



Shared Path
Consultation
Initiative

OUR SHARED HISTORY

9 August 2024



Table of Contents

Executive Summary..... 3
Introduction.....5
Conclusion..... 12
Appendix I - Workshop #1 and Workshop #2 Summary.....13
Appendix II - Agenda..... 16
Appendix III - Invites..... 17
Appendix IV - Notes from Circle Dialogue (including e-mailed contributions)..... 18
Appendix V - Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT)..... 24

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gathered on lands that have been home to First Nations Peoples from time immemorial. The place where we gathered was on Treaty 45 1/2 (183) and the Habermehl Creek of the Saugeen River watershed. The land is the traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation. We recognize and thank The People of the Three Fires, known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations. And further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, known collectively as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

We would also like to acknowledge all First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples who now reside here. These statements recognize relationships and, when done in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, set intentions for creating and maintaining respectful, reciprocal relationships.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Funding from the federal Ministry of Housing, Diversity and Inclusion under the Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program (CSMARI) supported the delivery of Shared Path Our Shared History workshops.

Prepared by Natalija Vojno for Shared Path Consultative Initiative.

Executive Summary

The Shared Path Consultation Initiative (Shared Path) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that builds bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments within Ontario land-use planning practice. Founded in 2017, the Shared Path has supported relationship development across Ontario, commented on planning legislative changes, partnered with real estate organizations, educated and fundraised. The organization supports Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within land use planning law, policy, and practice and possesses a wide network, and a strong base of support for meaningful reconciliation on the land.

On June 26th 2024, the Shared Path hosted a relationship-building workshop, entitled Our Shared History, in Treaty 45 ½. This workshop was held with First Nations, Conservation Authorities, Municipalities and Counties to explore the shared interests, values, responsibilities as well as pressures faced. This in-person workshop was the culmination of two virtual workshops with First Nation and Conservation Authorities. All of this relationship building work was made possible through the generous support of Heritage Canada through the Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program.

The purpose of the *Our Shared History* Workshop was to:

1. Network and build relationships
2. Learn about each other, our work, and responsibilities
3. Move beyond concerns into collaboration

General discussion explored moving beyond checkbox exercises of engagement/consultation and developing engagement tools in the right way. Consensus was reached on the need for coordination, data and knowledge sharing, as ways to collectively improve capacity and relationships. The long-term goal of relationship building and the development of new tools for Indigenous-municipal engagement in community planning as well as economic development, was set.

The following specific tools, strategies, and ideas for collaboration include:

- streamlining engagement with Indigenous communities;
- supporting Indigenous peoples to contribute fully in community planning, decision making and governance;
- a planning tool for information sharing that builds upon existing mapping resources
- a formalized consultation hub to serve as a new communication channel between neighboring communities e.g. starting with policy reviews

Next steps include exploring the development of a Collaborative Hub, serving as a Joint tables or committees for reconciliation, land management, and dialogue on cumulative impacts.

One leading example presented was the Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT) where First Nations and municipalities are dedicated to working together, starting on a political level, leader-to-leader round table format, where any member can add agenda items of mutual interest. From there, both Municipal staff and First Nation staff lead working groups that take action on recommendations from the leadership table. It was suggested that similar tables should be in place in Simcoe and Grey Counties.

Introduction

"What is the direction or the vision that the land or the water has for us and how do we find ourselves in right relationship to that?" - Waasekom

Background

Shared Path's mission is to support Indigenous and local governments, institutions, and organizations in navigating the challenges of an emerging reconciliation landscape by facilitating relationship-building opportunities, and access to resources, research, and education. The board consists of land use experts, former chiefs, and registered planners.

Under the new *Ontario Provincial Planning Statement 2024*, municipalities are instructed to engage early with their Indigenous neighbours when creating land use plans as well as in land use decision-making that impacts the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty Rights. This is to ensure Indigenous interests are considered when identifying, protecting, and managing archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes. Municipalities are not, however, provided with guidance or additional funding to fulfill this obligation.

On June 26, 2024, the Shared Path Consultative Initiative (Shared Path) hosted the final of a series of three workshops, entitled *Our Shared History* alongside First Nations and local governments and Conservation Authorities to explore potential connections between Indigenous perspectives and conventional planning practices.

The *Our Shared History* Workshop was designed to:

- Bridge Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to land use planning
- Understand municipal planning processes in accordance with the *Ontario Planning Act* and the *Provincial Planning Statement*
- Apply the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* and *Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)* into local policy.
- Create new communication channels, working relationships, agreements, and new tools for Indigenous-municipal engagement for planning and economic development.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Decisions made by local municipal governments may impact Indigenous rights particularly in the realm of land use planning. Regardless, municipalities are seldom equipped with the historical, cultural, or legal knowledge to engage meaningfully with Indigenous communities. Opportunities for neighbouring Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to engage and interact early in the planning process can preempt conflict by fostering an understanding and application of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Shared Path’s work is guided by three Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

<p>47 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands</p>	<p>57 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples.</p>	<p>92 We call upon the corporate sector to adopt UNDRIP as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to policy and operational activities</p>
--	---	---

WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

The in-person *Our Shared Histories* Workshop was preceded by two earlier virtual workshops between First Nations and Conservation Authorities, held in the months of March and April 2024. The first with Georgina Island and Beausoleil First Nations and the second with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. During these two virtual workshops, it was requested by First Nations that an in-person gathering be hosted. The results of these first two virtual workshop summaries are available in Appendix I.

This work comes on the heels of the recent landmark legal victory of Treaty 72 of 2.5km of the Sauble Beach shoreline within their territory (*Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation vs The Town of South Bruce Peninsula et. al.*, April 2023).

IN PERSON WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

Two months later, the third and final in-person workshop was attended by 35 First Nations, municipal, regional/county staff, as well as representatives from policy, planning, and conservation organizations. Please see Appendices II and III for the Agenda, Participation List and Invitation.

The in person workshop was initiated through phone calls and email invitations and hosted at the “Special Event Centre” in Treaty 45 ½/Township of Hanover. A local caterer was booked to provide snacks and lunch. As part of the invitation, participants were encouraged to bring an object that represented their watersheds and cultural ties - to anchor a meaningful and centred conversation.

How we gather influences what we discuss. Respectful spaces, where participants feel safe to openly share, generates meaningful dialogue and encourages deeper learning from other’s lived experiences. To facilitate a respectful space, the in-person event was organized in the form of a Circle, to facilitate collaboration and mutual understanding.

To set-up the Circle, chairs were placed around the circumference of the room, and in the centre of the room on a blue cloth, participants were encouraged to place items that they associated with the land and waters upon which they live, work, and play.

The opening of the Circle was offered by Carolyn King - Former Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and President of Shared Path. Setting a mindful tone, participants were invited into a smudge ceremony and an invitation was made to speak from the heart and to acknowledge the diverse world views and values present.

After the opening ceremony was conducted, participants were given a ball of yarn and asked to participate in a “community web exercise”. This served as a creative and welcoming method for introductions. Participants who held the yarn, introduced themselves as well as what they placed in the



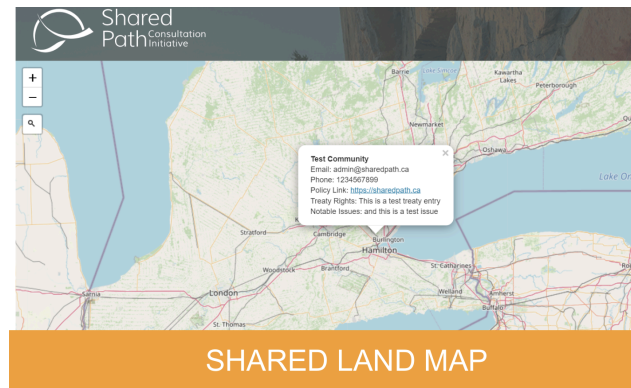
circle, and then tossed the ball to the next person to do the same, while holding onto their piece of the thread - thereby remaining connected. This activity encouraged a weaving of the relationships in the room, to each other, and to the land and waters. The resulting web symbolized the connectedness of the group and the available support and shared responsibility to the land and waters stewarded for present and coming generations.

Following the introductory community web exercise, three presentations were given: one by the Shared Path to introduce participants to the organization and sponsors, and two by Saugeen Ojibway Nation’s Environment Department on behalf of their priorities and work plans. From there, a facilitated discussion took place through Circle, the key ideas are described in detail in the following pages.

THE SHARED PATH'S PRESENTATION

"It was a successful workshop that brought together different parties who work together on the land to share stories. That is the work of Shared Path" - Carolyn King

David Stinson, a member of the volunteer Indigenous and non-Indigenous Shared Path Board, made the introductory presentation. The presentation included pilot solutions for finding creative avenues for relationship building and collaboration - specifically the Shared Path Land Map (visit website sharedpath.ca/map). Once populated by First Nations communities, scanning the cursor over the map indicates areas of interest within First Nations Traditional Territory. The map serves as a first step for engagement that currently allows viewers to search layers: watersheds, reserves, municipalities, and greenbelt areas. As it develops, the tool will allow visitors to watch interviews with Indigenous leaders about the importance of relationship building and to find resources to support engagement, consultation, and accommodation.



This workshop was funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage to host convenings which build bridges and facilitate relationship development.



This workshop is funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage

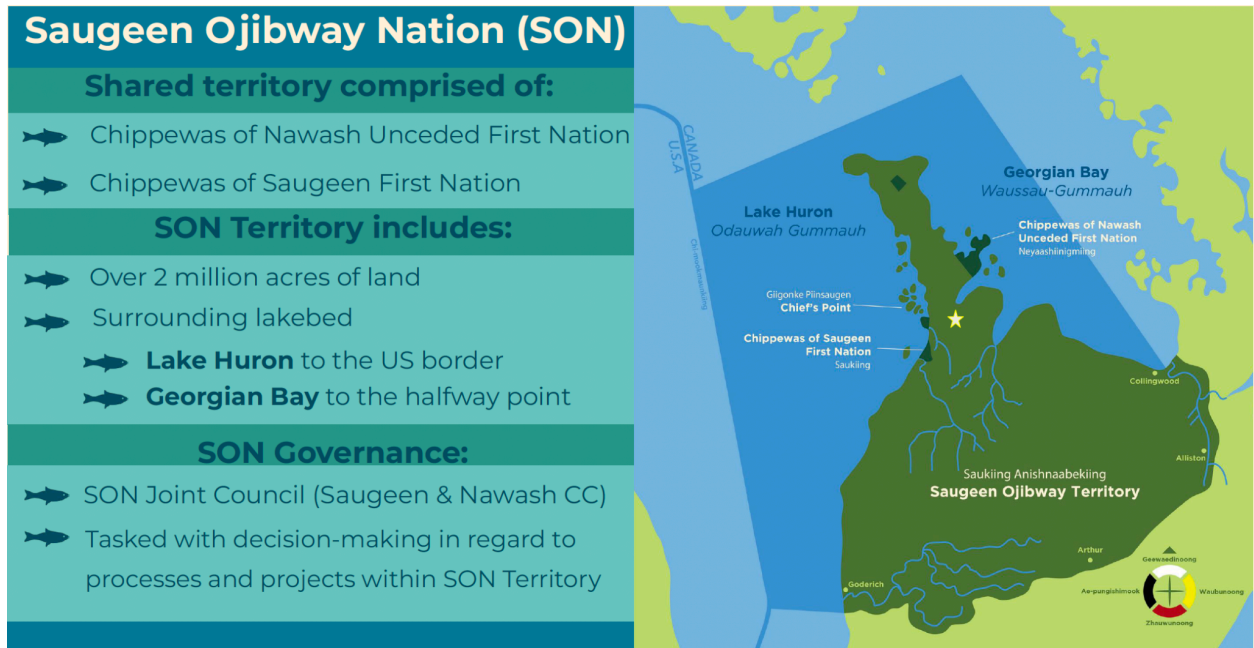
Objectives of the programme are to:

- 1) Advance anti-racism; foster ethnocultural diversity and inclusion; promote intercultural and interfaith understanding
- 2) Provide equitable opportunities for equity-deserving populations and community organizations to participate fully in all aspects of Canadian society
- 3) Promote dialogue on multiculturalism, anti-racism, racial equity, diversity, and inclusion to advance institutional and systemic change so that Canada becomes a more inclusive society, free from racism and hate-motivated actions
- 4) Support research and evidence to build understanding of the disparities and challenges faced by equity-deserving populations

CSMARI: Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiative

SAUGEEN OJIBWAY NATION'S PRESENTATION & PRIORITIES

"Decolonization is to pull back to see from the vantage point of the water or the land." - Waasekom



Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Environment Office (EO) staff, Janet Galant's (Senior Manager), Katrina Keeshig (Lead Technician), Kove Sartor (Archaeology Coordinator) and Natalie Kuipers (GIS Coordinator) were in attendance to present the First Nation's priorities. SON's EO team summarized the technical support they provide to the SON Joint Council on issues related to development within the territory with the goal of protecting the land, waters, and non-human beings - thereby protecting inherent rights.

An example of SON leadership is their Coastal Waters Monitoring Program (CWMP) which was established to understand and protect the nearshore environments of SON Territory through monitoring: nearshore fish species, water quality, vegetation, and water temperature. The Core Objective of CWMP is to complete a comprehensive ecological baseline of the coastal and nearshore region of SON Territory as well as to embed SON Knowledge Systems and priorities within the monitoring, analysis and interpretation of data. SON members, via CWMP, have collected the largest multi-year dataset on nearshore fish and fish habitat in the SON territory.

"I can speak to the home waters because I have gotten to know my home territory in an intimate way." - Waasekom

The Resources & Infrastructure team within the SON EO ensures consultation and engagement with SON for any development occurring in the territory (excluding Energy, covered by another department at the EO) was also presented. The team shared how they liaise with proponents, Crown agencies, Conservation Authorities, and all levels of government to ensure fulfillment of duty to consult on proposed development projects. The team conducts full technical reviews of aggregate applications and subdivisions in high concern areas with a focus on preserving cultural heritage (archaeology, Parks Canada) and natural heritage (building development, aggregates, shoreline protection, aquatic ecology). The archeological peer reviews and field monitoring is done to mitigate harms from development activities by ensuring archaeological assessments are conducted to SON standards on the territory.

The SON EO's next steps for 2024 and beyond are to:

1. Provincial direction to municipalities requiring the development and implementation of reconciliation action plans with neighboring First Nations;
2. Pursuing direct funding from provincial and federal governments to build capacity and staff;
3. And, Integration of Indigenous engagement into municipal and CA policies and procedures

JOINT PRIORITIES AND NEEDS

SON and SON's EO face heavy development pressures in their Territory.

During the workshop, SON's staff expressed an interest in improving internal and external processes to ensure engagement and consultation are conducted in a good way to enable action on cumulative impacts.

To discuss how this might be accomplished, the following questions were asked:

1. How can we team up to lend our voice in response to legal and policy changes?
2. Impacts: Is there a cumulative database that could be accessed by everyone?
3. How can I do the best within these frameworks AND how do we build new ones?
4. In the absence of direct government funding, what are joint options for funding?
5. What formal structures or tables can help us to do engagement in the right way?

The discussions pointed to a need for a shift in thinking. This was reflected in the words from Wassakom Nin, Water Walker:

"When we say land back it actually means the land is calling us back. Active listening is hearing what the land is saying. As First Nations we have held on so hard to our awesome responsibility being given by the Creator. People ask for Indigenous Knowledge because they know we are in trouble."

In addition to this profound shift in thinking, a graphic illustrator from Playthink recorded all the conversations from participants in this following illustration shown below. The benefit of this approach is a visual reminder of the conversation of the day that can be used again in various communication techniques.

Highlights from the conversation include:

- Listen to the water
- Ecosystems are in trouble
- Active listening is hearing what the land is saying
- We can share success and share expertise
- We need to make it easy to engage and work together
- Look at the big picture and think long term
- Let's speak up together
- This is more than paperwork; it is planning in relationship – bound by Treaties



Conclusion

"What is the water and land asking of you? Are there invitations in your own role and in your own life as a way to find your way?" - Waasekom

Thanks to the support of Heritage Canada, Shared Path has facilitated the growth of mutual understanding and meaningful relationships in the spirit of Treaty, water, and the land.

Moving forward, the following opportunities to support each other were recommended from participants:

1. A formalized consultation hub - through joint tables or committees - to serve as a new communication channel
2. Activating engagement processes as spaces for reconciliation, land management, and dialogue on cumulative impact
3. Amendments to the protection of natural heritage along watersheds where First Nations can exercise their inherent rights and authority
4. Build relationships with Indigenous communities early
5. Collaboration over policy reviews; rather than a checkbox exercise
6. Data and knowledge sharing to collectively improve capacity
7. Develop tools for Indigenous-municipal engagement, planning, and economic development - including a shared planning tool that builds upon existing mapping resources
8. Streamlined collaborative approach prior to engaging with First Nations
9. Supporting Indigenous peoples to contribute fully to planning, decision making, and shared governance outcomes

NEXT STEPS: A COLLABORATIVE HUB

The primary recommendation from the final June 26th Workshop was the development of an Indigenous Collaborative Hub. In Ontario, there are currently very few examples of formalized consultation hubs. One successful known example is the Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT); referenced by two participants as an example to follow. Please see Appendix V for information on this initiative, which is a political leader-to-leader round table where staff-led (both Municipal and First Nation) working groups take action on recommendations from the leadership table.

MAILT may serve as a guiding example for the proposed Indigenous Consultation Hub. It was suggested that a similar table be considered for Simcoe and Grey Counties. The intent is that a collaborative Indigenous Planning Hub will be formed, starting in Fall 2024.

Appendix I - Workshop #1 and Workshop #2 Summary

The long-term goal of this project was for communities who participate in these workshops to go on to successfully collaborate with each other to help their communities thrive. These collaborations could take the form of economic partnerships, shared educational initiatives, joint planning committees, tourism projects, and so on.

Deepening relationships and building trust by learning how information was shared and how these processes could be improved upon was the outcome of the first workshop.

Challenges

- Managing capacity - volume of work is overwhelming
- Development pressures
- Conservation Authorities (CAs) lost ability comment on natural heritage

Ideas

- Develop a Consultation Hub
- CA's support First Nations with data for conversations with developers

Following the second workshop there was an understanding capacity challenges and the fragmented nature of land use management requires long term planning, sharing knowledge and data, as well as building first nations engagement within each CA.

Workshop 1 Summary Email - sent Fri, 3 May 2024

Aanii/Hello Shared Path Workshop participants,

Chi miigwetch/we give thanks to all of you for participating in our engagement session, hosted on Monday March 18th alongside the support of the Indigenous Community Engagement team. We apologize for the delay in sending out the summary email! Our support staff has been in transition to a new position.

We had a meaningful discussion with good information shared. Please see our presentation and the illustrations from Play Think attached for your review and feedback. We're happy to make any changes or additions - just let us know!

Please note that we are hosting these workshops through the support of Heritage Canada/Patrimoine Canadien to bridge the gap between colonial land use planning and Indigenous planning, for better relations on the land, in the spirit of Treaty. We appreciate that there is still much work to do, and value your time.

What we have learned is that the landscape of change in Ontario's planning profession may merit a different workshop structure, with perhaps [a primer](#) issued beforehand as well as a three-part series to support relationship building. We are looking into this new approach in our future work, we'd be grateful for your feedback on these and any other ideas you may have!

In the month of April we met with other First Nations and Conservation Authorities and look forward to hosting an in-person gathering in June.

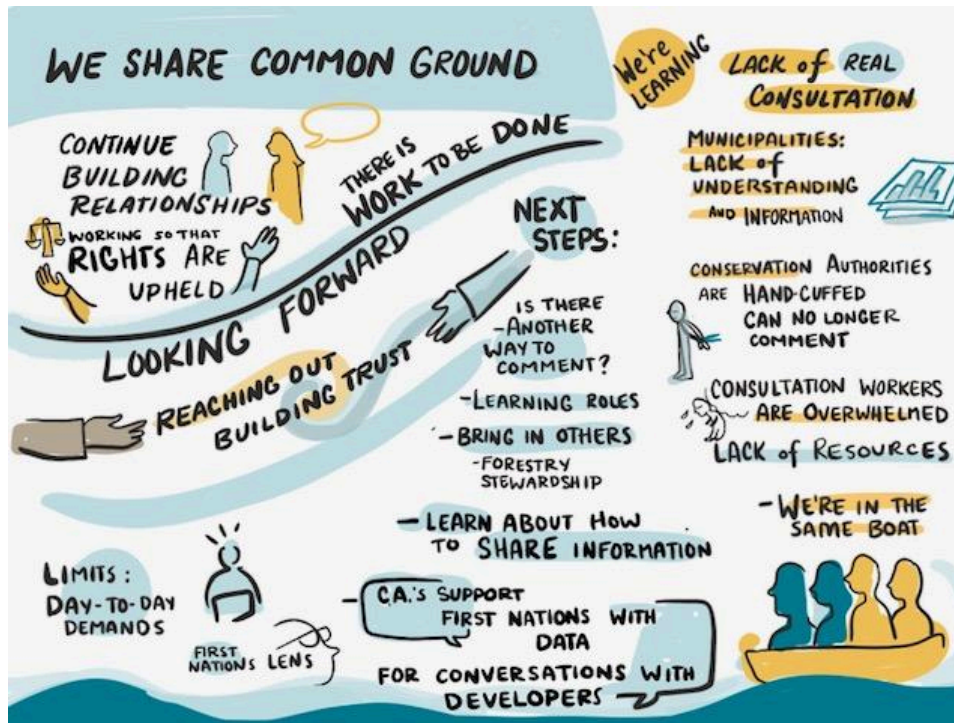
We encourage you to continue to connect together over common goals and interests and note that the Shared Path is here to assist you along this journey.

Miigwetch/Thanks again for your engagement and interest on our shared path towards reconciliation.

Figure 1 - Play Think Graphic Recording - Workshop #1



Figure 2 - PlayThink Graphic Recording - Workshop #1 paths forward



Workshop 2 Summary Email - sent Fri, 3 May 2024

Aanii/Hello Shared Path Workshop participants,

Chi miigwetch/we give thanks to all of you for participating in our engagement session, hosted on Monday April 12th alongside the support of the Indigenous Community Engagement team. We apologize for the delay in sending out the summary email! Our support staff has been in transition to a new position.

We had a meaningful discussion with good information shared. Please see our presentation and the illustrations from Play Think attached for your review and feedback. We're happy to make any changes or additions - just let us know!

Please note that we are hosting these workshops through the support of Heritage Canada/Patrimoine Canadien to bridge the gap between colonial land use planning and Indigenous planning, for better relations on the land, in the spirit of Treaty. We appreciate that there is still much work to do, and value your time.

What we have learned is that the landscape of change in Ontario's planning profession may merit a different workshop structure, with perhaps a primer issued beforehand as well as a three-part series to support relationship building. We are looking into this new approach in our future work, we'd be grateful for your feedback on these and any other ideas you may have!

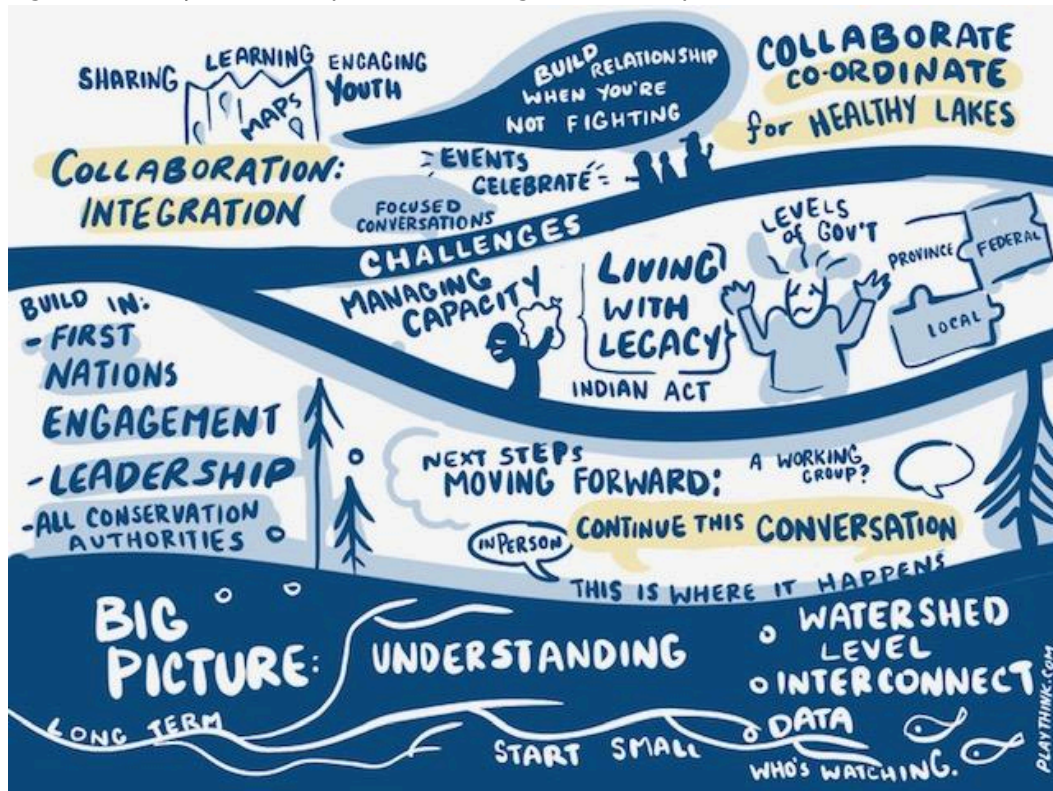
Please note that we also look forward to coordinating with SON on an in-person workshop session in the near future, which we will be sure to keep you posted on, so that we can continue to connect together over common goals and interests.

Miigwetch/Thanks again for your engagement and interest on our shared path towards reconciliation.

Figure 3 - PlayThink Graphic Recording - Workshop #2



Figure 4 - PlayThink Graphic Recording - Workshop #2



APPENDIX II - AGENDA

10 am	Intros & Intentions for the day
11 am - 12:00	Priorities Presentations
11:00 - 11:30	Shared Path Presentation
11:30 - 12:00	SON Priorities Presentation
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Circle Dialogue & Commitments Convo
1:45 - 2:00 pm	Harvest & Close

APPENDIX III - INVITES

Beausoleil FN - Lands Officer

Conservation Ontario - Policy and Planning Liaison

Chiefs of Ontario - Senior Policy Analyst

County of Simcoe - Director of Planning/Chief Planner

Georgina Island FN - Invasive Species Coordinator (virtually)

Grey County - Director of Planning and Development, Senior Policy Planner, Outreach

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) - Manager of Environmental Planning & Team

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) - Director, Development Services, Integrated Watershed Management Specialist, Communications Advisor

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) - Planning and Regulations Supervisor; Communications and GIS-IT Coordinator

Mississauga Nation - Former Chief, Mississauga Nations Coordinator

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) - Planner

Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) - Director

Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Environment Office - Environmental Planning and Regulations Manager & Coordinator

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) - Environmental Planning & Regulations Manager (Acting), Environmental Planning Coordinator (Acting)

Town of Blue Mountains - Director of Planning and Development Services, Manager Community Planning, Senior Planner, Planner

Town of Collingwood - Director, Planning, Building, & Economic Development; Senior Planner



Our Shared History

Wednesday June 26th
10am - 2pm (*lunch included*)
The Special Events Centre, Hanover

Workshop for Indigenous and local governments and Conservation Authorities to explore potential connections between Indigenous perspectives and conventional planning practices.

- Networking
- Sharing knowledge on Indigenous Planning and priorities
- Collaborating together in the spirit of Treaty

For more information please contact: admin@sharedpath.ca

Hosted on
Saugeen Treaty 45 1/2 (1836)
Habermehl Creek -
Saugeen River watershed

Shared Path Consultation Initiative

With funding from  Canadian Heritage 

Appendix IV - Notes from Circle Dialogue

The conversation began in a clockwise circle in response to the question, “What are your responsibilities and how do you work with others in the room? What is working well and what challenges do you face?”

- The hope: Reframe the challenges as a collective - Innovation in asserting Aboriginal Rights in Planning and defending their land and territory
- Diverse group of stakeholders, changing framework it is tough to keep up but is exciting time - learned lots about SON and other ways of thinking that aren't taught in planning school
- Many possibilities for growth and hurdles to overcome that begin in community that juggle western scientific practice and timeline - produce an annual report for Bruce power that takes multiple months. Better mechanism for understanding changes. Have someone to be a horizon scanner. How can we team up to lend our voice and say with your work and understanding of laws and changes. Survival mode but love big picture strategic thinking + returning to values. We don't get a chance to do that. Indian Act by design. Each year a huge loss of institutional knowledge because of several month period after elections where people are not on files.. We operate on survival with staff turnover. It doesn't let us get to this big picture dream of doing the things we want to do. Reaching a point of funding being in limbo - uncertainty for permanent staff. Let's resource share / power share where it makes sense. Are there agencies that can take the load off for the cumbersome work?
- Big Dream for SON - cumulative impacts when it comes to development pressures “what is one more quarry” - because there are so many brains and groups here - is there a cumulative database or something that could be created that could be accessed by everyone?
- Frustration - hamstringing by provincial, federal, colonial constructs in which we work - “how can I do the best within these frameworks AND how do we tear some of these down and build them up?” - “how can the voices here come together?”
- Ideas and action oriented person. Actions pertaining to integration of Indigenous engagement in planning and policy. We now have a person on staff with strategic prospects. Consultant is supporting the Indigenous practice and consultation guide to assist them in their legal and moral obligations - not meant to be a checkbox but has case studies of successful case studies. The overall goal is “how do I effectively engage with and consult with Indigenous communities?”
- SON: inviting conversations with municipalities - work to do to build relationships. Opportunity to share expertise would be beneficial for everyone.
- More questions than answers. To what extent are the next steps co-created? In the absence of direct funding from provincial and federal governments what are other options for funding that we can come up with?

- Grey County policy - frustrating between frontline and bigger picture - can be constrained by timeframes and legislative framework. Archeological management plan is in the early stages - background reports to be shared for review and conversation. Greater consistency needed.
- Sub-watershed planning working to update. Ideal to incorporate traditional knowledge - currently Western based- successful partnership with Georgina Island.
- Love the idea of resource sharing - lots face challenges and have shared objectives. If we all are doing the same research how can we gather it and free up our time to do the bigger projects. Discussions like this build the relationships and are a great start.
- The timelines of development have moved up rapidly. We are playing catchup to the lofty agendas of the people ruling who do not live here. We are in a time of collapse from the water and land perspective. I often struggle with whether I show up as a support to walk with or do I disrupt - practice gentle form of disruption which I am bringing here. We have a tendency to be forward thinking - that is situated on colonial concepts designed to disconnect us from the water land and each other. Like this compass if you want to find the true north you need to have your bearings. We are living in a time between visions. Where there was ancestors prayers that have agency, where young people dream of thriving in their own homelands. A lot of time the work being done is a world apart of the true agency of the land. "What is the direction or the vision that the land or the water has for us and how do we find ourselves in right relationship to that?". I can speak to the home waters because I have gotten to know my home territory in an intimate way (paddled in 2020). We are living in economic slavery in our own homelands. Name that as part of the truth before we can get to reconciliation. Until we can center that, these things will be over there. But it should be underpinning. Everyone who is a city planner is a part of upholding those things because of how they were designed. Decolonization is to pull back to see from the vantage point of the water or the land. Western conservation says if you leave it alone it will get there but all the forests I have walked are struggling - they need to be burned, cultivated to increase biodiversity. If we leave it to itself, invasives proliferate. When we say land back it actually means the land is calling us back. Active listening is hearing what the land is saying. As FN we have held on so hard to our awesome responsibility being given by the Creator. That is something that we still have. People ask for IK because they know we are in trouble. We need to rekindle ourselves. It is like a hide - it needs to be stretched - sometimes we are so stretched that we can tear (burnout). Knowledge isn't privileged to the same degree - Western priorities are exploitation of the land as a resource. It is important that our people are recognized for our responsibility - UNDRIP. What is the water / land asking of you? Are there invitations in your own role and in your own life as a way to find your way in our homelands

- Taking a step back and keeping our head above the water for ad hoc development files, what is required from an archeological or environmental perspective - meaningful engagement is lacking. Take a step back and look at the terminology for cumulative impacts. Up north we had a table called common ground - between FN and various municipalities dedicated to managing a common piece of land but became more than that and became about reconciliation and not just land management - hope to build that practice here. Via a committee or grassroots type of group through which we can have that honest dialogue about those cumulative impact. Are we doing engagement in the right way? You can build a practice guide but it is not a one size fits all - each community is different. Work with indigenous partners to chart that course - it takes political leadership to do that. Municipal council building those relationships is an important factor in building those policy documents and chartering the path into the future
- New to the NEC and have entered during a period of flux. With change comes a loss of institutional knowledge. Going forward to create a plan for the next ten years and it is important to use this time to get together.
- Burn out and frustration is real. Found it helpful to step back on occasion, I am not just beholden to a piece of legislation that may or may not be well written. To remind myself that ultimately what I am beholden to are the next generations. Every decision I make is about bringing us to a place that is healthier and safer. Flip the image - every issue and error jumps out.
- Updating policy manuals in planning and regulations and interested in having SON in the consultation to review that - it is a lengthy process and how can we support you in pulling in that perspective. Speak after?
- Wasn't sure about coming because of day to day pressures - it is hard to justify but it is important to keep coming up and having these conversations. The province has whittled down the role of CAs but we still have a voice and we can come to the table. The best we can do is communicate. At our CA we build bridges with our FN community and there is more work to be done. Planning staff turnover on the reconciliation work has left the committee. Need to continue doing that work.
- Collaboration and listening has become more important but not a lot has happened with that because maybe we have forgotten how to have meaningful dialogue. Question of how to figure out how to work together. Policy is a start. Each CA will have policy reviews with the new regs. There will be lots of new policy that we can work on integrating.
- It is difficult to change the societal construct of the federal and provincial realm. Important to respect everyone's opinions and the lens they are looking through. The letters and permits I put out are likely not going to change tomorrow or next year. But as a person I am going to remember this day for the rest of my life and try to understand everyone else's views. We all have our tokenistic land

acknowledgements and are addressing something that we haven't before. What else can we do? Bring together all stakeholders and right holders? What best represents all concerns? How to work that into the documents. I don't want to look at 300 pages, who would, what can we do as an office.

- Resource sharing and education. How can we use some of the tools to integrate the Shared Path map and ArcMap story maps to share information? This is an example. - Ashlea Brown
- Flogged by the province legislatively. Opened up opportunities for conservation authorities. Today's theme is environmental reconciliation. Section 2(?) of the Planning Act. Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Constitutional Protected Treaty and Aboriginal Rights. The future of the work is collaborative. Over three years we have developed maps that overlay treaty land. That work is being done in a silo separate from the Shared Path. Perhaps that work can be done collectively? We need to leverage meetings like today to get past these discussions.
- There is a need for us to understand what the expectation of the FN is so we can support communication with the developer. If we can communicate it succinctly we do get hits back from the developer. It is helpful for us to understand the underlying objectives and goals of the natural heritage or historical/archeological side of things. Susan laid out the pressures faced by municipalities. Lots of high level lobbying and influence peddling by industry. The community and councils are waiting to hear messages from the FN community. This event gives hope at a dark time.
- First Nation and Metis communities express interest in Collingwood - doesn't feel like genuine engagement but cursory information sharing because of the provincial timeline - gap in the planning process. More opportunity in the policy process. Gap in heritage act through the siloing of natural heritage and cultural heritage. Should be an ability to assign cultural heritage value to natural heritage.
- Same challenges around resource constraints, legislative, staffing - we have pressures of political will what the FN communities need and the public needs and what CAs need. Trying to balance all of those interests. Hard with constrained resources. Need to walk hand in hand to go to the province and the feds to say hey this is what we all collectively need. LOBBYING. Focus on the supply side of housing misses the full solution - need to be aware of cultural and natural heritage that is at risk. Nothing good comes from just a narrow focus.
- Thank you for the call to action to think outside the colonial constructs because they were not designed to be collaborative. Thinking of how to flip the system to be equitable and fair and collaborative. Great to meet a lot of you face to face. We have e-mailed but those aren't collaborative ways to communicate - hearing directly to Natalie, Kove, Kat is important. Key to look each other in the eye. Lots more empathy and relationship building when we can do that. Thanks for SONs collaboration on our planning process - peer review was done. Learned about some of the plants and

other being and how we want to continue that for biodiversity and other things that our policy set did not contemplate.

- Borders are arbitrary and are a way of organizing power in a way that others can deem fit. It's all about collaboration and regionalism to work with those that are impacted. No one community can do it alone - it all impacts each other. The way that we have been doing things isn't working - need to repeat that
- Reactionary position of being inundated with applications and files and growth to keep head above water - learned about great tools and databases and guidelines - but how do we manage what is coming at us. Important to keep these discussions going. Have similar discussions with developers and municipalities about once a year - helpful to learn from neighbors and what struggles other communities are facing. Once a year meetings have been super helpful
- How to speak the language of the person you are communicating with. Hard language of policy and CAs for the average person to understand. Important to boil it down to the "so what?" for people to digest. Opportunity that I see from listening to the circle - example of showcasing case studies. There is also value to communicating that more broadly and showing where positive impacts and effective projects have happened. If we want to affect government policy top down we need grassroots support from the bottom up.
- Example of informal relationship building: Mayor and Councillor stuck around and didn't just make remarks. They mingled and spoke with the community. Now the Chief and Mayor can call each other. It isn't just the formal e-mails going forth. Need to call out what is wrong - gentle disruption - so you don't get fired and so people can keep listening. Terms like stakeholders do not sit well with FN communities - we are right holders. Can't refer to FN as "our first nations" - it comes off as paternalistic. "Our Indigenous People" is the same
- Have a big party when people aren't fighting
- Make the work easier. See what documents SON has put out. Then collaborate with each other as planners and CAs then go to SON for consultation. Be aware that we are not asking FNs to municipalize
- Intrapreneur role in municipalities - fear in not knowing parameters.
- Changes to CAs - hold back charging application fees for the last 2 years
- Bill 23 - lost ability to comment on natural heritage in regulated areas, as well as storm water quality

E-mailed Contributions

Natalie Kuipers

Resources & Infrastructure is a small team within the Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office, ensuring consultation and engagement with SON for any development occurring in the territory (excluding Energy, because another department at the EO covers that). Focussed on:

- ensuring archaeological assessment are conducted to SON standards within the Territory
- conducting full tech reviews (peer reviews of archaeology, terrestrial ecology, hydrogeology, aquatic ecology) of aggregate applications and subdivisions in high concern areas
- other pieces are Parks Canada, dams, bridges, roads, Official Plans, shoreline hardening, permits to take water, among others

There are heavy development pressures on the Territory and we look to improve internal and external processes in order to ensure engagement and consultation are conducted in a good way with SON.

Summer Valentine

A formalized format for ongoing dialogue would be beneficial to continue to build relationships and effect positive change. A best practice example of proactive Indigenous-Municipal relationship building is the Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT), which includes a political level, leader-to-leader round table format, where any member can add agenda items of mutual interest and staff-led (both Municipal and Indigenous Nation staff) working groups that action recommendations from the leadership table. It would be wonderful to have similar Tables in place in Simcoe and Grey Counties. Reference: <https://www.engagemuskoka.ca/mailt>

- The Duty to Consult Working Group was the second subcommittee of the MAILT which was formed in late 2019 to examine issues from both the Indigenous and Municipal perspective around the Duty to Consult, Consultation and Notification. This working group reviewed best practices; worked together to better understand legal obligations; and proposed new solutions for the membership, including the development of the MAILT Friendship Accord to guide ongoing relationships.
- The Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT) signed a Friendship Accord on October 6, 2022 that establishes a mutual ongoing commitment to the framework, intent and principles of engagement.

Appendix V - Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT)

MUSKOKA AREA INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP TABLE

FRIENDSHIP ACCORD

The Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT) Friendship Accord establishes a mutual ongoing commitment to the framework, intent and principles of engagement between participating members of the MAILT, (hereafter referred to as MAILT Members) as represented by both elected officials and senior staff.

MAILT MEMBERSHIP

Membership on the Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table is open to the eight Indigenous Nations with a current or historical tie to the lands that encompass the current region of Muskoka, the upper-tier District Municipality of Muskoka, as well as Muskoka's six lower-tier municipalities. Urban and off-reserve Indigenous residents of Muskoka, although not formal members, are represented on the MAILT through the Muskoka Urban Indigenous Voices (MUIV) group.

Other individuals and organizations may also be invited to sit at the table from time to time - as a guest to listen, learn and share - or to bring new ideas, information, and perspectives for the MAILT to consider. If new members are interested in joining the MAILT, fit within the mandate of the MAILT Friendship Accord and are welcomed by a majority of members, additional signatories may be included at a future date.

PREAMBLE

We acknowledge that Muskoka's modern-day boundaries include parts of the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, which includes the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy, and that the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee Nations have also walked on this territory over time.

These lands, which are covered by the Williams Treaty (of 1923), the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 and the J. Collins land purchase (of 1785), are today home to three sovereign nations: Wahta Mohawks First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, and the Moon River Métis. We recognize that we share common land, boundaries and interests, and benefit from a collaborative working relationship and common vision for Muskoka.

MANDATE

The mandate of the MAILT is to strengthen relations between Indigenous Nations and municipalities and to identify actions that will benefit all residents and communities within Muskoka.

VALUES

MAILT Members value:

- Building strong relationships based on mutual respect;
- Advancing reconciliation through strong leadership and continued relationship building;
- Fostering regional partnerships to improve the quality of life for all residents;
- Enhancing social cohesion between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people; and
- Fostering stronger cultural, social, spiritual, civic and economic ties between Indigenous communities and municipalities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MAILT Members commit to:

- Build and maintain strong relationships based on mutual trust and respect;
- Acknowledge the history, past experiences and differences that impact current perceptions and opinions;
- Learn, understand and respect each other's values, customs and beliefs;
- Foster communications and information sharing opportunities by being open, honest and straightforward;
- Listen to and consider concerns and suggestions expressed in good faith;
- Respect each other's diversity and respective jurisdictions, governing authority, and governance structure; and
- Work collaboratively on common issues, concerns, pursuits, and initiatives for the well-being of current and future generations, including but not limited to:
 - Making the region more economically vibrant and sustainable;
 - Committing to heritage protection and environmental stewardship; and
 - Addressing root causes relating to public safety.

PROCESS

MAILT Members agree to meet at least four times per year and to engage in open and constructive dialogue.

Further, to ensure early consultation, where possible, the District of Muskoka will organize an annual forum to provide information about long-term project planning that impacts Indigenous communities, as well as provide Indigenous Nations the opportunity to provide preliminary feedback.

MAILT Members agree to establish working groups, from time to time as required, to work on identified common priorities and establish protocols to foster open and improved lines of communication.

Should a misunderstanding arise between MAILT Members, any MAILT Member may, at any time, call a special MAILT Meeting to resolve the issue. Where the Indigenous and Municipal Councils are unable to resolve the issue, any MAILT Member may request a facilitated resolution process.

This Friendship Accord will be regarded as a 'living agreement' intended to evolve as the MAILT evolves.

Any MAILT Member may initiate a change to the process or content of this Friendship Accord at any time, with the understanding that any changes are arrived at through consensus, and that any MAILT Member may withdraw from this Friendship Accord at any time through a Council Resolution.

LIMITATIONS

Nothing in this accord will be construed:

- To abrogate or derogate from any Aboriginal, Constitutional or Treaty rights of the Indigenous MAILT Members;
- To prejudice or affect any statutory power of decision or discretion of any of the MAILT Member Councils, an Approving Officer or any other officer or official of MAILT Members; or
- To limit, prejudice or affect any continuing or future negotiations on land claims with the Government of Canada and/or Province of Ontario.

COMMITMENT

By signing this Friendship Accord, MAILT members:

- Commit to maintaining the relationship as outlined above and;
- Commit to building and maintaining strong mutual trust and respect with one another.