COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY
Legacy Review/Place Identity Project

Project Description

The Legacy Review Project was tasked with thee deliverables:

- Review of the John A Macdonald Road name change to miyo-wâhkôhtowin;
- develop a Place Identity Framework; and,
- revise Council Policy C09-008 Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas (Civic Naming Policy).

All three tasks were undertaken with the significant input and involvement of rights holders, community stakeholders, community organizations, equity-denied groups, developers, other Canadian municipalities, as well as individuals and sector experts from across the country.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Review and Evaluation of the John A Macdonald Road name change to miyo-wâhkôhtowin

The review of the John A Macdonald Road name change to miyo-wâhkôhtowin was an opportunity to assess what went well and what could be done differently should there be a need to rename an existing street again. The findings from this review (Appendix 1 of this report) were taken into account in developing the Place Identity Framework and revising the Civic Naming Policy.

As part of the review, staff from multiple civic departments were interviewed as were the Ward Councillor, the Mayor and Mayor's Office. A meeting of members of the community renaming selection committee (originally comprised of Indigenous leaders, Residential School Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and youth; the Saskatoon Intercultural Association; members from the Chinese community; teachers from Wâhkôhtowin school) was facilitated to evaluate the process. The Legacy Review Project Manager also had several telephone conversations with residents of the Road to discuss process.

Place Identity Framework

The primary objective of the Place Identity Framework is to incorporate reconciliation, diversity and inclusion principles into City processes that administer place naming, landmarks and monuments, and emblems, symbols and flags. The primary outcome of the Framework is that residents can see themselves represented in the city, which improves their sense of belonging.

Communication and engagement was intentionally focused on input from rightsholders, stakeholders, equity-denied groups and individuals:

- 80 interviews/conversations with:
  - Indigenous rightsholders (First Nation and Métis)
  - Community organizations
  - Land developers and builders
  - Academia
  - Individual residents
  - City of Saskatoon staff
  - Staff from various Canadian municipalities
- Six community input and feedback workshops were facilitated. The workshops were invaluable for testing assumptions, assessing priorities, and overall improving the directions and content of the Place Identity Framework.

The Framework document itself has a section set aside to community voices, specifically those often not given the space or time to be heard:
  - Place Names: A nêhiyaw World View
  - Place Identity in Saskatoon: A Métis Perspective
  - Enhancing the Francophone Presence in Saskatoon
  - Early Settlers of African Descent and Their Connections to Saskatoon
  - What's (Really) in a Name? Revisiting the Legacies of Saskatoon's Grace Fletcher

Forthcoming revisions to the Civic Naming Policy
The purpose of revising the policy is to encourage diversification in the names proposed and considered for inclusion on the Names Master List, including historically underrepresented groups such as women, Indigenous peoples, visible minorities, as well as other marginalized and often equity-denied groups in Saskatoon.

Community organizations, rightsholders, developers, and multiple civic staff were consulted and engaged in the review. Key to the work of revising the Civic Naming Policy was the multiple meetings and discussions with municipal staff from cities across Canada, including Edmonton, Lethbridge, Regina, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, and Ottawa. The sharing of experiences and practices amongst Canadian cities has been reassuring in that what is being recommended here in Saskatoon is compatible with what is being done elsewhere.

Revision to the Civic Naming Policy will be brought forward in a future report.

What's Next
Ongoing communication and engagement will be critical the work and success of place identity. An important aspect of that work will be to develop a dedicated Place Identity webpage that articulates the objectives of the Place Identity Program and that contains the necessary on-line application forms for submitting name suggestions, requesting reviews of names, and explains existing place names if known.