



Shared Path
Consultation
Initiative

Deputation to Committee of the Whole

Seeking Support for:
Indigenous Collaborative Hub

Monday, February 3, 2025

Carolyn King, President and Board Chair, Shared Path Consultation Initiative (Shared Path)
David Stinson, Vice Chair, Shared Path
Susan Robertson, General Shared Path
Natalija Vojno, Coordinator, Shared Path

AGENDA

2min About Shared Path Consultation Initiative

2min Purpose of an Indigenous Collaborative Hub

2min Proposed Activities

2min Requested Action from Council

WHO WE ARE

The Shared Path Consultation Initiative is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that builds bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments within Ontario land-use planning practice.





OUR MISSION



Shared Path facilitates relationship-building opportunities for rights holders, First Nations and local governments, institutions, and organizations for reconciliation through access to resources, research, and education.

▪

Shared Path's Workshops

1. Network and build relationships to bridge Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to land use planning
2. Learn about each other, our work, and responsibilities, planning processes in accordance with the *Ontario Planning Act* and the *Provincial Planning Statement*, and how to apply the Articles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* and *Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)* into policy.
3. Move beyond concerns into collaboration through new communication channels, working relationships, agreements, and new tools for Indigenous-municipal engagement for planning and economic development.



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
Patrimoine canadien

Findings: workshop 3



Themes:

- Aboriginal Rights/knowledge in Planning
- Understanding changes in Planning
- Building Relationships between FNs & municipalities/CAs

Issues:

- Development pressure & info flow
- Collaboration with FNs
- Capacity deficit: time, funding, staff
- Share expertise/resources/power
- Funding options

Problems:

- Poor information sharing
- Volume of work is overwhelming
- Restricted by narrow government focus, legislation, frameworks & timelines
- World views that disconnect us from land/water
- Land speculation lobbying
- Lack of effective FN : CA/municipal engagement
- Staff turnover: loss of institutional knowledge
- Reduced role of CAs
- Other levels of government not listening

Purpose of an Indigenous Collaborative Hub

Building relationships beyond Duty to Consult

Meeting Provincial mandates for early engagement

Establishing a forum for discussion of issues of mutual interest e.g. development visions, Service Agreements, joint funding opportunities

Provincial Mandates

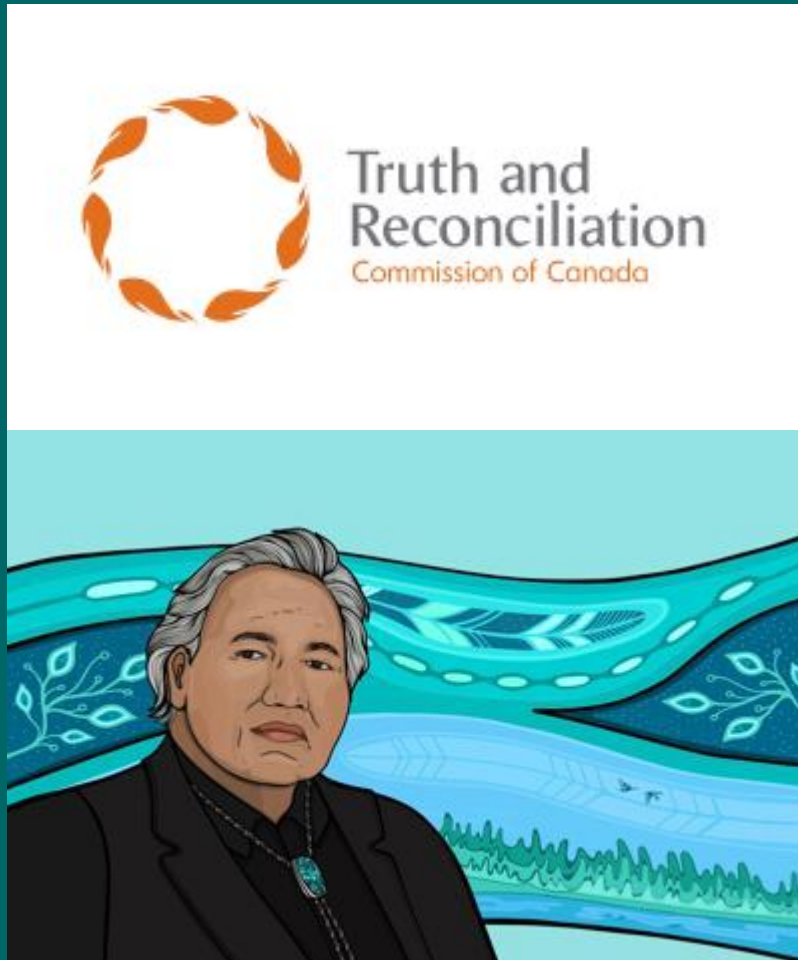
- Bill 23 – changes to Natural Heritage
- Bill 185 – loss of public appeal rights
- Repeal of the Growth Plan
- Provincial Planning Statement - blends PPS with Growth Plan
 - “The Province recognizes the importance of consulting with Aboriginal communities on planning matters that may affect their section 35 Aboriginal or treaty rights.”
 - “The Provincial Planning Statement shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights in section 35”
- Minister Zoning Orders

OFFICIAL PLAN PARTNER?

- Invite First Nation in O.P. review:
 - as a PARTNER, not a stakeholder
 - Collaborator even better



Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #92



BUSINESS AND RECONCILIATION

92. We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.
- ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.
- iii. Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Purpose of an Indigenous Collaborative Hub

Collaborative Hubs serve as joint tables for reconciliation and dialogue on cumulative impacts to the land, air, and watershed.

- Collaborate over policy reviews for streamlined approach
 - address capacity deficit: time, funding, staff
- Activate engagement processes as spaces for reconciliation, land management, and dialogue on cumulative impact
- Amend the protection of natural heritage along watersheds to include cultural heritage where First Nations can exercise their inherent rights and authority
- Data and knowledge sharing to improve capacity e.g. Shared Land Map (see sharedpath.ca)
- Develop tools for First Nation-municipal engagement, planning, and economic development
- First Nations can exercise their inherent rights and authority by engaging early in planning, decision making, and shared governance outcomes

Next Steps

The SPCI is creating a Collaborative Indigenous Planning Hub Pilot Study for 2025 and is actively seeking partnerships to bring this work together.



MAILT

MUSKOKA AREA INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP TABLE



Proposed Activities

Define: Host kick off meeting in April 2025 with participants

- jointly develop Vision, Mission, Terms of Reference for the pilot.

Strategize: Coordinate second gathering for June 2025

- align on collaborative planning approaches/tools/processes to address key priorities. These will be defined through group discussion and agreement and will define the next step of the pilot Hub.

Test: From July to end of September 2025

- test out preferred approach/tools/processes to explore how these may address the identified priorities of the Hub. Shared Path staff will provide coordination support to assist with uptake.

Evaluate: Gather in October 2025

- First Nations, County, and Town planners and staff part of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Working Group evaluate approaches and align on approach/tools/processes to support facilitation and greater inter-nation collaboration.

Next Steps: Final meeting in December 2025 to provide a dynamic presentation of what was accomplished, review the final report, celebrate our successes, and plan for next steps.

Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON)

Shared territory comprised of:

- 🐟 Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation
- 🐟 Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation

SON Territory includes:

- 🐟 Over 2 million acres of land
- 🐟 Surrounding lakebed
- 🐟 **Lake Huron** to the US border
- 🐟 **Georgian Bay** to the halfway point

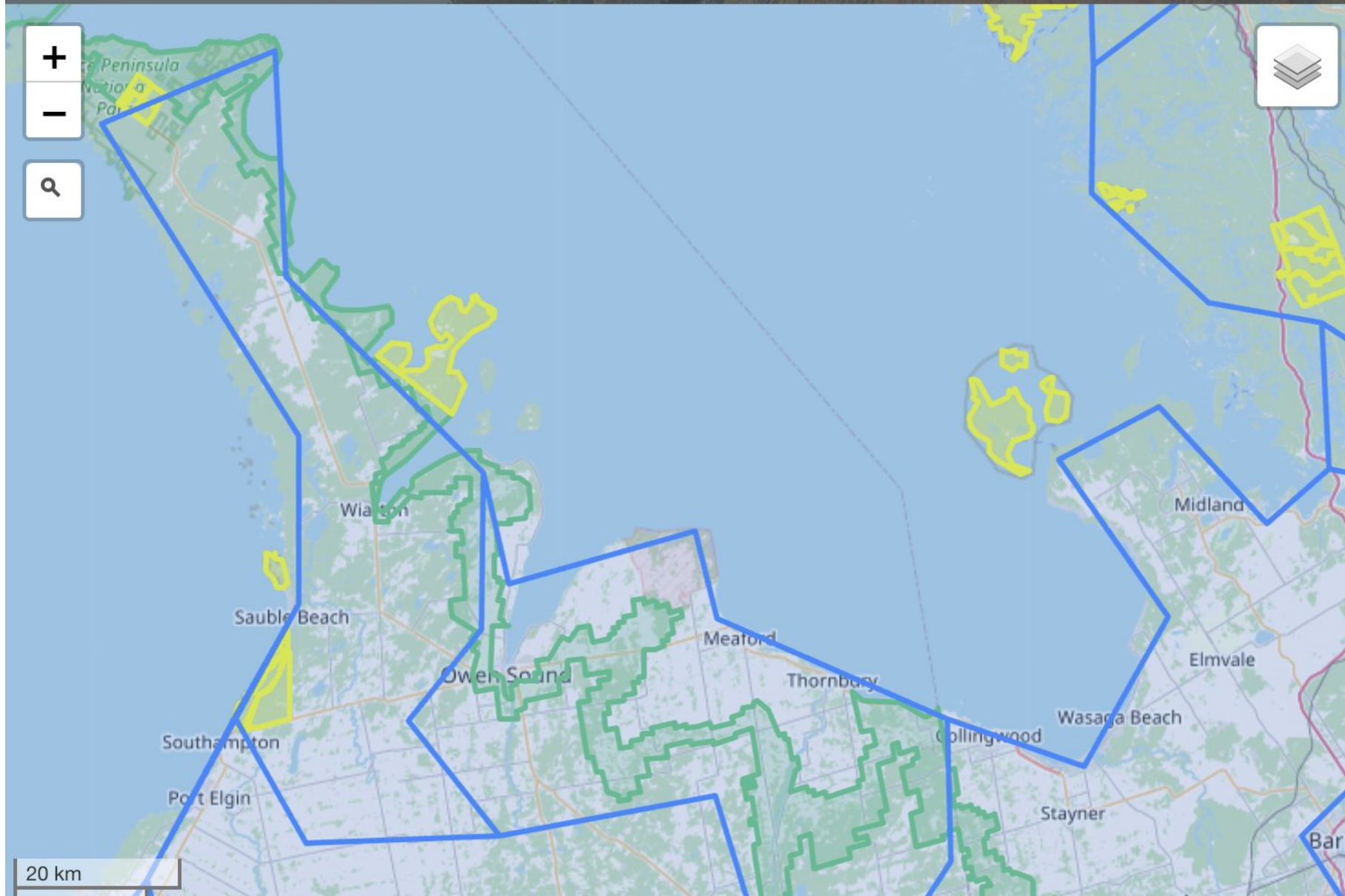
SON Governance:

- 🐟 SON Joint Council (Saugeen & Nawash CC)
- 🐟 Tasked with decision-making in regard to processes and projects within SON Territory





- Greenbelt
- Reserves
- Watersheds
- Municipalities



Requested Action

\$120,000 is needed to deliver on the Indigenous Collaborative Hub.

To date, Shared Path has received a funding commitment of \$35,000 from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) – contingent upon securing matching funds.

Ask: \$10-25k in matching funds for Indigenous Collaborative Hub pilot for 2025 and possible 2026 continuation.

Thank You!

admin@sharedpath.ca



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Carolyn King, President and Board Chair, Shared Path Consultation Initiative (Shared Path)
David Stinson, Vice Chair, Shared Path
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Purpose: Formation of an Indigenous Collaborative Hub

The Shared Path Consultation Initiative (Shared Path) is a charitable organization started in 2017 that seeks to bridge Indigenous and municipal planning systems to support the expression of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in land use decision making in Ontario.

Through the support of The Department of Canadian Heritage, the Shared Path hosted a series of workshops (3) entitled “Our Shared History” culminating in an in person workshop on June 26th with over 40 participants from First Nations, upper and lower tier municipalities, and conservation authorities. This next step/recommendation was to create a pilot program over 1 to 2 years for an **Indigenous Collaborative Hub** to advance relationship building, coordination, data and knowledge sharing, and collective capacity.

The Hub would explore and model governance of the land and waters through First Nations perspectives and engagement in community planning and economic development without overburdening communities. It will follow the precedent set by the Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT). The project outcomes include developing: an ongoing relationship building process and a forum for discussion of issues of mutual interest.

Requested Action from Council

Consideration of funding for pilot 2025 and possible 2026 continuation for Indigenous Collaborative Hub.

The following sections outline the proposed work plan, timelines, expected deliverables, and desired contribution.

Proposed Work Plan

The pilot will take place through a series of facilitated in person / virtual sessions over the course of 2025 and possibly into 2026. The hub will take shape through the following proposed steps, and adapt as needed:

1. **Define:** Host kick off meeting in April 2025 with participants and establish the Vision, Mission, Terms of Reference for the pilot. This will be an information gathering session on the core relationship wants, needs and priorities based on how things work now and where change needs to take place.
2. **Strategize:** Coordinate second gathering for June 2025 to strategize on collaborative planning approaches/tools/processes to address key priorities. These will be defined through group discussion and agreement and will define the next step of the pilot Hub.
3. **Test:** From July to end of September 2025, test out preferred approach/tools/processes to explore how these may address the identified priorities of the Hub. Shared Path staff will provide coordination support to assist with uptake.



4. **Evaluate:** Gather in October 2025 to assess the outcomes of the testing period of the preferred approaches/tools/processes and compare to the needs and priorities expressed at the initial gathering to assess the impact.
5. **Next Steps:** Final meeting in December 2025 to provide a dynamic presentation of what was accomplished, review the final report, celebrate our successes, and plan for next steps moving forward into 2026.

Proposed Project Activities		
Activity name	Date/Timeframe	Description of activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who will carry out the activity 2. Who will be participating 3. What is the goal of the activity
Conduct an environmental scan of other collaborative models, e.g. MAILT	2025-04-01 to 2025-04-30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path in collaboration with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. 2. Shared Path, OPPI, and interview partners 3. The activity enables acquiring a base understanding of existing co-governance models
Inaugural meeting of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Working Group	2025-04-24 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path will convene and facilitate the gathering 2. First Nations, County, and Town planners and staff. 3. All representatives invited will be asked to meaningfully participate by agreeing to a Draft Terms of Reference and planning priorities which will be sent out for review and approval via email afterwards.
Transcribe foundational documents: Vision, Mission, Terms of Reference, Work Plan	2025-04-24 to 2025-04-30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path to compile and share with Hub digitally based on discussions 2. Indigenous Collaborative Hub Members 3. Shared review and approval of foundational documents
Second meeting of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Working Group	2025-06-15 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path will convene and facilitate the gathering 2. First Nations, County, and Town planners and staff part of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Working Group 3. This will be the first opportunity to activate the identified goals in the TOR. This is where the environment scan of needs and priorities will be discussed in detail.



Test out preferred approach/ tools/ processes	2025-07-01 to 2025-09-30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path to coordinate uptake 2. Indigenous Collaborative Hub Members 3. Shared agreement on approach/tools/processes
Third meeting of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Working Group	2025-10-15 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path will convene and facilitate the gathering 2. First Nations, County, and Town planners and staff part of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Working Group 3. The goal will be to establish draft policies and processes to support facilitation and greater inter-nation collaboration. Metrics for the evaluation will be discussed.
Fourth meeting of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub Leadership Table	2025-12-04 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path will convene and facilitate the gathering 2. First Nations and Municipal decision-makers and staff part of the Indigenous Collaborative Planning Hub 3. The goal of this meeting will be to formalize the Hub and discuss next steps, lessons learned and future priorities and needs moving into future phases.
Conduct assessment	2025-12-05 to 2026-01-07	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path to conduct assessment and share with Hub digitally 2. Indigenous Collaborative Hub Members 3. Shared review and approval
Finalize the One Year Report (including a possible guiding toolkit / booklet)	2026-01-07 to 2026-02-28	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Path to draft report and share with Hub digitally 2. Indigenous Collaborative Hub Members 3. Shared review and approval

Expected Results and Evaluation Plan

Short-term – the 15-30 workshop participants will receive briefing notes with decisions and next steps after each session. During the session they will gain knowledge regarding the feasibility of a “Hub” for discussing and resolving issues of mutual concern, and the improvement of existing institutional practices.

Medium-term – at the end of the project, the participants will have a better understanding of processes and models for including First Nations in decision making regarding land-use and planning. The indicator of the project outcomes will ultimately be measured by whether or not the Collaborative Planning Hub is established:

- as a normal part of the ongoing relationship building process
- as a forum for discussion of issues of mutual interest
- as a mechanism for land use decision making

Shared Path will conduct an assessment following the fourth meeting of the Indigenous Collaborative Hub. Whether the participants agree to continue to collaborate will be the primary indicator of success. Indigenous Collaborative Hub Members will have an opportunity to review, suggest changes, and approve the assessment – this will also be reflected in a final report and possible toolkit or booklet.

Requested Contribution and Use of Funds

To achieve this work, the Shared Path will support capacity funding for First Nations participation and is seeking \$120,000 over 1 or 2 years from all funders. To date, Shared Path has received a funding commitment of \$35,000 from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) – contingent upon securing matching funds. We are kindly seeking matching funds in the amount of 10-25K, to secure OPPI's investment for 2025, and consideration of funding to continue the Hub into 2026.

Budget Item	Amount
Shared Path Staff	\$40,000
First Nations Staff	\$40,000
Administration	\$14,000
Rentals	\$5,000
Catering	\$8,000
Media	\$10,000
Travel	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$120,000

Thank you for your consideration and support of the Pilot Indigenous Collaborative Hub.

~The Shared Path Board.