

## **Town of The Blue Mountains**

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Sent via E-mail admin@sharedpath.ca

January 30, 2025

Carolyn King
President and Board Chair
Shared Path Consultation Initiative
720 Bathurst St., Suite 328
CSI Annex, Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

## RE: Letter of Support for the Pilot Indigenous Collaborative Hub

Dear Carolyn,

We are grateful for the Shared Path's leadership on the formation of a pilot Indigenous Collaborative Hub, aimed at fostering collaboration, empowering Indigenous communities, in accordance with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We recognize the critical importance of this initiative and its potential to create a lasting impact within First Nations communities by fostering meaningful partnerships and delivering culturally aligned outcomes.

We understand that the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) has offered \$35,000, contingent upon matching support, to help bring this pilot forward as per their Letter of Commitment. We are very interested in collaborating and participating in this process to establish the pilot initiative in 2025.

In alignment with our commitment to reconciliation, Town of The Blue Mountains is prepared to consider support for the Shared Path's pilot toward the hub's foundational activities, if the organization is successful at obtaining a grant through the Town's budget process and/or through in-kind support of staff involvement in the pilot initiative, as resources permit.

We are looking forward to participating in this much needed initiative. We understand that 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

We are confident in this identified pilot process and that this initiative will demonstrate our deep commitment to reconciliation. We look forward to collaborating with you to achieve the Hub's objectives and bring this vision to fruition.

Thank you for your dedication to this essential work.

Sincerely,

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Town of The Blue Mountains

AS/Is