refined by Shared Path and partners to conduct future analysis on First Nations-municipal relations and highlight best practices going into the future. Thank you Charlie Caldwell, Joanna Ilunga-Kapinga, Marissa Irene Uli and Pragya Priyadarshini for your excellent work! Stay tuned for more on their findings and recommendations.

Findings: Overall Percentage of OPs that Reference Indigenous Communities, Nations, Rights, Interests, etc.

(Note: See Appendix 2 for Complete Summary Tables)

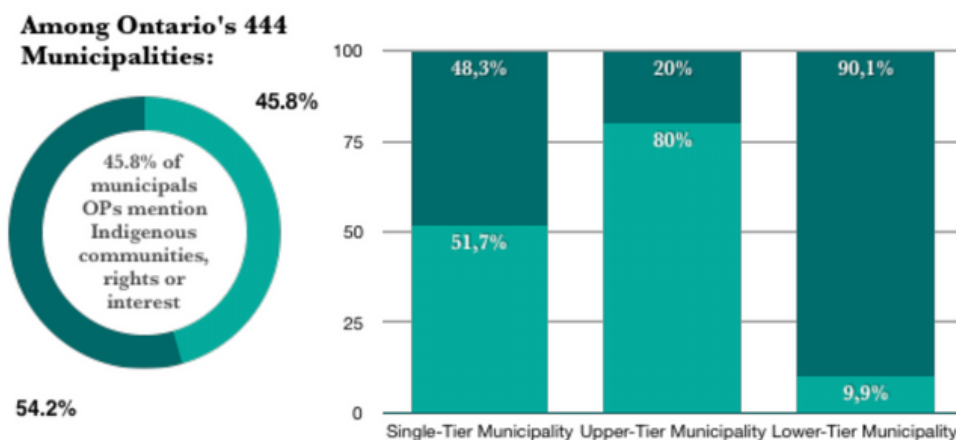


Figure from Mapping Collaboration: An Evaluation Framework to Assess Municipal Government Responses to PPS 2020

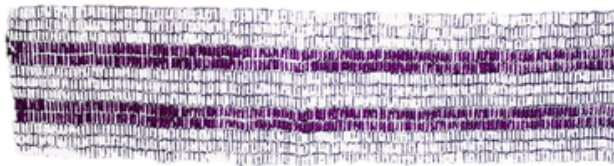
Research and Resources: Database Updates

Since re-launching our website in Spring 2020, Shared Path staff have been busy uploading documents to our new database. This includes information on treaties and governance; the Duty to Consult and Accommodate; land use planning; relationship building and existing partnerships; Indigenous peoples within Ontario; and information on Indigenous knowledge. In addition, we have also been busy working with our board members and partners to develop contextual information for the planning field.

A Backgrounder on Treaties and Treaty Rights

What is a treaty? What significance do they hold in the modern era? How do they relate to municipal-First Nations relations today? This brief document provides a 101 lesson on the history of treaties in Canada, their connection to Aboriginal Rights, and their uses in modern contexts.

[Find the resource here.](#)



The Two-Row Wampum is one of the oldest treaty agreements established between Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island and European settlers. It signifies two distinct peoples of different worldviews traveling the same river together.

Indigenous Archaeological Heritage Conservation in the Municipal Planning Process

With the rate of development ever increasing in Ontario, we are uncovering more artefacts than ever before. These can have particular significance to Indigenous communities who have unique rights, responsibilities and protocols when it comes to changes in land use and uncovering ancestral belongings. In this document, Senior Archaeologist, Founder of Archaeological Services Inc., and Shared Path Vice President Ronald Williamson adds context to the legislation, policies, and processes that guide planning-related archaeology in the province, including some good practices for working with Indigenous communities. [Find the resource here.](#)

Legal Case Summaries

Canadian caselaw has helped shaped how colonial governments contend with Aboriginal and treaty rights, and Indigenous rights stemming from nations' longstanding relationships to land. Doctors Alexandra Flynn and Rachel Ariss have each prepared case summaries for Shared Path, including background information for each case, the legal issue at hand, the legal reasoning for the decision, and conclusions about the significance of the precedent-setting decisions. So far, they have summarized the following cases for this series: Mikisew Cree v Canada 2005; Haida v BC 2004; Neskonlith v Salmon Arm 2012; Tsihqot'in Nation v BC 2014; and Clyde River and Chippewas of the Thames 2017. [Find these resources here.](#)

Digital for Good Tech Jam: Shared Land Map

This summer Shared Path was invited to participate in the Digital for Good Tech Jam, hosted by Capital One and Hackworks. This program pairs charities with teams from Capital One and other tech-savvy companies to build solutions that amplify their charity's impact.

This year, the Tech Jam took place from November 13-15th and gave us an opportunity to build a digital map to support consultation between local planners and Indigenous communities in Ontario. This tool, which we are calling the Shared Land Map (SLM) is in a beta phase, with additional work to be completed with Indigenous communities.



Essentially, this tool is a map of Ontario underlain with a tile grid that indicates Indigenous communities and their land use and planning interests. By clicking on a tile, the user can obtain contact information for those communities and links to consultation protocols where they exist. The interests are not predetermined, and could indicate established Aboriginal or Treaty rights, pending land claims, or concern over changes to land use or water. The grid structure is used to avoid showing hard borders and the tool does not ask these communities to draw their traditional or treaty territory, nor does it ask why there is an interest in any tile. It simply asks where Indigenous communities would like to be consulted if there is any potential change in land use. Stay tuned for more updates on this project!

Provincial Policy Statement 2020

The newest iteration of Ontario's Provincial Policy Statement contains the strongest language yet around the inclusion of First Nations and recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the province's planning regime.

Researchers from Queen's University's Planning with Indigenous Peoples Research Group have published an excellent overview and critique of the changes, entitled *2020 Provincial Policy Statement at a Glance: Implications for Indigenous Municipal Relations*. [Find the resource here.](#)

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2021

2021 Kickoff Networking Event for Members

Shared Path is excited to host our first virtual speed networking event on February 18th! This is a members only event, so make sure to renew your membership (or become a member) to register. [Current members can click here to register.](#)

Continuing the Conversation: Indigenous Perspectives Shaping Planning

The next scheduled meetings for peers to connect are January 28th and March 3rd. For more information [please click here.](#)

New Committees

The Shared Path board is working to establish new committees that will welcome members to participate in some of the aspects of our work. Committees we hope to establish in the coming months include an Indigenous Steering Committee for projects, a Planning Policy and Practice Committee, and a Relationship-Building Research Committee. Please email us at admin@sharedpath.ca if you would like to learn more about any of these committees or if you have a suggestion for a committee.

UNDRIP in Canadian legislation

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is a non-binding international human rights instrument that was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to enshrine the rights that “constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.” Canada was one of the later signatories, but did eventually sign the declaration in 2016.

Now, Canadian governments are finding ways to implement UNDRIP's guiding principles into law. In November of 2019, British Columbia passed a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act to implement UNDRIP, the first legislation of its kind in the country. The Yellowhead Institute out of Ryerson University has published an excellent breakdown and commentary on this law in *The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada: Lessons from B.C.*, which features contributions from John Borrows, Christina Gray, Darcy Lindberg, Shiri Pasternak & Judith Sayers and edited by Hayden King.

On December 3, 2020, the federal government tabled Bill C-15, Implementing the UNDRIP Declaration. We will be keeping tabs on how this legislation progresses, and the many discussions it is sure to stir up.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS

Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund

Shared Path has been named as a recipient of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund. This fund supports non-profit organizations impacted by COVID-19 so they can effectively meet the needs of communities across Ontario. The OTF monies will be used to equip board members and employees with supports to implement new approaches; improve and increase our ability to access financial resources and develop new/alternative sources of revenue, and create a new 5-year strategic plan.



McLean Foundation Grant

In 2020, Shared Path was awarded a generous grant from the McLean Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports a wide range of charitable organizations across the country. This grant was crucial to carrying out our operations over the last year, and helped shield Shared Path from some of the more devastating financial effects of the pandemic.



Capital One and Hackworks

In addition to contributing expertise and support for Shared Path to build a digital solution, Capital One and Hackworks wrapped up the Digital For Good Tech Jam with a donation of \$5,000 to Shared Path.



Dillon Consulting

Last month, Dillon Consulting offices located across Turtle Island fundraised for Shared Path and raised \$5,000! This support will help us to build better relationships between Indigenous communities and municipalities, provide education on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate, conduct research and create resources to support truth and reconciliation in land use planning, and amplify Indigenous voices and experiences in this space.



Thank you to all our members, contributors and partners for your support over the last year. A special thanks to contributors Adam Chamberlain, Renée Pelletier, Debbie Steiss, and Ron Williamson.



Possibility grows here.



SAUGEEN OJIBWAY NATION

