

Appendix A – JRI Region of Waterloo Indigenous Space Needs Report



Indigenous Space-Needs Final Report

February 15, 2022

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Acknowledgements

The Region of Waterloo is situated on the lands within the Haldimand Treaty of 1784, a formally ratified agreement acknowledging six miles on either side of the Grand River as treaty territory belonging to Six Nations of the Grand River. The Waterloo Region serves a region that is located within the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Chonnonton and Haudenosaunee peoples. This territory is within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum. We acknowledge the enduring presence, knowledge and philosophies of Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the continuing accomplishments and contributions Indigenous Peoples make in shaping Waterloo Region. Therefore, concrete actions that advance a continuous process and practice of reconciliation for and by First Nations are important to give meaning to land acknowledgements by putting words into action.

We would like to thank the numerous First Nations, Elders, Indigenous organizations and Region staff who have generously contributed their time and ideas to this project. Your energy and dedication are an inspiration to us all. Without your support this project would not have been the success that it has been.

Chi Miigwetch!

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1. Executive Summary

The Region of Waterloo is surrounded by five First Nations: Six Nations of the Grand River, the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation, Munsee-Delaware Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Many other First Nations, Metis and Inuit travel into the region from other communities, as well. Situated on the lands within the Haldimand Tract of 1784, a formally ratified agreement acknowledging six miles on either side of the Grand River as treaty territory belonging to Six Nations of the Grand River. The Waterloo Region is located within the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Chonnonton and Haudenosaunee Peoples. In 2016, Statistics Canada reported there were approximately 8,000 First Peoples, Inuit and Métis Peoples residing within the Waterloo region, today the population is likely greater, and steadily growing.

The region recognizes that concrete actions must be taken to advance a continuous process and practice of reconciliation for, and by First Nations. Currently, the Region of Waterloo is building a Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan, while continuing to implement and uphold anti-racist and anti-oppressive policies and practices, and improve/provide access to safe, culturally relevant spaces. Recently, the Region has worked collaboratively with partners and communities across Waterloo Region to develop a framework to improve safety and wellbeing for all. This framework aims to solidify a process for action, recognizing outcomes will evolve, change, and grow with the needs of the community. First Nation, Métis and Inuit community organizations were part of the three steering committees that provided foundational guidance to develop the framework.

The safety and wellbeing framework, along with all other previous research and discussions have guided the work undertaken in the engagement process detailed in this report. While discussions and action on the need for safe, culturally relevant spaces for Indigenous Peoples and other racialized groups has been ongoing for the last twenty years. It is understood that the vision of a safe cultural space must be reflective of today's community needs and priorities, and stay forward thinking. To ensure this, the project sought to center the voices and lived experiences of Indigenous people living in the Region, and develop meaningful relationships throughout the project and beyond.

As such, this engagement process sought to understand the perspectives of, and input from rights-holders, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, organizations and groups within the Region of Waterloo regarding:

1. How space is defined, including its qualities and attributes
2. Barriers faced when trying to access space and land
3. What safe space enables communities to do and accomplish
4. Support needed to meet space needs and goals

These engagement conversations will serve as a key planning document for the Region, community organizations, institutions, and municipalities to guide action on increasing access to

culturally safe spaces that meet the needs of Indigenous communities and organizations in the Region.

As a result of the engagement conversations, the priorities for Space within the Region are:

Reconciliation, Truth and Justice	Maintaining consistent sharing of information in a clear and transparent format; with continued measurement and evaluation this work's process, progress and extent in which the work meets the needs of the Indigenous Peoples and communities within the Region of Waterloo.
Equity, Inclusion and Access	Ensuring that spaces reflect the space needs and cultural heritage of <u>all</u> First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples within the Region.
Wholistic Services and Support	Prioritizing supports that meet the needs of, and provide direct benefits to Indigenous communities within the Region.

This report summarizes the engagement conversations undertaken, in addition to a review of reports, news, and other information provided by the community membership. This report is inclusive of a description of the engagement process; a review of detailed findings (key takeaways and related goals); and Johnston Research Inc.'s recommendations for action and ideas for change.

2. Engagement Process

2.1 Consultation Approach and Activities

A series of activities to support the public engagement were held throughout the project process. The activities were designed to provide multiple opportunities to gather feedback on various aspects of the project using individual interviews and a review of past engagement reports and documents. The following section provides a synopsis of the approaches used to gather input.

Team Collaboration

The project used a collaborative approach between Johnston Research Inc. and the Region of Waterloo team. This approach reflected the following three priorities:

1. Inclusive of a team-based approach between JRI and the Region of Waterloo project team,
2. Ensuring a fully-open dialogue process is taken with the project that involves reciprocal data-exchange with dialogue contributors¹,
3. Ensuring the approaches include the 4 R's² and Chapter 9 of Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2014)³. The 4-Rs include Respect, Reciprocity, Relevance, And Responsibility – originally described by Kirkness and Bernhardt.⁴

Aboriginal Knowledge Translation (KT) – using research to create positive change – is an **ethical** issue and pursuit. Canada's Indigenous Peoples (First Nation, Inuit, and Métis) are Canada's First Peoples; as such, they have unique rights and responsibilities. Thus, research involving Indigenous Peoples requires particular consideration. Ethical guidelines have been articulated by national organizations, including the recent *CIHR Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal People*⁵ and a new version of Chapter 9 – "Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples" – of the *Tri-council Policy Statement*.⁶ The 4 R's of research – **respect, reciprocity, relevance, and responsibility** – originally described by Kirkness and Bernhardt (1991) are embedded in each of these guidelines and provide a simple framework for understanding and engaging in Aboriginal research ethics.

¹ In conjunction with the term dialogue process, contributor is often used to refer to those individuals who partake in the dialogue and "contribute" to its process. World Health Organization. (2015) [WHO Financing Dialogue Evaluation](#).

² Estey M.A., Elizabeth, Janet Smylie, M.D., & Ann Macaulay, M.D. (2009). Aboriginal Knowledge Translation: Understanding and Respecting the Distinct Needs of Aboriginal Communities in Research. <<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/41392.html>>

³ Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. (2014). [Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#).

⁴ Kirkness, V.J. & Barnhardt, R. (1991). First Nations and Higher Education: The Four R's--Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility. *Journal of American Indian Education*, 30(3): 1-15.

⁵ CIHR. (2007). [ARCHIVED - CIHR Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples](#). Retrieved April 12, 2009

⁶ Interagency Panel on Research Ethics. (2008) [Chapter 9: Research Involving Aboriginal Peoples](#). Draft 2nd Edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Retrieved April 12, 2009.

2.2 Review of Past Research:

In November 2021, Council endorsed a staff recommendation to “*launch a consultation process with Indigenous community members to better understand the space needs of Indigenous-led organizations that would better support access to culturally safe and appropriate space(s) for ceremony, gathering and program delivery.*” Following this recommendation, the Region conducted an environmental scan to compile and summarize the information that pertained to the discussion and development of Indigenous safe spaces. This information was derived from Past Regional projects, delegations, reports and internal conversations and meeting minutes from Region staff.

Information Provided by the Region:

The region provided the following documents for review:

- Communications tracker
- Environmental scan of Indigenous safe spaces
- A summary of the Reconciliation Plans of Niagara, Toronto, Hamilton, Middlesex-London and Halton

To support the engagement process, Johnston Research Inc. summarized this information in a brief PowerPoint presentation (*Appendix C*) that was shared with all interviewees. Johnston Research Inc. and the Region of Waterloo team collaborated on the development of these presentation materials, going through the presentation several times to ensure it captured all relevant data in the most effective and easy to understand format.

2.3 Indigenous Engagement Processes

The engagement sessions focused on exchanging learnings and information about the past, present, transition, and future of Space Needs within the Region of Waterloo, in order to inform the implementation of more culturally safe spaces in the Region for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and urban Indigenous groups/organizations living in the Region.

The engagement process ran from November to December 2022.

Each engagement meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Notice was provided by email invitation. The interview format included a visual presentation from the Region and JRI team outlining a review of the previous research conducted, followed by a discussion to generate ideas, input and perspectives regarding the priorities and needs for space.

Discussion Questions

PAST

- What barriers have you faced when trying to find space or land previously?

PRESENT

- How do you define space? What space attributes do you think of when defining space needs?
- What qualities does it have? (e.g., ambiance, Culture, history, etc.)

TRANSITION

- What does it enable your community to do and accomplish?

FUTURE

- What will support you in reaching your goals to meet your space needs?

The engagement conversations used a distinctions-based approach involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Distinctions-based refers to the individual engagement with each of the three distinctions in Canada: First Nations, Inuit and Métis as separate groups.

The following groups participated in the engagement. A complete list of participants is outlined in *Appendix C*.

- Waterloo Region Community Legal Services
- Healing of the Seven Generations, Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group
- University of Waterloo / Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre
- Waterloo Region District School Board
- Ontario Tech University
- SOAHAC
- Region of Waterloo, and City of Kitchener staff
- Waterloo Region Police Services
- Crow Shield Lodge
- KW Urban Native Wigwam Project
- White Owl Native Ancestry Association
- Anishnabeg Outreach
- Indigenous Veterans Outreach
- Bangishimo
- Aumquamzin Centralized Services
- Landback Camp – Ose:Kenhionhatatie
- Métis Nation of Ontario

The following section outlines the findings from all interview engagement sessions.

3. Review of Detailed Engagement Findings

The findings from the engagement sessions strongly echo the previous data collected and summarized in the PowerPoint presentation “*Review of Past Discussions: What the Region has Heard so Far*”. In that, the Indigenous communities within the Region of Waterloo have three key space needs, a need for a centralized hub, ceremony space, and organizational space for services such as legal support, childcare and health services.

One respondent illustrated that a central hub is like a teepee; where the wooden poles represent the individual needs of each Indigenous community/group, and where the poles connect in the center represents the common needs. To facilitate this, it was suggested that Indigenous organizations collaborate and to come together to provide all needed services for the Indigenous community in the region. The following table outlines the specific attributes summarized from the consultation process.

The following table outlines the specific attributes and barriers summarized from the consultation process, along with how they correspond with the priorities and barriers defined by this research.

What We've Heard		
Specific Attributes Required	Barriers Addressed / What it the Attributes Enable the Community to do	Priorities
Recreational, cultural and sustaining opportunities on the natural land , specifically for Indigenous communities. Considering how to reduce the levels of bureaucracy and restrictions to use and access.	Many respondents indicate that they have faced difficulty in accessing land that is not also used for other things. Providing access to land specific to Indigenous communities would mitigate the bureaucracy and restrictions to use. On-the-land space is critical for reconnection, maintaining culture and traditional teachings, and supporting well-being.	Reconciliation, Truth and Justice
Accessible physical indoor space for ceremony, drum circles and other gatherings, indoor recreational activities (i.e. yoga), a kitchen for food preparation and cooking, space for education and other services as needed.	Respondents indicate they want to feel like they belong and matter in spaces that appeal to the mind, body and spirit. These spaces would support restorative healing, and enable the community to share teachings to future generations.	
Physical space that is inclusive for two-spirited peoples , those with disabilities, and that reflects cultural	Physical space that is reflective of <u>all</u> First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples would aid in unifying the community; enabling the	

heritage of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.	community to connect, gather and support each other.	Inclusion, Equity and Access
Physical space that is inviting, calming, and equipped with comfortable furniture, rugs/carpeting, vibrant artwork and warm lighting etc.	Respondents placed importance on designing the space in a way that supports Indigenous gifts, abilities and way of life. in that it needs to be an inviting, calming family friendly environment that enables them to be comfortable and connected	
Centralized wrap-around services including education/skills development, childcare, legal support, health services, food security, access to Indigenous medicines, modalities, and offer teachings from leaders, experts and knowledge carriers.	Respondents identified a lack of wholistic, wrap-around services and supports that meet the needs of, and provide direct benefits to Indigenous communities within the Region. A centralized hub would provide easier access to such services.	Wholistic Services

“Gathering is an important aspect of our culture. I think there is a real opportunity for our community to do some restorative healing in a space that is neutral and used by all community members living in ROW. We have a number of Knowledge Keepers, Traditional Healers, and Elders in our urban community that can really bring our culture to life if we had the space. In this space there will be opportunity to practice and learn our language, culture, and ceremony.”

“Space to me is safe and accessible. It is a place to gather with our urban Nations to practice in ceremony, feasting or healing. The space also allows for multi generations to visit together to revive and learn about our culture, identity and language.”

Specific Barriers to Access:

The majority indicate the barriers to access are largely centred around access to land, particularly ceremonial land that is not used for other purposes and does not come with liability issues and/or limiting restrictions. While others specify they have not had trouble accessing land within or surrounding the Region, some also express that the spaces in which they have access to are colonial and may be distressing to some. These spaces are often viewed as feeling “clinical” and dull, lacking comfort or character. Many also indicate there is a clear lack of accessibility and knowledge of how to navigate city processes, in knowing who to call or where to go to find information, in addition to bureaucracy and “red tape” in accessing spaces in the region.

When considering a centralized hub, a common theme among respondents was that the space should be easy to access via public transportation (or have transportation to/from). Additionally, nearly two thirds of respondents indicated that colonial spaces are a barrier to use, with some

suggesting that colonial spaces (i.e. police station, churches etc.) could be triggering for some, and should be avoided if possible.

Within both the regions of Waterloo and Kitchener, several respondents illustrated a division of organizations, and suggest not only a need for centralized services, but some also indicate a need for strong leadership in strategic planning and getting all the groups together. No major differences between regions was found.

“System navigators are really critical in this space – who can help store this repository of wisdom. Both traditional and non-traditional methods, build links in the community, interwoven methods... We need a space to grow, identify and grow leaders in the community and harness their gifts”

“How can we best help our communities if we’re not comfortable in our environment? It’s about the mind, body and spirit. The medicine wheel...We need to be able to concentrate on the important things without being distracted.”

Space Quality and Attributes:

The majority of those interviewed suggest that the space needed should be a permanent community hub that is adequately sized, near water/nature and is easily accessed via public transportation. Respondents indicate the importance of designing the space in an Indigenous cultural way. In that it needs to be an inviting, calming, non-judgemental, family friendly environment. Many also stressed the importance of the space being non-colonial and non-patriarchal.

Respondents also specified that the space needs to have the following physical attributes:

- A kitchen space to prepare food and cook for feasts and other cultural events
- Has both indoor and outdoor spaces that allow for sacred fires and ceremony, and smudging to strengthen connections to land, teachings, and Creator
- Have gender neutral washrooms to be inclusive for Indigniqueer and two-spirited peoples
- To feel community-based, with comfortable lounge area for people to gather, to sit and talk and eat
- Comfortable furniture, rugs/carpeting, vibrant artwork and warm lighting
- Private meeting rooms, offices and rooms for specific services (i.e. counselling)

Respondents indicate that the space needs to provide wrap-around, wholistic services including:

- Wholistic health, dentistry and pharmacy services that are trauma informed
- Use of Indigenous medicines, modalities, and offer teachings from leaders, experts, Knowledge carriers, and Elders
- Child care
- Legal services

- Counselling, conflict resolution and mediation services
- Cultural, spiritual and language programming
- Specific youth, women and men's programming
- Housing and food security

"Our greatest need to find spaces in the places we already are – like the portable. It takes place of one of the classrooms, and is in the space of a 30-acre forest. What I feel we're working towards are places scattered throughout the tri-city area. That's the most important thing, and then in order to get those things we just need a place to land – an office to work out of."

"It's hard to find spaces, we can't find suitable places for ceremony. The population is dense and the parks are small. Indigenous People thrive outside, on connections to the creator. But it's the ownership and access that is reinforced by land acknowledgements [that is the issue], everything is tied to someone being in charge of it, and allowing us to have access."

"I think it's important for the infrastructure to have a large enough land base for outdoor gatherings and ceremony. A space close to the water and wooded area would provide an opportunity for land-based teachings and medicine gatherings."

"[Space needs to be] trauma-informed and mindful of possible triggers in the design process."

What is Required to Support Community Space Needs:

Many community members and organizations have begun to create ripples of change, organizing petitions and dreaming up imaging of tangible spaces. However, due to the magnitude of the project, funding is required. As such, the next steps required to carry on this work include the following.

Planning and Strategy:

- Continue to build trust in the planning process through facilitating communication, collaboration, and partnership among Indigenous and non-Indigenous services and organizations in Region and levels of government
- Continue to include community voices in the planning process
- Develop a concrete proposal to apply for funding for an Indigenous Space
- Explore areas, and methods of support from non-Indigenous organizations and various levels of government

"I think the qualities would be birthed in the use of community space. The two basic elements are infrastructure and land. When you bring community together to use the space the culture and history will come to life."

Space Attributes:

- Create an inviting and calming space equipped with comfortable furniture, rugs/carpeting, vibrant artwork and warm lighting
- Ensure inclusivity and accessibility through:
 - ensuring that the space is accessible by public transportation
 - is accessible for those with disabilities
 - is inclusive to two-spirited peoples
- Ensure there is adequate space/rooms for:
 - events (i.e. ceremony and feasts)
 - education (i.e. language classes, skills development, information on regional services available etc.)
 - childcare
 - natural outdoor for on-the-land programming
 - indoor recreational activities such as yoga, drumming and other physical activity
- Deliver wholistic health (i.e. dentistry, pharmacy etc.) services with Indigenous medicines, modalities, and offer teachings from leaders, experts and knowledge carriers.

“History can be important in determining the location – such as -Riverside Park due to the history, big park by the grand river, near transit and looking what is close to those locations by water and treed area and privacy for ceremonies.”

“Honour and reflect the people of the space - have a cultural committee come together each year to discuss and plan current cultural pieces and art such as moons, themes of the month, and Indigenous art.”

Other Needs:

- Advocate for climate justice, preserve green spaces and protection of lands
- Aid in fostering connection and capacity building between organizations, as there is currently a great deal of separation, competition, and alack cohesion among organizations and services offered
- Provide reconciliation and trauma-informed training for the workplace and community to support healing for Indigenous Peoples
- Partner with education and training in the community to offer skills training for Indigenous Peoples living in the region

“Enhance Indigenous organizations service goals and programming goals – which is for us and by us.”

“I think we need to take a wholistic and integrated approach that is led by community. Our KW agencies can help support a new initiative for community but the voice of the community needs to be a big part of the building of new space in Kitchener-Waterloo. We have a very diverse community and it is important to hear the needs and want of everyone.”

“We need to use this information to DO something with the information gathered. We’re doing all these studies; Indigenous Peoples have been studied to pieces and they still don’t understand us because they aren’t doing anything with the information they have. We don’t need Needs Assessments, we need to just do.”

“[To support the space-needs goals, we need] collaboration, partnerships, and agreement within the Indigenous community and organization - not owned by a particular agency or service.”

4. Discussion

The community consultations confirmed that access to safe space is a priority for the Indigenous organizations and individuals who participated in these discussions. These findings align with the findings in the Waterloo Region’s Community Safety & Wellbeing Framework related to space use for the Indigenous community. Specifically, the need for:

- Opportunities and spaces for land-based learnings
- Land and space for community gatherings and ceremonies, a safe space for this could look like an Indigenous hub.
- Greater access to services such as a central, one-stop space to access many services in culturally safe ways⁷.

The following outlines some considerations for communities, municipalities, businesses and other organizations in the Region to consider in order to increase access to culturally safe spaces.

1. Removal of restrictions for accessing land and space

During the consultations, participants noted the barriers they have faced in the past when trying to access Regional spaces. A common theme among the barriers identified was the lack of space available solely for Indigenous use and an unrealistic number of restrictions imposed upon space use. Organizations need to develop systems where rentals, access and the use of space is not dependent on the timing of other programming using the same space, where liability concerns are not restrictive and where unnecessary booking requirements and approvals are removed. Ensuring a seamless pathway to access spaces will also help to reduce the confusion currently felt by participants when trying to navigate Regional and municipal processes to request space.

2. Ensure connectivity with wrap around services

When describing the specific attributes needed for space, participants highlighted the importance of the connection to other services, for example: health care, social supports and population specific services. When determining which spaces to provide for the Indigenous community, organizations in the Region should consider those that are located in close proximity to other

⁷ Waterloo Region’s Community Safety & Wellbeing Framework
Building a safe and well community for all: A journey towards transformational change, Jan 2022

supports. The inclusion of safe spaces for the Indigenous community should be taken into consideration during the planning of new community hubs or spaces to ensure appropriate space is incorporated.

3. Provide spaces that are multi-functional

Many of the comments provided by the participants highlighted the need for various types of space that can accommodate a variety of programming, including indoor and outdoor ceremonies, access to water, and both indoor and outdoor gatherings. Organizations in the Region can help to provide this space by offering a variety of space options.

4. Inclusivity

Participants indicated that feeling reflected in the spaces they are accessing is important. Spaces need to be inclusive of all First Nation, Metis, and Inuit people in order to help unify the community. Examples include creating space that is family friendly, inviting, and reflective of those using it. Being seen in the community would help to support the Indigenous community in feeling included in the space and provide ownership of the space they are using.

Suggestions for further engagement

The consultations in this report took place with organizations based largely in the cities of Waterloo and Kitchener (88% of respondents). The specific space needs of those living in the townships and Cambridge may not be reflected in the responses gathered. Moving forward, the Region should strive to include the voices of those not heard during these consultations to ensure their needs are considered when making decisions on space use.

Appendix A: Discussion Questions

1. What barriers have you faced when trying to find space or land previously?
2. How do you define space? What space attributes do you think of when defining space needs?
3. What qualities does it have? (e.g., ambiance, Culture, history, etc.)
4. What does it enable your community to do and accomplish?
5. What will support you in reaching your goals to meet your space needs?

Appendix B: Engagement Presentation



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Appendix C: Interview Contacts

Johnston Research Inc. contacted 23 organizations in the region of Waterloo including a number of Indigenous organizations, academic institutions and public sector organizations. Johnston Research Inc. conducted interviews with 18 of the 23 organizations contacted, for a response rate of 78%. The following table lists the organizations interviewed.

Over half (55%) of respondents live in the Region of Waterloo, third (33%) reside in Kitchener, and 11% live in the surrounding areas (i.e. London, First Nations Reserves etc.)

Interviewed	Waterloo Region Community Legal Services
	Healing of the Seven Generations, Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group
	University of Waterloo / Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre
	Waterloo Region District School Board
	Ontario Tech University
	SOAHAC
	Region of Waterloo staff
	City of Kitchener staff
	Crowshield Lodge
	KW Urban Native Wigwam Project
	White Owl Native Ancestry Association
	Anishnabeg Outreach
	Indigenous Veterans Outreach
	Bangishimo
	Aumquamzin Centralized Services
	Landback Camp – Ose:Kenhionhatatie
	Métis Nation of Ontario
Waterloo Region Police	

Appendix D: Additional Resources Provided by Respondents

University of Waterloo:

- <https://uwaterloo.ca/news/indigenous-commitment-ceremony-signals-new-beginnings>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a9HWD1T7q0>

O:se Kenhionhatatie

Potential Space Design: www.landbackcamp.com

“Land Back Camp was created due to the lack of gathering space for the local Indigenous communities. Amy & Bangishimo began to work with architect students, Enoch & Niara, in

designing a plan of what a potential space could look like at the now vacant Charles Street Bus Terminal. With a 5000 signature petition, a building design, and letters of support from local Indigenous organizations, Amy and Bangishimo presented their project at a Region of Waterloo Council Meeting.”

Recollections and Imaginings: <https://traction.samnabi.com/?campaign=indigenous-community-hub>

Film supporting Space-needs ‘**Stories from Land Back Camp**’ selected for **Imaginative**

- Define space
- All 4 petitions were met
- But not access to land – one goal is to build fire spaces in each of the parks

Indigenous, Equity, and Human Rights Department, Waterloo Region District School Board

- Use social media (Tri-Cities Guelph and area Indigenous Community Connection) to call out the parents – community circle – tell us what you need in space.
- Ways of knowing and doing in the architectural designs, such as Walter Fedy, Smoke Architecture. And Two Row Architect

Appendix E: Attributes and Barriers, among Region

What We’ve Heard		
Specific Attributes Required	Barriers Addressed / What it the Attributes Enable the Community to do	By Location
Recreational, cultural and sustaining opportunities on the natural land.	Many respondents indicate that they have faced difficulty in accessing land that is not also used for other things.	Kitchener and Waterloo
Accessible physical indoor space for ceremony and other gatherings, indoor recreational activities, food preparation, education and other services as needed.	Respondents indicate they want to feel like they belong and matter in spaces that appeal to the mind, body and spirit.	Kitchener and Waterloo
Physical space that is inclusive for two-spirited peoples, those with disabilities, and that reflects cultural heritage of <u>all</u> First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.	Physical space that is reflective of <u>all</u> First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples would aid in unifying the community; enabling the community to connect, gather and support each other.	Kitchener and Waterloo

Physical space that is inviting, calming, comfortable and vibrant	Respondents placed importance on designing the space in a way that supports Indigenous gifts, abilities and way of life.	
Centralized wrap-around services	Respondents identified a lack of wholistic, wrap-around services and supports that meet the needs of, and provide direct benefits to Indigenous communities within the Region.	Kitchener and Waterloo