

April 14, 2025

Greenbelt Foundation
404-720 Bathurst St
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

Re: Support for the Shared Path Consultation Initiative

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)'s firm support for the Shared Path Consultation Initiative's Indigenous Collaborative Hub pilot project.

OPPI is the recognized voice of Ontario's planning profession with over 5,400 members who work in government, private practice, universities, and not-for-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, community design, environmental planning, transportation, health, social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. Members must meet quality practice requirements and are accountable to OPPI and the public to practice ethically and to abide by a Professional Code of Practice. Only full OPPI members are authorized by the *Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act*, 1994, to use the title Registered Professional Planner (or RPP).

Shared Path's mission to facilitate relationship-building between rights holders, First Nations, local governments, institutions, and organizations aligns closely with OPPI's commitment to advancing excellence in planning and fostering meaningful, collaborative relationships across communities.

In recognition of this alignment, OPPI and Shared Path entered into a partnership agreement in late 2024. Through this partnership, Shared Path is contributing expert guidance to the development of OPPI's forthcoming *Indigenous Engagement and Consultation Practice Guide* and has also committed to the creation and delivery of a professional development workshop on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate for Ontario planners, scheduled for launch in May 2025.

As part of our commitment, OPPI has pledged \$35,000 in support of Shared Path's Indigenous Collaborative Hub pilot project. We also intend to offer continued in-kind support for the success of the Hub. In line with OPPI's financial risk policies, however, the full release of our funds is contingent upon confirmation of a secondary funding source—ideally, a contribution of similar value from another partner.

There is, therefore, a compelling opportunity for another organization to support a groundbreaking initiative—one that holds the potential to significantly enhance the ability of Shared Path and OPPI to define and serve the public interest more effectively, while meaningfully advancing reconciliatory efforts for current and future generations.



OPPI's strategic directions emphasize professionalism in planning practice, building trusted designations, advocating for the profession, enabling knowledge exchange, and enriching the member experience. Shared Path's vision and work exemplify these values. We are confident that funding this initiative will generate lasting impact across planning practices in Ontario and beyond.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Des Roches, CD, OCT
Registrar & Director, Special Projects
Ontario Professional Planners Institute

