

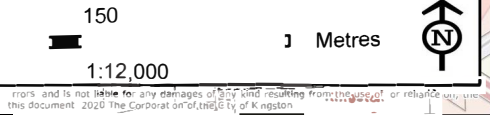
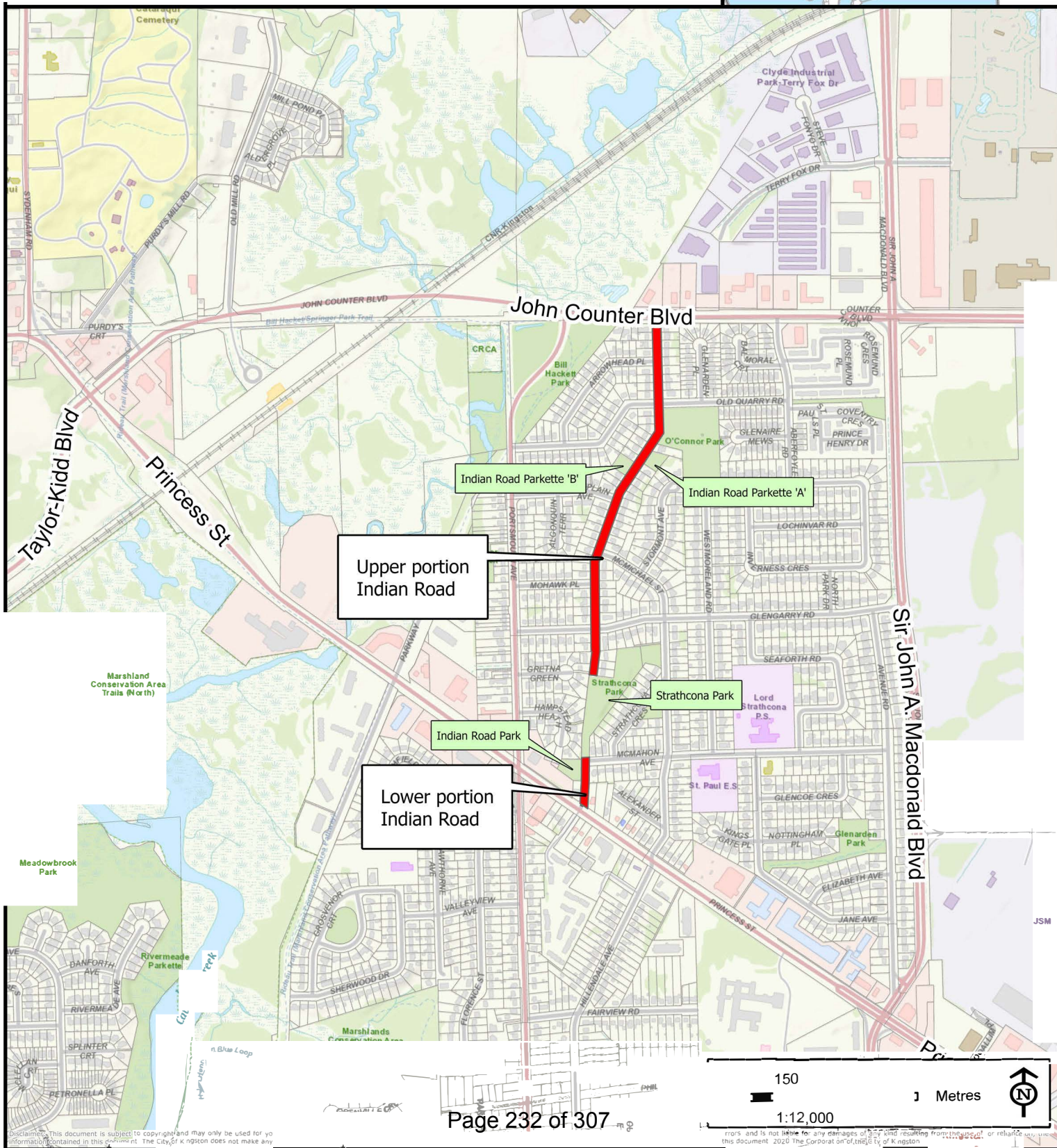
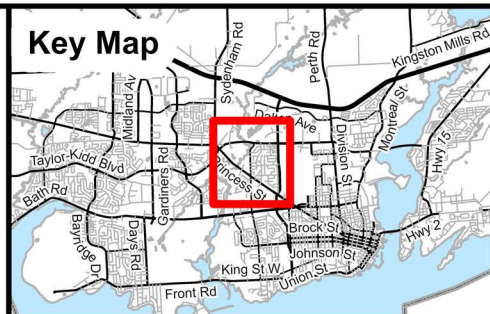


Civic Addressing Neighbourhood Context Map

Planning File Number: D20-088-2026

■ Subject Lands - Indian Road

Key Map



Road Renaming and Address Changes

	Service	Process	Cost
Canada Post	Mail forwarding	In-person	\$98 for 12 months \$64.75 for 4 months
Revenue Canada	tax returns, benefit payments, etc.	CRA my account (www.cra-arc.gc.ca)	
Service Ontario	Driver's license, health card, vehicle registration, outdoors card, Ontario photo card	On-line or in-person at Service Canada (www.servicecanada.gc.ca)	
Elections Canada	Update voter registration	Voter Registration Homepage	
Immigration & Citizenship		Immigration & Citizenship Address Change	
OSAP	Update your Ontario Student Assistance Program account	On-line	
Utilities	Gas, water, electricity	Phone or on-line	
Telecommunications	Notify your phone, internet and cable providers	Phone or on-line	
Other Services	Mobility, heating fuel, etc.	Phone or on-line	

Banks and Credit Card Companies	Update address with all of your financial institutions	In-person or on-line	
Insurance Companies	Update address for your home, auto and other insurers	Phone, in-person or on-line	
Lawyer/Notary	If applicable – provide new address	Phone or in-person	
Healthcare Providers	Update address for family doctor, specialists, dentist and pharmacist	Phone or in-person	
Veterinarian	Update your pet records	Phone or in-person	
Personal Contacts	Update address for family, friends and employer	Phone, in-person or on-line	
Schools and Daycare	Update address	Phone, in-person or on-line	
Subscriptions	Update address for any newspapers, magazines, subscriptions, charities, fitness clubs, sports teams	On-line or by phone	
Educational Institutions and Associations	Universities, Alumni Associations, Professional Associations	On-line, by phone or in-person	

Government Assistance Programs	Ontario Works, ODSP, OAS, CPP	On-line or by phone	
Replacement House Numbers		If required	
Passports		If you have filled in the address information on page 4, please cross out the old address and write the new one in the space above the old address. If the space is insufficient, write the new information on a separate piece of paper and insert it into the passport	

Summary of November Indian Rd. Resident Meeting

On Monday, Nov. 24 City staff led a virtual engagement session with Indian Road residents about the renaming process. Approximately 20 residents joined.

Presentation

Staff began with a short presentation that outlined:

- An overview of the purpose of the session: to inform residents, to share work done to date, to discuss involvement in the renaming process and to hear concerns and financial considerations
- A summary of City Council's June 17 motion and direction to staff
- Work to date and timeline for the process, including engagement with Indigenous community members, direct mail outreach to residents of the road and research into financial considerations for the municipality and affected residents
- A brief history of Indian Road
- Notes about the process and potential options for how the City can provide support throughout the process (checklist, potential pop-up clinic for address changes, etc.)

Q&A/Discussion

Following the presentation, the session was opened to a Q&A with residents where staff sought feedback on:

- Which resources they would like the City to provide for the address change?
- Which costs they foresee for changing addresses?
- Any questions about the renaming process itself?
- How they would like to be involved in the process (communications for future sessions, input on commemoration, sharing personal stories to inform name options)?

The following is a summary of questions, answers and discussion:

- **City Council decision:** Some residents voiced concerns about the decision made by Council. There were questions about previous engagement prior to the motion, concerns about other uses of the term 'Indian' and mixed feelings over the name change. Clarification on municipal process and jurisdiction was also

requested, and some questioned why Councillors are not involved in the renaming process.

- Staff reiterated that the scope of Council direction was to engage on the process for the renaming, not on whether or not the name should change. Staff continued to emphasize that the political decision is outside of the scope of staff work and that the direction given is to consult and report back to Council on name options, commemoration and financial consideration for renaming Indian Road, the park and two parkettes.
- **Renaming process:** Some residents had questions about the process for renaming, including the timeline for the report, questions about how the Wabaan Crossing was named and discussion on the possibility of having a committee of residents. There was also confusion about the purpose of the meeting—whether it was solely for collecting name suggestions or instead about addressing questions.
 - Staff were transparent that the goal of this meeting was to seek feedback and answer questions, but there is a limitation to what staff have the answers for (political decision is outside of scope of motion and some logistics for changing address are not yet known). The renaming approach for the road is taking a similar approach to the engagement for the Wabaan crossing, although the process differs for a new name vs. a name change.
- **Name choice:** Residents shared a range of ideas and concerns about the new name, including suggestions to combine the current name to acknowledge both past and future. Others wanted to choose something that reflects the neighbourhood's history or natural features. They emphasized the importance of accessibility for spelling and pronunciation, and asked whether non-Indigenous names could be considered, as well as names that align with existing street themes like Arrowhead or Mohawk. Some expressed interest in honoring long-time residents and sharing stories connected to the land, while others voiced concern about losing family history and traditions tied to the current name.
 - Staff emphasized that the street naming bylaw ensures accessibility in naming practices, with care being taken to ensure emergency services can easily understand the name. There will be additional opportunities to provide input on stories and comments to inform the name, and feedback given will be considered in developing the shortlist.
- **Documentation and expenses:** Residents asked for clarification on whether property deeds will need to change, if they will need to pay Canada Post for mail forwarding and whether staff could share a list of steps. There were also questions about business expenses and if digital resources (i.e. Google Maps) would update after a road name change.

- Staff emphasized that there are not many existing resources on steps involved in the changing of a road name, but that logistical considerations would be documented, with financial considerations included in the report. Staff will work on registering the renaming on title. Further research is needed on digital services. Discussion with Canada Post and other relevant agencies is planned.
- **Future involvement and communication:** Residents sought clear guidance on how they can be involved in the renaming process, with a request for simple, accessible instructions for participation. There is interest in forming a community group to keep everyone informed. They appreciate the planned outreach for theme suggestions and personal stories, but felt that many questions were not answered. They have asked for future communication to include mailouts and in-person sessions for those without technology access.
 - The main questions that staff could not address were related to Council's political decision, which is out of scope of this engagement, and specific questions about the process for changing addresses, which staff are looking into to provide answers and options in the Council report. Future communications will be conducted in various methods, including mailouts to ensure accessibility.

Next Steps

Staff finished the session by referring to next steps, which will include an opportunity to share photos, stories and themes, concerns relating to address changes and preferred methods of communication. Residents also received a summary of the meeting and details on how to stay involved. The next session with residents is expected to take place in 2026, pending resident feedback.

Address Change Checklist

Below an overview of a list of documents that required a change of address. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

	Service	Process	Cost
Canada Post	Mail forwarding	City staff to help to coordinate	Free for first year
Revenue Canada	Tax returns, Benefit payments, etc.	CRA my account (www.cra-arc.gc.ca)	none
Service Ontario	Driver's license, Health card, vehicle registration, outdoors card, Ontario photo card	On-line or in-person at Service Canada www.servicecanada.gc.ca Service Ontario staff willing to support with dedicated clinic	none
Elections Canada	Update voter registration	Voter Registration Homepage	none
Immigration & Citizenship		Immigration & Citizenship Address Change	none
Ontario Student Assistance Program a (OSAP)	Update your Ontario Student Assistance Program account	On-line	none
Utilities	Gas, water, electricity	Phone or on-line – update address City staff to connect with	none
		Phone or on-line	none

Tele-communications	Notify phone, internet and cable providers		
Other Services	Mobility, heating fuel, etc.	Phone or on-line	
Banks and Credit Card Companies	Update address with financial institutions	In-person or on-line	none
Insurance Companies	Update address for your home, auto and other insurers	Phone, in-person or on-line	none
Lawyer/Notary	If applicable – provide new address	Phone or in-person	none
Healthcare Providers	Update address for family doctor, specialists, dentist and pharmacist	Phone or in-person	none
Veterinarian	Update your pet records	Phone or in-person	none
Personal Contacts	Update address for family, friends and employer	Phone, in-person or on-line	none
Schools and Daycare	Update address	Phone, in-person or on-line	none
Subscriptions	Update address for any newspapers, magazines, subscriptions, charities, fitness clubs, sports teams	On-line or by phone	none

Educational Institutions and Associations	Universities, Alumni Associations, Professional Associations	On-line, by phone or in-person	none
Government Assistance Programs	Ontario Works, ODSP, OAS, CPP	On-line or by phone	none
Passport		As directed in Passports in general - Canada.ca	none

Indian Road Resident Feedback

Responses to first resident survey (December 2025-February 2026)

Personal Stories

Our family moved to Indian Road in [REDACTED] and our son was born in [REDACTED]. This is the only family home he knows. We love the neighbourhood for all the mature trees, toboggan hill and friendly neighbours. We also appreciated the Indigenous heritage and naming of the streets in the community.

We love all the trees on our part of Indian Road. When our spruce tree died and we dug up the roots, we found a big door hinge and blue and white porcelain doorknob from the farm before the subdivision was built.

I believe that at the end of the day, the name of a street does not significantly impact our day-to-day life. While I understand the sentiment and well-meaning intention, people today are more sympathetic, more compassionate, and realize that the name is wrong, but perhaps we can let it serve as something to cause people to reflect and remember. The focus should be education and moving forward, not erasing the past. I would be interested to learn the history of how the neighborhood was named. Many streets have indigenous names, could we use that history as well as information on understanding/expressing the impact of colonization on Indigenous communities to create something in the parkettes for the entire city to benefit from. I think this would have a far greater impact than changing the name on a street sign. We have lived in Strathcona Park since [REDACTED] and since [REDACTED] we raised [REDACTED] on Indian Road and not once have they questioned or expressed disconcert with our street name. It is/was their address. They were fortunate to be educated in school and do not consider it to be a derogatory term.

What is the benefit of this action? I only see large costs involved for a small group of people!

Evidently, our opinions do not matter so why ask? I find insulting that you ask for personal stories. Please help me understand why you would even be remotely interested ???

We have lived on the [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] years. We love this street and host a corner swing for all the neighbourhood kids to use as they walk by.

I would like to suggest three different categories to consider for renaming.

1) Geography: This street cuts right across, and is actually cut into, a major ridge that overlooks the Little Cataraqui Creek System. It is a significant geographical feature for this area of the city most noticable on John Counter and Sydenham Road.

This unique ridge formation actually runs through most of the backyards of the homes on this street. It also provides winter recreation activities on two seperate locations. I recommend the use of the word "Ridge". Ridge Road, Cataraqui Ridge Road. This would also be very suitable for the park names as they are also part of the ridge.

2) Indigenous: Similar to the other names running off of Indian road (Champlain, Mohawk, Algonquin), an indigenous word or name such as Brant or Kanata (meaning community) would be a good fit. - Brant Ridge Road or Kanata Road as an example.

3) Wildlife: The area hosts a large variety of wildlife due to its adjacency to the Little Cataraqui Creek System. We have a lot of deer, beaver, coyotes, red fox, blue herron, red wing black birds, cardinals, etc. - Coyote Ridge Road, Coyote Run Road, Red Fox Road, Blue Herron Way.

Concerns related to address change

Updating official document information with the CRA, federal government, banking, and voting registration.

Financial and time compensation for each individual should be given for the impact of changing all contact information with all places needed. I am greatly concerned about having wills and trusts redone - I want to ensure that what I have planned for our residence after our passing happens with no additional strain on our beneficiaries. I won't be around and don't want the stress now thinking that my wishes will not be fulfilled.

Just cancel this stupid idea, there is no benefit to anybody

I dont like that the name is being changed. People on this street have the name embedded in their brick work. An honourable thing to do. I would like to know if all the changes required and costs associated will be covered by the City of Kingston.

We need to get new passports between February and September international trips. The name change will complicate this for us.

The cost to our city in the renaming. There are bigger issues in this city than a street name.

When we moved here, the only cost was forwarding our mail using Canada Post. Since the postal code is not changing, I don't see any need for mail forwarding.

Feedback on how City can support residents through the change

There are many elderly residents on Indian Road, I am sure that checklists and assistance would be appreciated. Its not a quick few clicks on a computer to change things (many may not have electronic devices) or a simple 'forward my mail' via Canada Post

Some people may not be able to attend a clinic so perhaps the councillor that suggested the change could look into associated costs and provide details.
Yes, very helpful!
The obvious answer...let the name remain Indian Road.
Provide more links, references, and overall context as to why this is a derogatory word. Try to use this action as an opportunity to further educate people, build bridges, work with schools, and build a better relationship with Indigenous peoples in Kingston.

Final Comments

I, as are my family, are opposed to the proposition to change the name of Indian Road.
I would like information on who exactly was the 60% who were in favour of the name change. There has been no transparency about how exactly this name change came into effect and my understanding is a lot of people on our street had no idea it was happening. Due process must be done and we must be informed of that due process.
It saddens me after living here since [REDACTED] and never once associating our street name with something negative to the indigenous population. Love this neighbourhood. Not happy with the change.
Can we have a cultural appropriate name ie the Huron or Wendat names used in land acknowledgements?
I'm disgusted by council for allowing this to pass and their lack of transparency.
I am so happy that this is finally happening. Many of the residents on this street are very unhappy with a street name that is perceived as an outdated and derogatory colonial reference to the Indigenous people of Canada. This is one of many steps we all must take towards true reconciliation.

Shortlist Survey Additional Comments (May 2026)

I can appreciate that the word Indian is offensive, but the process to get to this point is fundamentally flawed, and perhaps a fresh approach would serve the residents and Indigenous groups more effectively .
I feel if INDIAN Rd is offensive. then the INDIAN language, wording has no place on a street sign. Most people would find these words difficult to pronounce. More options need to be offered up.
Council should consult residents first
We don't want an indigenous name. Just because some indigenous people object to indian, is no reason to replace it with an indigenous name.
I would vote to use Aki and Odamino to rename the parkettes with educational information/monuments. For our street name, although still opposed, I would suggest a name that is cohesive with the surrounding streets of Arrowhead, Champlain, Algonquin and Mohawk.

<p>Thank you for your work on this. It is very difficult to please everyone but you have found a way to engage with the Indigenous community in Kingston. These are good choices - easy to pronounce and spell and have ties to the significance of the wildlife and geography of the neighbourhood.</p>
<p>The options could have been ranked.</p>
<p>The shortlist should have been developed through consultation with community residents as they are most directly affected. This has resulted in an extremely narrow scope of suggestions. It has come as a surprise to residents that only Ojibwe words would be permitted - why? This does not appear to have been mandated by council in its original motion.</p>
<p>were any non-indigenous names considered, and if not why not? what is the extent of indigenous consultation on using an indigenous name for the new name because we've heard that this is not necessarily acceptable or better from all perspectives</p>
<p>It is very sad that you picked the names and now the short list of names are none that we would choose. If there is no plan in the future to change any of the other street names in Strathcona Park then pick a name that is non-indigenous!! Make it simple. It is not like the indigenous groups came to you about the street name rather that you seemed them it. If it needs to be changed then pick something not indigenous and that would be better than what you have chosen. It is not fair to the residents that do not want this change. If it has to be as you are saying it is-the. Pick some common name.</p>
<p>Why does it have to be an indigenous name? These names do not represent the residents on this street who many have lived on the street for decades. We understand this is a sensitive topic and it is difficult to not sound insensitive when giving our feedback. The rest of the neighbourhood's street names are generally anglicized. These names are indigenous and routine communication of the street name will be challenging. Can there not be options that would satisfy those living on the street as well as the rest of the neighbourhood. We are extremely disappointed with how flawed this process has been. The meetings with the residents have only been lip service to pacify the community but has only created more dissent. This decision may seem trivial to those on City Council as you have not had our experience raising our families on Indian Road. The majority of the residents do not want this change. In a democracy we would at least have a say in the future of the street that is so important to us.</p>
<p>Indian Road should remain Indian Road</p>
<p>How about Huron or Wendat? We need something easy to say when calling 911, as per council naming rules</p>
<p>This entire process is a colossal waste of money and an embarrassment to democracy.</p>
<p>Having consulted well-established and respected authorities on the matter, I will shortly submit a letter to City staff involved in the renaming of Indian Road project on the "complicated" status of the term "Indian" and the skewed assumption in the motion of 17 June 2025 that the term is categorically "derogatory."</p>
<p>Pick something I don't have to spell constantly</p>
<p>Indiganis Road or [FAMILY NAME] Road</p>

<p>I believe this street renaming project is a complete waste of tax payers money and that no one in the indigenous community actually cared until it was brought forth to them and they felt obliged to agree. This directly affects the people living on the street and we have been ignored. The short list names are all terrible.</p>
<p>Terrible process. Most city councilors should reevaluate.</p>
<p>I am not opposed to changing the name but I am restating my disappointment in Council for the way they went about this. I maintain respect and appreciation for our elected representative who has always kept us informed and engaged, including previous discussions around this very topic.. That the rest of Council, including the Mayor, endorsed blatant disregard for Strathcona residents and Jeff is unacceptable behaviour.</p>
<p>The proposal if followed through with is a gross waste of tax payers time and money. Indian Road residents consist of young families and elderly citizens alike and a name change is wildly inconvenient given the amount of documents that would need to be adjusted. I believe that the name "Indian" is a celebration of heritage and if changed would only be insulting to those it encompasses as to make an issue out of this is only suggesting there is something wrong with the name Indian or to be called it. According to the Indian Act R.S.C., 1985, c. I-5 specifically reference Indians as a person who pursuant to this Act is registered as an Indian or is entitled to be registered as an Indian;â€,(Indien). As a resident of Indian Road I implore you to not allow this to happen.</p>
<p>None of the above is preferred</p>
<p>Something I can spell and others can too</p>
<p>All of the names are terrible. Aki is the least terrible. Leave Indian Rd alone (this is the opinion of an indigenous person)</p>
<p>Keep the current name</p>
<p>NAME IT [FAMILY NAME] ROAD</p>
<p>I would also vote for the additional options proposed by Indigenous Participants, particularly Misko-Bineshiinh</p>
<p>Kingston</p>
<p>Why does the list only include names that are Ojibway? I feel that this is short-sighted to not be inclusive of names that have English meaning, or other First peoples of this area such as Mohawks, Seneca, Algonquin or Cayuga. The committee should be doing a much more thorough job of researching who are the peoples historically of this area, and what are their desires for re-naming? And who is choosing these few names? There was no survey put out for ideas to residents on names, to my knowledge? The process is entirely flawed because we are listening to the insistent voices of one or two "settlers" who live on the street.. . The Mohawks are our closest neighbours in regards to land.</p>
<p>Don't change the name at all. Indian road is perfect with the name it has. If you absolutely MUST change the name, pick an English name and make it simple. "Coyote crescent (road)." Beaver Drive (road)." Etc.</p>
<p>I am terribly disappointed in the way the council managed this matter. The lack of transparency from G. Ridge and the city generally is a terrible sign of the council's priorities.</p>

I would prefer Huron Road because it is easy to pronounce and spell. Ultimately, my favourite would be Labrador Road because there are many dog owners and dog walkers on our road. If I had to chose one from the list of suggested names, I would chose Nookomis, which will be anglicized when spoken, Canada has 2 official languages, I am surprised that a residential road is not English or French. I fully support the naming of new government buildings with Indigenous names, if that is desired. Finally, I am not looking forward to the work involved in changing my address

Thank you for consultation with Indigenous people and providing names in Ojibwae

I am deeply disappointed in the process involved in this motion, the background that was developed to support it and the misinformation used to support it. There is little support in the community, and this motion should be set aside, revisited in it's entirety if reconciliation is truly behind this. There has to be a superior approach-if reconciliation is genuinely behind this motion, that better serves all parties. Given the financial cost and disruption that this is causing residents of the street, as well as for taxpayers at large, this motion needs to be set aside and revisited properly.

I dont feel any of the names are acceptable. Indian road is not derogatory and was chosen as a tribute to this community. The process that has been used for this name change is also unacceptable.

Is there a new rule that all new street names need to be Indigenous? The names suggested do not blend in with the other street names in our neighborhood. I would prefer to keep our street name as it is but if not, I don't see why it can't be an "English" name, why are all the choices only in Ojibwe???

I don't find any of the short list names to be easily recognizable or meaningful to this location. The suggested names could be more appropriate as park names. If the majority of street residents are bullied into an unwanted street name change, the list should include some english names that are easy to recognize and reflect themes suggested by the residents. I have lived on this street for [REDACTED] years, and I am not in favour of a name change. It will cause undue hardship and stress for many of the street residents. I find it appalling that the City would allow something like this to be pushed through by a few people who feel they know what's best for everyone else, without proper consultation with the street residents. This sort of arrogance is unacceptable. If the City insists on choosing a name from the Ojibwe name list, Aki would be best. It's short and easy to spell.

Additional Comments (Emails and Service Requests) from residents of Indian Road, family members and other community members (November 2025-May 2026)

Our family has lived on Indian Road since [REDACTED], raised [REDACTED] children and has been a meeting place for friends, extended family, including spouses, cousins, aunts, uncles, [REDACTED] grand children and now great grandchildren. We do have questions

Why were the previous surveys concerning this name change, that was overwhelmingly against it, ignored?
Why does the majority not have the final say on the matter?
Why was our counsellor, Jeff McLaren, not involved in this process?
How can we have any faith in the process when proper process was circumvented and voices ignored?
This is called an engagement session. Will we be permitted to speak?
Is this decision final? If so, will non indigenous names be considered?
Will the actual residents have a legitimate voice in the new name or will this be dictated to us also?

Hello,

I am a resident of Indian road in Kingston Ontario. My family and I have lived here for almost [REDACTED] years and I have a few questions about this project as the meeting last night didn't seem to leave the residence of this neighborhood feeling very heard.

Firstly, what can be done by us residence to put a stop to this as this was never put to a real vote amongst our community and I'm sure if one was done now it would not fall in favour of this name change based on the response from our social media groups.

Secondly, the costs that will be associated with this name change. Who will be responsible for paying these? As it will already be a large inconvenience for every resident on Indian Rd to change their deed, mail addresses and so on. It would be crazy for the city to put a financial burden on them as well would it not?

I understand that this vote was city wide, but the vote was not with the people who this actually affects. This vote did not consider the People's whos family history falls in this community and will be stripped when the city makes this change. It did not consider that this street it's self has history. It was here before most of this neighborhood was built.

I hope this is taken into consideration as I doubt this community is going to all the sudden be okay with this decision.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Forwarded email 1 (June email to Councillor Ridge):

Dear Councillor Ridge,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am the youngest of [REDACTED] children that were raised on Indian Road. My family has lived there for over [REDACTED] years. My elderly Mother still resides there.

Although I respect your intent to engage in matters that concern the public, it is beyond me how this topic can possibly be a priority for you after at least two votes in our neighbourhood in the past eight years, both which were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the street name.

In addition to this, this proposal runs contrary to the City of Kingston's own procedures governing street name changes. Bylaw No.2005-98 outlines that any renaming must follow a structured process led by Planning Services, with input from residents and property owners. With two votes already completed in recent years, one would think that you might get the obvious point : the people with real interests in the discussion do not want the name changed.

Little do you realize the undue stress and mental strain you put on the long time residents of Indian Road, many of whom are getting on in years. Once again I am explaining to my [REDACTED] Mother that someone who has never lived on our street has taken it upon themselves to go on a social crusade because of the word "Indian" .

You want to change the name because you think it's derogatory. I beg to differ. Open any map, you'll see it. Watch any history documentary about North America, it's there, often used by native people. (I assume that word doesn't offend you).

On the contrary, "Indian Road" to our family and many others has a completely different connotation. For us who actually have a history there (unlike yourself or Councillor Wendy Stephen) it means home, family, comfort and fond memories.

As luck would have it Councillor Ridge, I actually live in your district. ([REDACTED]) I get to dodge people having mental breakdowns on the streets, watch people smoking crack on corners, see people camping out in parks and sleeping in cardboard boxes. Explaining all of these kinds of occurrences to my Japanese wife has been challenging to say the least. One would think that your priorities would be focused on the issues of your own district seeing especially how it is a hotbed of homelessness and drug addiction. Do you think that taxpayer funds are better spent on debating a street name across town, rather than tackling the issues your constituents have to cope with on a daily basis?

I am also very interested to hear how you are going to make the process for the residents of Indian Road " as painless as possible", I believe you are quoted as saying. Are you going to drive my elderly Mother to Service Ontario to get new identification such as a health card? Will you explain to her that our word for home, Indian Road, is offensive to you, a person who is not in anyway impacted by changing the name?

Reintroducing the motion now appears neither necessary nor respectful of past community consultation. And to push the motion forward without even communicating your intentions to the councillor that was elected to represent Strathcona Park... well, to say that is disrespectful is a gross understatement.

This initiative on your part circumvents the normal and established democratic process. If a name change is ever to be reconsidered, it should originate within the community itself and be led by Jeff McLaren, the councillor elected by the community in Strathcona Park.

It is high time, Councillor Ridge, for you to get to work for the people of your own district and stop wasting the council's time and taxpayer money on an initiative that has absolutely no business being prioritized on City Hall's agenda. There are much bigger and more important issues to tackle.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Forwarded email 2 (from June email to Mayor and Council):

Good afternoon,

It's been brought to my attention that counsellor [REDACTED] is yet again bringing forth the proposition of renaming Indian Road; a tiny street in Strathcona Park with a deep history in our neighbourhood.

My grandparents, [REDACTED] of Indian Road, were one of the original families to build in the development over [REDACTED] years ago, and to this day many of their children and grandchildren continue to call Strathcona Park home. From a young age, it was common knowledge amongst residents in the neighbourhood that the original developer had named many roads and streets as a form of respect to the Indigenous communities who have a rich history in both the Kingston area and Canada as a whole. These include Arrowhead place, Champlain avenue, Algonquin Terrace and Mohawk place, where I grew up and my parents currently reside. Jeff McLaren has spent a great deal of time learning the rich history of this neighbourhood as well, which he can attest to.

When the topic of renaming the road originally came up in 2017 and again in 2021, Jeff McLaren went door to door on both occasions and spoke to residents about their opinions on the issue. The results from residents was a resounding 'no' both times; many of whom identify as Indigenous. This response was not out of sheer ignorance or insensitivity to the importance of truth and reconciliation but rather the opposite. Indigenous communities have long been faced with the dire consequences of decisions made by governments about their families and communities without any direct consultation from them. The renaming of Indian Road, which is completely against the interests of the people who actual live here, is another such example of this kind of government strong arming-decision making process which is all to familiar amongst Indigenous people. Frankly, it's the opposite of democracy.

On the other hand, I feel as though the irony of who this proposal is coming from is rather insulting to the members of his own district of King's Town. Greg Ridge

represents an area of Kingston which is deeply struggling with the tragedy of unhoused Kingstonians, with little to no visible effort being put into assisting these individuals and his neighbourhood as a whole. After doing some research via LinkedIn, I learned that Greg is a proud Queens University Policy Studies graduate. It seems strange to me, and many Strathcona Park residents, that he is spending such a large amount of time fixating on an area that is not even a part of his own riding and directly going against the democratic process that counsellor McLaren spearheaded with regards to this issue. There are far more important issues happening on his own riding's door step that he should be putting his (and ours, as tax paying Kingstonian's) time and effort into.

If this issue is deemed to be worth pursuing further, perhaps a plaque could be erected at Indian Road park that summarizes the history of the neighbourhood and the reasoning behind many of the street names. Rather than erasing the name itself, this could be an opportunity to educate people about the rich history that Kingston and Strathcona Park share with the Indigenous communities in the area. Which is what truth and reconciliation is meant to exhibit.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on the issue and represent my democratic right as a Canadian. In a time where democracy is being threatened across the world, let this be an example of why it is important to uphold such standards in a free country like Canada.

And to Counsellor Ridge, do yourself a favour please stay in your lane.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Forwarded email 3 (June correspondence with Coun. McLaren + additional note):

Attached is a detailed summary by our city counsellor, Jeff McLaren with regards to the renaming of Indian Road.

My family has lived here for over [REDACTED] and are deeply rooted in the community. This road is a part of our identity, as well as members of the indigenous community who reside here as well.

This entire process has been an example of the gross detachment between our city council and the communities you are all paid to represent. Frankly, it's an embarrassment.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Attached document:

Reconciliation Starts With Remembering: What Indian Road Taught Me

In light of the upcoming motion to rename Indian Road, I wanted to share the journey that shaped my understanding of reconciliation and how it intersects with this neighbourhood. What follows isn't just about a street name - it's about how we remember, how we include others, and how we move forward with honesty and respect.

My journey trying to understand reconciliation

I first met Laurel Claus-Johnson, Bear Clan Mohawk Elder, founding member of the Katarokwi Grandmothers' Council and long-time advocate for Indigenous community, education, and reconciliation, by chance, during my very first City Council campaign in 2013. At the time, I was just another candidate knocking on doors. We exchanged a few words, nothing more. But sometimes, in politics, as in life, the most important conversations come back around when you're finally ready to hear them.

In 2017, the question of renaming Indian Road emerged for the first time during my tenure. The name, long taken for granted by many, had become the focus of concern. That's when I remembered Laurel. I reached out - and that's when my real education began.

Laurel didn't just give me her opinion - she opened a door. She shared with me her own perspectives as an Indigenous leader and then went further: she handed me a list of 13 people - Elders, knowledge keepers, and community members - whose voices, she believed, needed to be heard on the matter.

I called them all.

Five never answered or replied to voice mails I left, despite multiple attempts. Three told me clearly: *"Yes, the name is offensive. It should be changed."*

Another three said something different, words to the effect: *"This isn't an issue we're involved in. Our focus is elsewhere."*

And then there were the last three - the ones who changed how I see the world.

They didn't give me a straight answer. Instead, they gave me something deeper: they spoke about the principle, *"Nothing about us without us."*

At first, I didn't grasp the full weight of those words. But the more I listened, the more I understood: this phrase isn't just a slogan. It's a shield. A boundary. A demand for dignity. It's a deeply anti-colonial stance - a way of reclaiming agency after centuries of decisions made *for* Indigenous peoples, but rarely *with* them.

What they were saying was this: don't make decisions about Indigenous names, stories, or symbols without involving the people most impacted. And more than that - don't repeat, even in subtle or symbolic form, the patterns of erasure and paternalism that caused such harm in the first place.

I came to realize that many who hold to "nothing about us without us" aren't asking for special treatment. They're asking that no one else - no other group, no other community - experience what they have: a loss of voice, identity, and control over their own story.

And in this case, their advice surprised me. They said: *"Ask the people on Indian Road. Let them decide. Don't impose the weight of our experience on them. Respect their voice, too."*

This was not the reaction I expected. But it was one that struck me as profoundly wise - and incredibly generous. It reflected not only a deep understanding of history, but a powerful refusal to perpetuate cycles of domination, even in reverse.

That experience marked a turning point in my understanding of reconciliation. It's not just about symbols, names, or even policies. It's about power - and who holds it. It's about learning to listen, deeply and without presumption. And above all, it's about the courage to step back when the impulse is to act, to create space when history has taught us to take it.

I'm still learning. But thanks to Laurel - and the voices she pointed me toward - I now know that reconciliation is not something you deliver. It's something you're invited into, on someone else's terms. And that is a lesson I will carry with me always.

From Consultation to Connection – A Deeper Journey into Indigenous Truth

If Laurel Claus-Johnson opened the door to my education on Indigenous experience, it was Sol Mamakwa, Anishinaabe MPP for Kiiwetinoong, Deputy Leader of the Ontario NDP, and pioneering advocate for Indigenous rights, language revitalization, and northern health equity, who walked me through it.

In 2022, I had the rare opportunity to spend two and a half days with Sol - Member of Provincial Parliament for Kiiwetinoong and a residential school survivor. We were paired for an episode of TVO's *Political Blind Date*, [<https://youtu.be/EJJGKLdjvY>] but what unfolded wasn't just a media experiment. It was a reckoning. It was, for me, a step into the deeper waters of truth, where the history I had read about in books came alive through the eyes, memories, and grief of people who had lived it.

We began in Kingston, walking the same ground where Sir John A. Macdonald's statue once stood. I'd long wrestled with that monument - not because I denied the harms of his legacy, but because I believed we should add to our historical understanding, not erase it. Sol didn't push back with anger. Instead, he listened.

Then he brought me into dialogue.

He introduced me to Indigenous leaders - some who felt the statue should remain as a symbol of painful truth, others who wanted it removed, and still others who believed the question wasn't about metal and marble at all, but about what lives on in the systems and attitudes those statues once celebrated. The lesson was clear: no single opinion represents all Indigenous voices. And that complexity itself demands respect. But it was in Sioux Lookout, on Sol's home territory, that the learning cut deepest.

There, I sat across from Garnet Angecone, Anishinaabe residential school survivor, journalist, founding board member of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and advocate for healing, reconciliation, and residential school survivors in northern Ontario. Garnet told me how he watched his parents row away after dropping him off - how he strained to hold on to even the ripples on the water, knowing it was the last trace of their presence. His voice cracked. Mine did too.

I've always been someone drawn to history in theory - reading, analyzing, debating. But no amount of theory prepared me for what I felt when Garnet Angecone spoke about the day he was taken from his parents. That moment didn't feel like learning - it felt like witnessing a wound. The pain wasn't abstract. It was personal. It was the breaking of a bond between parent and child, community and culture, memory and survival. And in that instant, I understood: reconciliation isn't an idea to be discussed - it's a reality to be felt, carried, and honoured.

Throughout the trip, Sol introduced me to people who had every reason to be bitter, yet instead offered wisdom. Some talked about Anishinaabe law and the need for a nation-to-nation relationship. Others showed how Indigenous legal systems were not only real, but forcibly suppressed - lawyers disbarred for helping, nations denied legal standing unless they renounced their identity. The history we teach is so thin compared to the history that actually happened.

At the core of this journey was a lesson I had first glimpsed years earlier: "Nothing about us without us." It's not just a principle - it's a protection. A resistance to being erased, co-opted, or acted upon without consent. It's also a gift: those who hold to that principle don't just want a voice for themselves - they want to prevent anyone, ever again, from being silenced or sidelined in the way they were.

And when it came to reconciliation, the meaning became clearer with every person I met.

For Chief Donald Maracle, longstanding Chief (since 1991) of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, acclaimed for leading transformative community development - including housing expansion, water infrastructure, land claim settlements, and heritage preservation - and a powerful advocate for Indigenous self-governance, health equity, and nation-to-nation relations, reconciliation is not a symbolic gesture. It is not about tearing things down - it's about building understanding up. He told us plainly: you can remove a statue, but that doesn't remove what truly matters - the legacy, the harm, and the lessons we still haven't fully absorbed. From him I heard reconciliation means more education, not less. More remembering, not more forgetting. He spoke of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action for curriculum reform, for teaching all Canadians the real story of this country - not a romanticized narrative, but one rooted in inclusion, truth, and consequence.

And for Garnet Angecone, reconciliation is about the validation of a living history - his history. It is about knowing that the stories of trauma and survival will not be buried again. That the ripple he saw vanish in the lake the day he was taken from his parents might finally ripple outward again, as understanding, justice, and healing. He told me, gently but powerfully, that reconciliation begins by looking into the eyes of our children and grandchildren and ensuring they know the truth - so that they can carry it forward with strength.

When our journey ended, Sol told me, "You owe it to your children and grandchildren to make sure they know the real history." I carry that with me now. Not as a burden - but as a responsibility. Because if reconciliation means anything, it means we stop repeating the harm. And to do that, we need not just words. We need witnesses. We need relationships. And we need to keep going - with more courage, more listening, and more remembering than ever before.

A Forgotten Tribute: The Story Behind the Street Names

Seventy years ago, when the streets around Indian Road were first carved into the landscape, a developer made a bold and - at the time - quietly visionary choice. He named the roads not for his own family or for colonial royalty, but to honour the presence, contributions, and histories of Indigenous peoples. One long-time resident told me these names were deliberately chosen to reflect Indigenous themes and to preserve memory. It's possible the developer had Indigenous ancestry himself, or had

married into an Indigenous family - either way, it would help explain the depth of respect embedded in these choices. This developer was not just ahead of his time - he was fifty years ahead of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls on us to acknowledge, understand, and preserve Indigenous histories - especially those long silenced or distorted by institutions like the residential school system. Seen through that lens, the naming of these streets wasn't just symbolic - it was a quiet act of reconciliation, offered decades before that word entered our national vocabulary. At a time when few were listening, this developer chose to honour Indigenous presence and story. That kind of vision - humble, respectful, and ahead of its time - is itself something worth remembering.

At the centre of this story is Indian Road - the origin point, both literally and figuratively, of a small network of streets whose names gesture to Indigenous presence and contributions. Streets like Arrowhead Place, Champlain Avenue, Algonquin Terrace, and Mohawk Place all descend from Indian Road, not just topographically but thematically. They are tributaries from a common source. Arrowhead Place, for instance, refers to HMCS Arrowhead, a Flower Class corvette that served in WWII in which Indigenous sailors served. But the meaning may go even deeper. The arrowhead is also a flowering plant known to have been used by some Indigenous communities for medicinal purposes. Strength and healing - military and medicine - both quietly encoded in the name.

Champlain Avenue, Algonquin Terrace, and Mohawk Place together evoke a period of conflict during which Champlain, with Algonquin allies, fought the Mohawk. But today, these nations are not enemies. They work together - on language, governance, environmental stewardship, and shared priorities. The streets that once might have echoed ancient divisions now stand in peaceful coexistence, just like the people they reference. There is a quiet lesson in that: reconciliation is possible, not by forgetting, but by remembering differently.

Yet only Indian Road - the root from which these names spring - is being proposed for renaming. One resident, who self-identified as having Indigenous ancestry, told me this would be an injustice, not because change is wrong, but because this change risks erasing the last visible layer of meaning. A better way forward, they suggested, would be to rediscover and teach these histories - perhaps through public monuments or interpretive signage in nearby parks - so that residents and children can learn not just who lived here, but how our shared story has unfolded.

Rather than erase these names, we could illuminate their meaning, deepening public understanding and honoring a past that still lives in the present.

The original developer may not have said much at the time nor that his choice of words would fall out of favour linguistically 50 years later - but his choices spoke clearly. He saw a truth we're only now beginning to grasp: that reconciliation begins not with renaming, but with remembering well.

I share all this not to relive the past, but to inform how we approach the future. Before we decide to erase a name like Indian Road, we must ask whether we're also erasing a quiet act of early reconciliation - one that predates national conversations and calls

to action. Rather than rename, I believe we should reclaim: tell the story, honour its intent, and use it to teach future generations what reconciliation can truly look like.

Response from Coun. McLaren (June 2025)

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for reaching out—and for taking the time to stay engaged with this issue. Sixty-five years in Strathcona Park is a remarkable connection to the neighbourhood, and I truly value your voice in this conversation.

Yes, you're absolutely welcome to submit a letter. the best and quickest way to send it to all of council is at the collective email mayor&council@cityofkingston.ca If you send it to me, I'd be happy to share it with the full Council ahead of the meeting. Alternatively, you can submit it directly to the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca and request that it be included in the meeting package or read aloud during the meeting.

Feel free to copy me on your message as well if you'd like me to help ensure it's seen.

Thanks again, and I look forward to reading your letter.

I have also attached a opinion piece I just shared with the Whig in the hopes that they may publish it - it is designed to help people understand what is at stake.
all the best,

Jeff McLaren
Councillor - Meadowbrook-Strathcona

Original email from [REDACTED] to Coun. McLaren (June 2025)

Hi Jeff

I'm a resident of strathcona park and received one of your pamphlets about the renaming of Indian Road, where myself and my family have lived for over [REDACTED] years.

im unable to attend the meeting on June 17 however am I able to submit a letter directly to you that could be read during the meeting? Or sent directly to the other counsellors prior to the meeting?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Do not change name
Hello, Is there a summary available, of the engagement session with Indigenous community members, that can be shared with residents of Indian Road? Thanks, [REDACTED]
Phone Conversation: Referenced Council motion from June, asking how to go about being involved in consultation
Hello my name is [REDACTED], I live at [REDACTED] Indian Road and apparently this has to do with changing the name of the street. If you change it, that's fine, I don't care either way, it can stay as Indian Road or you guys can change it. You have a good day, and talk again, bye
Voicemail: Indian Rd - Name change: [REDACTED] is a resident of Indian Rd and requests a phone conversation as per the letter that she has received in the mail Phone conversation, summary of discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not supportive of name change, but understanding of the reason• Has lived on Indian Road for [REDACTED]years, [RELATIVE] also lives on Indian Road• Asked how this came about, questions specific to motion and Council's direction• Concern about high cost and time associated with changing address• Suggestions for name – Scottish like other street names in the area (Loch Ness as possibility?)• Asked about feedback from Indigenous community thus far• Asked if other road names would change• Street sign at Indian Road and Glengarry may have been removed?• Concern about emergency services knowing where to go• Confirmed she would like to receive info in mail about report going to Council and other next steps in the process• Appreciative of conversation
1. Does the current road qualify as a Road under the current bylaw. Perhaps it should be looked at. I would hate to have to change the address again when someone decides it doesn't meet the grade for road designation 2. The area has always been a destination for sledding. 3. I like the word ndio -Perhaps an animal name. We have lots of bunnies, crows, cardinals etc 4. Perhaps the whole area could have a First Nations name 5. Please establish a process to reexamine all municipal naming.

[REDACTED] Indian Rd

Hello

When do we submit new name suggestions for Indian Rd and how do we provide them. Is there going to be an additional meeting for residences of Indian Rd and if so when?

Thank you

To whom it may concern,

I have been informed of the issue regarding the name change for Indian Road in Kingston. I have been friends with the [REDACTED] for years and they are a wonderful family. They had [REDACTED] children grow up on Indian Road with [REDACTED] still residing there for [REDACTED] years. I am suggesting that the new name be "[FAMILY NAME] Road".

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I have learned that the City is considering a proposal to rename Indian Rd. in Kingston. I understand that one of the potential new names under consideration is [FAMILY NAME] Rd., and I am writing to express my strong support for this change.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

Att: Committee members: I've been following the information on the proposed name change for Indian Rd in Kingston. As per [REDACTED]'s Letter to the Editor a few days ago in the Whig Standard it seems a name change is inevitable. Apparently a survey of Indian Rd residents revealed that the vast majority did not want a name change. Kingston's "Indian" population vastly outnumbers Indigenous population and they likely don't mind the name.

In any event I would propose the new name to be [FAMILY NAME] Rd. This well known family of [REDACTED] children have lived on the street since [REDACTED]. So , rather than a change to a name that might be hard to spell or pronounce for many let's honour a local family of long time Kingstonians and re-name the street [FAMILY NAME] RD. Thank you for your anticipated consideration.

[REDACTED]

Hello

This email is to put forward my recommendation for the new name for Indian Rd. I suggest it be renamed [FAMILY NAME] Rd. The [FAMILY NAME] family is the largest family with the longest tenure ([REDACTED] yrs) on Indian Rd. Another suggestion is [FAMILY NAME] Rd. [FAMILY NAME] is the matriarch of the [FAMILY NAME] family and still resides on the street since [REDACTED].

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

I understand you met with indigenous community members recently to discuss the renaming of Indian Road. We, the residents of Indian Road, were told we would be kept abreast of the situation as it pertains to this change. If you could please let us know what transpired at this meeting and if there are any updates regarding the renaming you could share.

Thank you and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Communications and Public Engagement staff:

This email and the attached document are my somewhat-late-in-coming response to a communique from Communication and Public Engagement that arrived at my Indian Road address sometime in mid-December, a busy time of year for most people. The communique/report invited feedback from Indian Road residents on City Council's 17 June 2025 motion to rename this street.

My thoughts on the original motion are expressed in the attached opinion piece, based on careful viewing and reviewing of the machinations during Council's lengthy meeting this past 17 June. This opinion piece will shortly be published in *The Whig*, so says the Editor-in-Chief. My feedback on the 24 November virtual meeting, summarized in your communique, is added below.

It was interesting to note in reviewing the video of the 17 June City Council meeting that staffers Ruth Noodegraf and Tim Park were in attendance and heard the presentation by Brandon Maracle, executive director of Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest. Maracle's nuanced explanation of the "complicated" status of the term *Indian* amongst members of his community, included three registers, in this order: its standing as a legal term, as "a reclaimed word for some members" to signify identity, as well as a derogatory "word of pain."

Yet, according to my notes on the 24 November Zoom meeting, which I attended, when City staff communicated with Indian Road residents, Park and Noordegraaf, who chaired the meeting, reiterated several times that the term *Indian* was categorically only a derogatory, discriminatory word and had to be done away with. This assertion was dishonest in light of Maracle's explanation. It appears that City staff had been given the unenviable task of gaslighting residents--further evidence of the disingenuousness that has tainted the City's approach to this contentious civic matter. Indeed, the City has shown a distressing lack of integrity and forthrightness on a number of levels in its engagement on this issue, as detailed in my opinion piece.

As I conclude my attached opinion piece, my position is that City staff should pause their efforts to rename Indian Road until a full and open consultation process takes

place with *all* stakeholders, to debate and discover whether the threshold has been met that would require that the street be renamed. If, as is the case, there are residents on the road who identify as Indigenous and who think that changing the street name, however derogatory *Indian* is in some contexts, is another case of settlers acting to erase a signifier of their history and identity; and if the majority of the settler residents on Indian Road do not want to change the street name, as was the outcome of Councillor McLaren's 2021 poll--and may still be the case were a new poll conducted--then the Indian Road street signs should remain in place. But if, through an open and transparent process, Indigenous stakeholders and the majority of residents alike come to a consensus that this street name is no longer tenable--for perhaps myriad reasons--then the street should be renamed.

Council needs to recognize that it erred in passing its motion without regard for a respectful and expected open and transparent process—and vote to rescind its 17 June 2025 decision to rename Indian Road. And begin again, by first engaging in a full and genuine consultative process.

Thank you for considering my response to your invitation to engage on this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] -year resident on Indian Road

Attached document:

INDIAN ROAD RENAMING: DISINGENUOUS COUNCIL MOTION AND PROCESS

Two street signs marking Kingston's Indian Road, located in Strathcona Park, were recently removed, possibly by a souvenir hunter. The thief or thieves have been as presumptuous and erring in their own right as was Kingston's City Council when on 17 June 2025 it passed a motion to change this street name.

Council's high-minded decision that evening to erase the term *Indian* from the street name resulted in a breach of due process and an egregious violation of the principle "Nothing about us without us" that should guide any respectful engagement of matters that bear on the identity and history of Canada's First Peoples.

Council's decision undermines any purported intention to consult fully and widely with Indigenous groups, as stated in the eventual motion. With paternalistic arrogance, councillors passed a motion that bypassed any meaningful dialogue on the complex status of the term *Indian* in relation to First Nations and Metis peoples. The misguided motion by Councillor Greg Ridge begged the question: it assumed an answer before seeking the wisdom and perspectives of those directly affected by the street name—both current residents of Indian Road and the broader local Indigenous interest groups and leadership.

Ridge's motion allowed for consultation *only* on choosing a new name for the street. Yet City staff who met virtually with residents in the fall assured them that a new street name need have no associations with Indigenous history or culture.

Council's decision risks undermining future consultation with Indigenous groups, as those involved may reasonably question whether their input can still influence an outcome. A more open and consultative framing of the eventual motion could have allowed affected residents and Indigenous communities to weigh in on whether a change was warranted in the first place.

Regrettably, a critical amendment to the original motion proposed by the elected Councillor for Meadowbrook-Strathcona district, Jeff McLaren, that City staff "be directed to initiate a *consultation* process to *consider renaming* Indian Road," was not supported by Ridge and was voted down.

Yet after the motion was passed, Councillor Hassan, who voted against McLaren's key amendment, was still of the understanding that there would be consultation on whether the street name should be changed, remarking on record, "If the majority of people do not agree to change the name, then we don't have to change the name. Right?" Not so. He had, it appears unwittingly, just voted against this possibility. This raises the question whether other City Councillors fully grasped the implications of what they were voting on late that evening.

Also eyebrow raising during Council's deliberations on this motion was Councillor Ridge's response to Councillor Hassan's too-late-in-the game question as to whether Ridge had consulted with residents of Indian Road before coming to City Council with a proposal to change the street name. "*Of the people I spoke to*, approximately 65 per cent of them were in favour of the name change," the Councillor for King's Town district replied. While this may well be so, without knowing how many residents this Councillor, from another district, consulted, the math on that claim, with its weasel phrase "*Of the people I spoke to*," could refer to 2 out of 3 or 4 out of 6.

There are 62 residential properties on Indian Road. A total of 51 of these households were polled by Councillor McLaren in 2021 on the question "Do you support a change in the name of Indian Road?" 37 people responded "Yes, change the name," and 50 people responded "No, do not change the name." That factors to 57 per cent opposed to a name change, according to a document McLaren distributed to Indian Road residents on 29 October 2021.

Councillor Ridge's statement implies a level of support for the name change that was not evident in the broad poll in 2021. Perhaps the majority position of Indian Road residents has changed over the past five years. But Ridge—and the majority of Council members—rejected a proposed amendment to his motion that would have provided an opportunity to find that out.

City staff need to pause their efforts to rename Indian Road until a full and open consultation process takes place with *all* stakeholders, to debate and discover whether the threshold has been met that would require that the street be renamed. In Councillor McLaren's words, so that the process is "done right, not rigged."

[REDACTED]

I attended the meeting for Indian Road residents last night, re: remaining Indian Road. I'd like to get a copy of the presentation slide that showed the proposed new names for Indian Road. I'd like to share the information with my [REDACTED], who lives with us. They did not attend the meeting last night.

If possible, can someone please send a copy to my email address?

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

Hello,

My mother [REDACTED] and I [REDACTED] were at the meeting last night about the Indian Road name change. Mom has lived on Indian road for more than [REDACTED] years, and I reside here half of the timealthough my official residence is out of town. It seems some previous mailings asking for input may have been lost, so Mom and I were hoping it is not too late to add some thoughts...

We agree that if the road name is deemed offensive by the indigenous people, it should be changed if that is what they would like to happen.

It involves a lot of money in a time where project funding is scarce, and if they would prefer the money be spent instead on something else which would benefit their community, we would support that. It would also be a gesture toward reconciliation.

It is a major undertaking for each household, and especially for seniors. The name change has the potential to cause serious mix ups and for this reason, we are hoping it won't happen. However, if it does move forward, we understand, and support the project.

We are strongly opposed to a street name such as many that were presented on your short list. A street name that is easy to misspell or mispronounce is impractical...not just for seniors. We like the idea of a name reflecting the indigenous heritage of this area however, and would like to suggest Turtle Island Road. We think it's a lovely name which reflects the indigenous history of this area, It is easy to spell and pronounce in our primarily English speaking setting, making it a practical choice.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Atten: Ruth Noodegraf and colleagues

First, you are to be commended for the grace with which you handled a tough crowd at Lord Strathcona P.S. this past Wednesday eve. The rankled residents of Indian Road et al. were led to understand that it was a case of don't shoot the messenger.

For my own expanding file on this matter, and in preparation for making a presentation to City Council when all this goes forward, I am writing to request two stats on the meeting:

- 1) How many individuals attended? and
- 2) How many of these are current residents of Indian Rd?

I am aware that there were more than half a dozen present who do not currently reside on Indian Rd, though may have grown up in a house there. The 2) stat, I

assume, could be easily determined by cross-referencing the list of attendees that evening with the email addresses of Indian Rd residents on your mailing list.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

[REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

I don't remember any of the names on the short list of proposed names, because I didn't easily recognize any of the words used in the names. It's not clear to me how the proposed names comply with some portions of the City's Road Naming Bylaw shown below. Can this be clarified in the summary of Wednesday's meeting that is coming out soon.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

Civic Addressing and Road Naming Bylaw

Bylaw #: 2005-98

Description: Ensures the orderly addressing of buildings and properties and appropriately naming roads within the City of Kingston

Schedule B - Road Naming Conventions

2. Conventions For Assigning New Names Or Renaming A Road

7. The use of apostrophes (') and hyphens (-, _) shall be avoided.

16. Any proposed name shall be pleasant sounding, easily recognizable, and capable of clear pronunciation by the average individual.

Thank you. I don't see any video links in the email.

Kindly send them along when you're able.

[REDACTED]

Could you please send me the short list of names as I cannot find them in the email you sent.

Plus very sad that I have to watch a video to learn how to pronounce the street name.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Indian Road

Kingston, Ontario

The residents of the meeting were told we would receive information on the delegation process but have not received it as yet. Is it possible to send them to us as soon as possible?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

I am uncomfortable voting on the issue of a new road name. Personally I don't think a vote with the suggestion of majority rule in this case is the right course of action. However, I look forward to a successful resolution in the near future. I trust all the suggested names have been vetted for double meanings and unfortunate acronyms etc. thanks for your efforts.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Communications and Public Engagement Staff
Atten: Ruth Noodegraf and colleagues

Please see the attached letter/essay on the "complicated" term Indian.

I would appreciate knowing that my research and reflections on this matter will be communicated to City Council. I understand that staffers will summarize the concerns of Indian Road residents in a report submitted to councillors prior to this June end, as Indian Road residents were recently notified.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Linked document:

Communications and Public Engagement
City of Kingston

8 May 2026

Re: Indian Road Renaming

There are enough concerns over the underhanded politics and misinformation around Kingston City Council's decision on 17 June 2025 to rename Indian Road without following due process that, in response to the invited feedback to your committee, I thought to confine myself to commentary only on the flawed, and perhaps unethical, process. I did so in a letter-to-the-editor published in *The Whig*, 6 March 2026, which was copied to your committee, along with an email addressed to Communications and Public Engagement staff with my comments on the slanted interactions with Indian Road residents that I witnessed during the 24 November 2025 online event. In formulating his motion to rename Indian Rd, Councillor Greg Ridge, along with his sponsoring Indian Road resident, [REDACTED], presumed that the term *Indian* was categorically a derogatory, defamatory term, and thus met the threshold of the City's bylaw prohibiting such words on street signs and other municipal assets, such as a park or parkette. This despite other stronger connotations and associations of the word to the contrary, as explained to Council that evening by Brandon Maracle, director of the Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest.

I have done considerable research on the cultural currency of the term *Indian*, consulted and contacted some leading authorities on the use of the term both in Indigenous culture and in general print media in Canada, and feel there is value in sharing my findings with designated City staff as they prepare to report back to

Council sometime before June end of this year. Thank you for attending to my reflections below.

First, it must be acknowledged that *Indian* is not categorically a word or name that is “discriminatory, offensive, or derogatory” as specified in City of Kingston By-Law Number 2005-98. Brandon Maracle explained that for some of Canada’s First Peoples, *Indian* can be “a term of pain,” given its association with colonization and its use by some to stigmatize and denigrate Indigenous peoples in the past and even the present. But unlike words such as *squaw* or *redskin* or *savage* or *half-breed* that in dictionary definitions are always listed as offensive or derogatory when applied to First Nations or Metis peoples, *Indian* has no such status in standard dictionaries and in the major usage guides to Canadian English.

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The Oxford Guide to Canadian English Usage: The Essential English Resource for Canadian Writers, 2nd ed (2011), which I contributed to substantially in its 1st edition in 1997, notes that “The use of *Indian* has lately declined in Canada as a label for First Nations people. However, *Indian* is still a term used in Canadian law and a term used to distinguish among the three broad groups in Canada: Indian, Metis, and Inuit.” In a major resource for book and magazine editors, *Editing Canadian English: The Essential Canadian Guide, Revised and Updated* (2000), there is this similar entry: “The Constitution Act, 1982, specifies that the aboriginal peoples in Canada consist of three groups: Indians, Inuit, and Metis. *Indian* is losing favour as a term; however, it remains in the Indian Act, in the definitions of Status, Non-Status, Treaty, and Registered Indians, and is used by many in self-reference.” In neither of these leading guides to language use in Canada is there any caution against using the term *Indian* because it carries derogatory or defamatory connotations. Rather, these authoritative usage guides stress the continuing importance of the term as a signifier of Indigenous identity.

[In a sidebar note, the *Editing Canadian English* volume comments that while *Indian* is “losing favour” as a term, the same loss of favour over time has been true for the terms *Native* and *Aboriginal* as inclusive terms to identity Canada’s First Peoples (my preferred term—though, like all others in use, past and present, this term excludes individuals who identify as Metis). And this will likely be the fate of the currently accepted term, *Indigenous*, because it is not distinctive enough. (Plants and animals are also variously labelled as species (lowercase) indigenous to a geographical region.) The sidebar note concludes with this quotation from an entry under “Aboriginals” in the *Encyclopedia of Canada’s Peoples*: “Whatever term one uses, there will almost certainly be someone who takes exception to it.”]

On the matter of a street named Indian Road, Council seemed unheeding of Brandon Maracle’s response to Councillor Ridge’s question following Maracle’s presentation on 17 June. Here is a brief transcript:

Ridge: [question to Brandon Maracle] What is the importance of the name of a street or a road or a parkette to you?

Maracle: Like I mentioned previous, *Indian* is a complicated one. And when you see that on a road sign, you are met with your entire context as you go into

that. That could be that it's a legal term; that could be that you're excited because you use that language/term as a reclaimed word within community; or, like I said, it could be a

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term of pain. Representing your community in Kingston, from the Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest, all of those perspectives are seen.

Source: Video recording of City Council Meeting, 17 June 2025 [18:15 – 19:15 mins]

My scholarly work involved a trip last month to a conference on literature and writing in the US, where I had the opportunity to have a private conversation with Indigenous scholar and author Robin Wall Kimmerer, whose New York Times best-selling book of essays *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* has been highly influential in the Indigenization of popular consciousness in North America. Kimmerer is a Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology at SUNY in Syracuse, New York, a short border crossing away from Kingston. She is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. As an Indigenous scholar, Professor Kimmerer is known across North America for her teachings on Indigenous ways of understanding and relating to the natural world. In my 15-minute private conversation with Professor Kimmerer, I asked for her view on the cultural currency of the term *Indian*. I explained my interest in the context of the Indian Road renaming initiative in Kingston. Professor Kimmerer's response echoed a point made by Brandon Maracle in the citation above as he explained the "complicated" status of this term/word for Indigenous peoples and underscored its "reclaimed" uses. "I'm excited whenever I see the word *Indian* on a public sign," she responded, adding that to her its use in a public space is "affirming of Indigenous identity and history."

As I drove home from the conference in Michigan, across the Bluewater Bridge, through Canada Customs and into Sarnia, the first road sign to greet me was a large green sign suspended over Highway 402 directing motorists to the off-ramp to one of Sarnia's major north/south thoroughfares, Indian Rd.

This encounter segues to an observation on the contentious street-renaming issue in Kingston—the exceptional status of the term *Indian* on public signage. Yes, some individuals, both Indigenous and non-, find this word as word offensive, as would be the N-word in the mouth of anyone but a Grammy Award winning black rapper and the like. So, as the research conducted by Public Engagement staff has most certainly discovered, a citizen's objection to the large green sign that once marked Indian Road off Highway 17 south of Pembroke led to renaming that road. But this only after consultation with residents on this secondary road, who chose not an alternate Indigenous name, but renamed it for the town the road led to—Perretton Road. But an effort initiated in 2021 by a

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group of high school students at Grand River Collegiate, situated on Kitchener's Indian Road, to change the street name stalled out in late 2024 when city staffers abandoned the presumably fraught process. Likewise, as you are no doubt aware,

citizen initiatives in July 2021 to rename Toronto streets named Indian Road, Indian Trail, Indian Grove, Indian Grove Crescent and the public school located there— Indian Grove Crescent Elementary School—were all stalled, perhaps buried under the more than 90 street names in Hogtown that citizens objected to for multiple reasons. Toronto street names bearing the word *Indian* remain unchanged to this day. While this is merely conjecture on my part—lacking evidence to the contrary—possibly the “complicated” status of the term *Indian* has been an impediment to these proposed erasures of the term from street names in Ontario cities.

And this leads to my final point on this matter. At the meeting with Indian Road residents on 8 April 2026 at Lord Strathcona Public school, City staffer Tim Park addressed the matter of street names offensive to First Nations people that have been changed, and in the context of erasing the Indian Road street name referenced Oshawa’s Squaw Valley Court, which was in 2025 reassigned an Indigenous name, *Hul’vul*, after a prolonged and contentious renaming process that was initiated in 2018. Similarly, Colonization Avenue was renamed in Ontario’s Blind River in 2017 and the same in Kenora/Dryden in 2021. The term *squaw*, as noted above, is in dictionary definitions accompanied by the shorthand notation *offens.* (“offensive”). And it is no stretch to understand that the idea of *colonization* is anything but offensive to Canada’s dispossessed and displaced First Peoples.

Therefore, I would counsel City staffers against comparing these decidedly offensive or derogatory street names that were changed with the one-sided, skewed justifications used to support Council’s decision to rename Kingston’s Indian Road. Comparisons like these are not arguments in kind. The term *Indian* possesses a kind of singularity in relation to words deemed derogatory toward Canada’s First Peoples. Given the distinctive “complicated” resonances of the term *Indian* in present Indigenous culture and in matters of legal status, and its decidedly non-discriminatory linguistic status, as determined by major English language experts in Canada, I would like to recommend to City staffers that they confine their research and comparisons to other efforts in/by Ontario municipalities to change a street or other public asset that bears the exceptional term *Indian* in its name.

Respectfully submitted,
[REDACTED]

I have lived on Indian Road for [REDACTED] years, we have never had an issue, until one person moved into our neighborhood, which if he did not like name of street he should not of moved onto it. second I was at the meeting and 90percent if not more were against name change, so leave it alone please. Third none of the names are suitable, adults let alone kids can not pronounce them. In letter you sent name change should be pleasant ,easily recognizable and capable of clear pronunciation by the average individual. what does average mean ,name should be one anyone can say. So to end conversation why are we paying taxes if we do not have a say in anything ?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Ps I would like a response back so I know letter was received Sent from my iPhone

Dear Sir or Madam

This is a correspondence only. I received the previous letter sent to our home on May 5th 2026 regarding the name shortlist. I would like to put forth a very strong word in many languages and the suggestion is Heron like Heron Road. The great gray heron nests and feeds along the bottom of little cataraqui conservation area off of Portsmouth Avenue in Kingston. This is just a reflection of some idea for a name that could be used it is not a derogatory word or in a different language so people can understand it also taking into consideration of our first Nations people as perhaps the next band of people or group of people may go through Kingston and want to change it, because if it's in a certain language/nationality Also it has a historical value that these birds always come back to feed nest and rest in this area. You have asked us to give feedback on the short list of names that maybe used I think that using this majestic naturalistic and very strong name maybe a good suggestion I am just following what you had asked of I/we/us. But, we truly speaking of my family and myself I still do not want to change the current name because that too means something to us.

Kindest Regards
[REDACTED]

Good morning,

I would like to express my feeling on the name change of my road. I say "my" with much pride! I am the [REDACTED] generation; currently raising the [REDACTED] generation, of my family to live in our home on Indian road. My [RELATIVE] bought our home in [REDACTED]; my [RELATIVE] a member of our [REDACTED] moved his family to Indian road when they relocated from [REDACTED]. In this city my grandma found her career after her babies all went off to school. They raised [REDACTED] beautiful children in this house. When my grandparents passed away, I proudly bought this house, which my [RELATIVE] made a home! There was nowhere else I wanted to raise my family then on Indian road where my momma and our family grew up!

We love this community, we love this special, quiet, peaceful part of the city. Most importantly we love that we can say that we planted our roots here, in this family home, on Indian road!

I can understand how some may find our road name to be outdated for the name of their heritage; however, for me and my family I feel the name change would be erasing our heritage! - The memories my family created here over the past [REDACTED] years.

I have family photos, some children's paintings and my sweet [RELATIVE]'s carvings and cement work that all state our address as INDIAN RD. It would be heart breaking to have to tell my children (who are just starting to grow up on Indian road, much like their ancestors) that we had to change our street name. That they won't have the same memories as those before them because the government had nothing better to do. Nothing more important to spend their precious money on, then to change a street name (which means nothing to them, but everything to us!)

On top of what I have wrote above, I would like to note that I have done some research on the word "Indian" and right here in our highly credited University of Queens it states that the government widely still uses the term Indian.
(Link attached: <https://www.queensu.ca/indigenous/ways-knowing/terminology-guide>)

I beg you to not change the name of our road. Our children must learn from it. We need to teach those of our future, that some may not like to be called Indians any longer and the reasons they may feel that way. We need our children to learn from our past to shape a better future. We need our children to grow with heritage so they can feel loved and accepted on the soil they are growing up on.

If you don't believe in the statements above, I ask you to think of this: By changing the name of our road you are only being disrespectful to those whom the name "Indian" does represent. There are hundreds of people in our city from India who would be given respect by being called appropriately as Indians. What an honour for them to have a street that represents their heritage.

You see, if we erase something we only create more problems.

We want to protect our heritage, our family history and teach our children respect and love without erasing history! Let's not forget to mention wasting time and money on something that the majority of people have no concern about.

If there is one statement from my words that I would like the city to hear it's this: "You cannot erase history, we must learn from it!"

Thank you for reading my words, and taking them into consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] of Indian Road

Hello,

I am responding to the name change of Indian Road.

I would like to suggest the name:

[FAMILY NAME] Road

Named after my family.

My family is the second oldest family to live on Indian Road. My family bought their home in [REDACTED]; I am currently the [REDACTED] generation, raising the [REDACTED] generation in our home on Indian Road.

I feel the name would be a tribute, and a great honour to my [RELATIVE] ([REDACTED]) who raised [REDACTED] children, [REDACTED] grandchildren and [REDACTED] great grandchildren in our house on Indian Road.

I have read the short list of proposed names:

"Shortlist – Names in Ojibwe, Approved by Emergency Services

- Nookomis (Grandma)
- Binesi (Large Bird)
- Odamino (To Play)
- Aki (Earth/Land/Ground)

Other options presented by Indigenous participants for consideration: Odemin (Strawberry), Misko-Bineshiinh (Cardinal), Aandeg (Crow)"

I find it offensive that we must choose an Ojibwe name. In meetings with city staff, us residents were told we did not have to choose an indigenous name - yet this short list only consists of indigenous names.

I worry about the spelling and pronunciation of our new road name. I worry for the elderly who will have a difficult enough time with the change. I worry about mail not being delivered due to misspelling.

If we must pick a name from the short list.

I would like to vote for "Cardinal Road"

A common superstition is that Cardinals represent loved one who have passed. I feel it appropriate, as a nod to my [REDACTED] who have passed.

Thank you for the consideration,
[REDACTED]

Summary of April Indian Rd. Resident Meeting

On Wednesday, April 8, 44 community members including residents of Indian Road, family members and nearby neighbours attended a meeting at Lord Strathcona Public School.

Presentation

Introduction, Guidelines for Participation, Land Acknowledgement

Summary of Council Motion

- Decision to initiate process to rename Indian Road (June 17, 2025)
- Direction from Council includes engagement with residents affected by name change, Indigenous service organizations and Nations with recognized relationship to the land in question
- Reporting back to include:
 - Outcome of renaming process for Indian Road, Park and Parkettes
 - Engagement feedback from all participants
 - Heritage commemoration
 - Financial considerations associated with the renaming

Naming By-Law (City of Kingston By-Law Number 2005-98)

- Names that are discriminatory, offensive, or derogatory, shall not be permitted.
 - From motion: *Use of the word "Indian" is outdated and derogatory*
- Roads named after living individuals shall not be permitted.
- Any proposed name shall be pleasant sounding, easily recognizable, and capable of clear pronunciation by the average individual.

Timeline of work to date

- **June 2025:** Council passes motion directing staff to initiate process to rename Indian Road
- **July-August:** Research on renaming process for other municipalities, reviewing by-laws and Indigenous engagement strategies.
- **September-October:** Outreach to Indigenous community, attending events and direct contact to organizations, Nations, and key participants
- **November:** Outreach to residents (mail, email) and first resident meeting.
- **December:** Follow-up to residents, feedback mechanisms open. Research on steps for address change and discussions with Canada Post, Service Ontario.

- **January 2026:** Ongoing discussions with Nations, review of feedback from residents
- **February:** Engagement with Indigenous community, review of feedback from residents, development of shortlist, targeted engagements with participants' own networks
- **March:** Working with First Language Speakers for spelling and pronunciation, emergency services review of shortlist. Invitation to residents (mail, email) for second meeting.
- **April-May:** Second resident meeting, reviewing resident feedback, finalizing report and Council date (before end of June)

Feedback from Residents of Indian Road

- **Opposition:** residents opposing name change, citing emotional and historical ties to street name, disagreement with term's classification as derogatory and burden of changing address
- **Support/Neutrality:** residents expressed support, others are neutral
- **Concerns about transparency and process:** questions about Council decision, following City by-laws, lack of involvement from District Councillor, results of previous engagement with District Councillor
- **Financial and practical impacts:** concerns about costs and inconvenience, updating documents/IDs and requests for City support with address change, especially for elderly residents and those without access to a computer
- **Suggestions:** educational initiatives, plaque to share history and promote reconciliation, process considerations

Name/Theme suggestions from residents

- **Geography:** highlighting prominent 'ridge' that runs through area, mature trees including spruce.
- **Wildlife:** reflecting the area's abundant species linked to the Little Cataraqui Creek System (deer, beaver, bunnies, coyotes, red fox, blue heron, red wing black birds, cardinals, etc.)
- **Activities:** mentions of tobogganing, corner swing for kids
- **Family and history:** specific surnames, recognition of items found when building, multiple generations living on the road
- **Cultural names:** in keeping with nearby streets and purpose of renaming: Indigenous names, also Scottish names

Engagement with Indigenous Community

- Outreach included cross section of representation: various organizations, ages, genders, backgrounds and identities
- Engaged with the Nations identified in the motion and received support
- Discussions occurred in a traditional talking circle format with an external facilitator
- **Discussion on decision to rename Indian Road:**
 - Views on current name: differences using term in community vs. By outsiders, discussion of racism and intergenerational harm
 - Recognition of importance of renaming, "seeds we plant now will lead the next 7 generations"
 - Wanting to be part of positive change, goal of reconciliation for the community
 - Opportunity for education, wanting to share meanings and pronunciation
- **Discussion on new names:**
 - Recognition that change is difficult
 - Wanting input from residents on themes and suggestions
 - Names based on what is around us: clay, trees, earth, strawberry, wildlife (including two City birds), swamp
 - Need for clarity for emergency services
 - Acknowledgement of various Nations, languages, and perspectives, list of names all in the same language

Shortlist – Names in Ojibwe, Approved by Emergency Services

- Nookomis (Grandma)
- Binesi (Large Bird)
- Odamino (To Play)
- Aki (Earth/Land/Ground)

Other options presented by Indigenous participants for consideration: Odemin (Strawberry), Misko-Bineshiinh (Cardinal), Aandeg (Crow)

Process for Changing Address

- We have created a detailed list of document changes and next steps for changing address
 - Service Canada/Ontario clinic can be scheduled
 - Canada Post confirmed one year of complimentary mail forwarding
 - Road name change does not require the individual homeowners to take any action with the Land Registry Office. The by-law will be registered on

title to the street and if deemed necessary, the Land Registry Office would take any necessary steps to amend its records

- Will provide step by step support and information on how to proceed following Council's decision

Next steps

- Finalizing report to Council. It will include options for Council to consider including outcome of renaming process for Indian Road, Park and Parkettes, engagement feedback from all participants, heritage commemoration, financial considerations associated with the renaming
- All engagement participants (including residents and Indigenous community members) will be notified of Council Date

Q&A/Discussion

Key Points

- The meeting was characterized by strong emotions and differing perspectives. While some participants supported changing the road name, there was widespread frustration with how the process unfolded.
- Strong opposition was expressed by many attendees, particularly around:
 - A belief that decisions had effectively already made before meaningful community input
 - The process, which was widely viewed as rushed, non-transparent
- Some attendees stated they did not receive notices or surveys and felt excluded from consultation
 - Confirmation from staff about the engagement process, mandate based on the motion and details around communications (mailouts to residents of Indian Road on Nov. 6, Dec. 5 and March 19 and emails to project followers), staff's mandate and the engagement process
 - Staff request attendees confirm email addresses at the end of meeting
- There was visible disagreement over whether the majority of road residents supported a name change. Reference to past surveys conducted by District Councillor prior to June 2025 Council Motion.
- Several people at the meeting asked if a meeting with individuals who had taken part in the Talking Circles was possible "so that we can all learn from each other ... and understand the other person or the other group."

Concerns Raised by Residents

- **Process-related issues and decision-making**
 - Repeated assertions that process did not reflect the majority view
 - Questions about why non-residents had influence on decision
 - Shortlist of names not in line with residents' vision
 - Residents felt they were not given a genuine opportunity to suggest or refine alternatives
 - Sentiment that buy-in would increase if residents had real decision-making power, not just feedback on a predetermined list.
 - Frustration between Council decision and staff work
- **Naming concerns**
 - Expressed opposition to shortlist and names chosen by Indigenous participants
 - Strong preference for names that are easy to pronounce and spell
 - Requests to add simple Indigenous terms, synonyms or alternatives, or English names
 - Suggestions to let residents choose or shortlist names
- **Indigenous engagement questions**
 - Questions about whether there were actual concerns from Indigenous communities regarding the existing road name
 - Staff confirmed that yes, this was discussed during Talking Circle and feedback from those engagements was overwhelmingly supportive of removing the word "Indian"
 - Skepticism due to mixed messaging heard earlier in the process (i.e. Council delegation)
 - Concerns about why participant groups were not brought together
 - Staff confirmed this was deliberate decision, noting some Indigenous participants expressed discomfort with joint meetings

Emotional and Logistical Impacts

- Many participants described increased stress, anger and mistrust. Perceptions that the initiative was symbolic with limited real benefit.
 - Administrative burdens, disruptions to daily life both mentioned
- Some attendees warned of potential legal challenges if the process continued unchanged.

Cost and Alternatives

- Financial costs of renaming were raised repeatedly, with comparisons to other expensive renaming efforts.
- Suggestions included:
 - Redirecting funds to social services or Indigenous programs instead
 - Installing a commemorative plaque instead of renaming
 - Concerns that removing the road name could erase historical recognition rather than honour it

City and Council Responses

- Staff emphasized they were following council direction and acknowledged mistrust and concerns in the community and concerns regarding how the process was perceived
- Staff committed to:
 - Documenting all feedback in a report to Council.
 - Considering whether additional names could be reviewed and additional next steps in the process.
 - Providing project updates through official channels (email to attendees and project followers, mail to residents)
- Councillor McLaren explained:
 - The upcoming council timeline and how residents could register as delegations.
 - That council retains the authority to approve or reject the recommendation.
 - That a council “no” vote would halt the process.

Next Steps

Details about the report including the Council date will be mailed to residents of Indian Road and sent to Get Involved Kingston project followers via email. If residents have submitted feedback or attended an engagement session, they will receive this information by email.

Those interested in speaking at the Council meeting can register as a delegation at CityofKingston.ca (search “Speaking to Council”) or by calling 613-546-0000.

Residents are invited to submit feedback on the shortlist of names before May 22. We encourage residents to review the video links to hear how the names are pronounced.

- **[Take the survey online](#) (QR code included in letter to residents).** This link was also emailed to meeting attendees.
- **Email** feedback to GetInvolvedKingston@CityofKingston.ca.

- **Call** 613-546-0000 to share your comments.


Thank you for taking the time to review this information and for your continued interest in this project.



Civic Addressing

Renaming of Lower Portion of Indian Road to McMahon Avenue

Planning File Number: D20-088-2026

 Subject Lands - Lower Portion of Indian Road

