
Name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge - Shortlist of Names

Recommendation

That the Naming Advisory Committee recommend to City Council that the four names chosen by the community through the community engagement naming of the North Commuter Parkway Bridge be added to the Names Master List.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the four names put forward, through community engagement, to name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge as well as to consider these naming requests to ensure they meet City Council guidelines, as set out in Policy No. C09-008, Naming of Civic Property and Development Areas.

Report Highlights

1. The following four names were chosen for the North Commuter Parkway Bridge and require screening: Louis Riel; Chief Mistawasis; Wîcîhitowin; and Waniskâ.
2. Further information on the extensive community and stakeholder engagement, as well as the appropriate cultural protocol used to determine the four names that were shortlisted, are provided.

Strategic Goal

Under the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, this report supports the recognition of our built, natural, and cultural heritage. The naming of civic facilities celebrates the history, environment, and outstanding contributions of our diverse community.

Background

On January 31, 2017, the City Administration provided City Council with a report outlining the proposed process for engaging the community to name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge. It was established that the process undertaken to propose a name would be community driven, building on the community reconciliation process.

City Administration gathered key community members to form the Steering Committee to determine and carry out a community-led process for naming the North Commuter Parkway Bridge. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated, and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. City Administration facilitates the process.

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In order to determine the shortlist of names, the Steering Committee determined a process that:

- a) was open and transparent;
- b) included extensive public education and engagement; and
- c) used a combination of digital and paper feedback mechanisms to ensure the process was accessible to everyone in our diverse community.

Nominations were required to meet one of the following guidelines:

- a) acknowledge an Aboriginal historical event or figure.
- b) represent the spirit of community, coming together, or connection.

Report

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #79 to participate in a strategy that commemorates Aboriginal people's history and contributions to Canada, four names have been gathered from the community and selected for public consideration.

As part of the community-led bridge naming process, a committee of Métis and First Nation leaders, Elders, and City representatives have chosen two historical figures and two Cree words as potential names for the North Commuter Parkway Bridge.

The four names (in alphabetical order) gathered from the community are: Chief Mistawasis (miss-tuh-WA'-sis); Louis Riel; Waniskâ (WOHN'-skuh); and Wîcîhitowin (wee-chee-HEE'-toh-win). Waniskâ is a Cree word meaning to arise and Wîcîhitowin is a Cree word meaning to help mutually or 'the act of helping one another. More information on the significance of the four names is included in Attachment 1.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Extensive community and stakeholder engagement was conducted throughout the different phases to select a name for the North Commuter Parkway Bridge:

- a) First Nation and Métis Elders guided the cultural protocol for the entirety of the naming project, including the blessing of the land which took place in May 2017.
- b) Phase One: Names were gathered from the community, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents, through engagement events, and an online nomination form between July and October 2017. Results saw over 450 nominations come in from the community.
- c) Phase Two:
 - i) Elders and Survivors reflected and deliberated on the list of names in order to assist the Steering Committee in determining a shortlist of four names.
 - ii) Each of the names in the short list was vetted through a sub-committee of local historians. This information, along with the information included in the nomination was used to create a short vignette for each of the four short-listed names.
 - iii) The vignettes were promoted to the community to learn more about the significance of the four short-listed names.

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- iv) Extensive community and stakeholder engagement was conducted throughout March 2018, including opportunities for the public to provide feedback to the City both online and in-person.
- d) Phase Three: The Steering Committee will review and consider feedback received from the community on the four shortlisted names before the final recommendation for the name of the North Commuter Parkway Bridge is made to City Council, via the Naming Advisory Committee.

Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to make a short presentation to the Naming Advisory Committee in support of their naming submissions.

Communication Plan

A communication and engagement plan was implemented to inspire participation and confidence in the naming process and assist in educating the public on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. Activities included: paid and earned media; signage near the bridge site; general public and targeted engagement opportunities; information on City website and at civic facilities; and social media posts.

Policy Implications

The screening of requests and suggestions for naming or renaming of municipally-owned or controlled facilities, streets, suburban development areas, neighbourhoods, and parks must be in compliance with the Naming Policy.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, financial, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Administration will report back through a special meeting of the Naming Advisory Committee in late June or early July 2018 to recommend the name of the North Commuter Parkway Bridge.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment(s)

1. Name the NCP Bridge – Share Your Voice

Report Approval

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Reviewed by: Gilles Dorval, Director, Aboriginal Relations

Lesley Anderson, Director, Planning and Development

Approved by: Randy Grauer, Manager, Community Services

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