



ARNPRIOR

Town of Arnprior

Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, June 2nd, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

**Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers –
105 Elgin St. W., Arnprior ON.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Land Acknowledgement**
- 4. Adoption of Agenda**
- 5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**
- 6. Adoption of Previous Minutes**
 - a) **Committee Minutes – April 7th, 2025** (Page 1-3)
- 7. Presentations / Delegations**
 - a) **Workshop: Land Acknowledgement**, Waaseyaa Consulting (Page 4-6)
- 8. Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business**
- 9. Staff Reports (by Department)**
 - a) **Curator's Report**, Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator (Page 7-15)
- 10. New Business**
 - a) Workplan Discussion
 - b) Roundtable Discussion
- 11. Adjournment**

The agenda is made available in the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior and on the Town's [Website](#). Persons wishing to receive a print item on the agenda by email, fax, or picked up by hand may request a copy by contacting the Clerk's Office at 613-623-4231 ext. 1818. The Agenda and Agenda items will be prepared in an accessible format upon request.

Full Distribution: Council, CAO, Town Staff, Committee Members



**Minutes of the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting
April 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Town Hall Council Chambers– 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior**

Committee and Staff Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Michael Bradley, Chair
Gaganpal Singh Bhasin, Committee Member
(6:34 PM)
Dan Lynch, County Councillor
Leslie Ann Hook, Committee Member
Jennifer McGuire, Committee Member
Jo Ann Pecaskie, Committee Member

Town Staff Present:

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture /
Curator
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk

Committee Members Absent:

Chris Couper, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order

Michael Bradley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present except Chris Couper and Gaganpal Singh Bhasin.

3. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Michael Bradley asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work, and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

Committee Member Gaganpal Singh Bhasin arrived at 6:34 PM.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 005-25

Moved by Leslie Ann Hook

Seconded by Jo Ann Pecaskie

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting dated Monday, April 7th, 2025 be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 006-25

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Leslie Ann Hook

Be It Resolved That the minutes for the March 3, 2025 Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Resolution Carried

7. Presentations/ Delegations

a) Workshop: Mapping Data Collection to Social Impact, Mass Culture

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator, provided an overview of Mass Culture and introduced the Mapping Data Collection to Social Impact Workshop facilitators, Michelle Yeung and Robin Sokoloski.

Committee Members participated in the Mapping Data Collection to Social Impact Workshop as outlined in the Agenda Package and participated in the workshop discussions and activities. The workshop facilitators noted that the activities and information collected would be shared with the Committee Members following the workshop.

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator, thanked Michelle and Robin for their time and valuable information on behalf of the Committee.

8. Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business

None

9. Staff Reports

None

10. New Business

a) Roundtable

Discussion ensued among Committee Members with the following being a summary:

- Members discussed the previously provided culture plans from three different municipalities (Toronto, Ottawa and Waterloo). Ideas for helping define culture in Arnprior were discussed, with it being noted that this can be looked at as part of the planning process.
- The Museum Curator noted that we would like to bring a Land Acknowledgement Workshop to the Committee in the near future.
- Committee Member Leslie Ann Hook discussed Sensory Friendly Infrastructure and Town Processes and Practices as being an area that should be incorporated in Arnprior processes and infrastructure. The Town Clerk noted that this is a fantastic topic and does fall under inclusivity, however, would be an appropriate delegation for the Town's Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee, so that it can be discussed as part of the Town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

11. Adjournment

Resolution Number 007-24

Moved by Leslie Ann Hook

Seconded by Jo Ann Pecaskie

That the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:36 PM.

Resolution Carried



WAASEYAA CONSULTING

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Land Acknowledgement Workshop 2025 Program Details

"The Anishinaabek are but a microcosm within the living world. For thousands of years, the Earth has welcomed my Ancestors. The geography has encapsulated the stories, histories, and cultural knowledge from the ground our children dance upon to the berries we eat. The land buries the ancient memories until we are ready to dig up the elemental wisdom. I embody my territory's geographies and store blood memories of my ancestors in every shape and form. I reconnect with these memories through our sacred geography."
- Dr. Amy Shawanda, Wiikwemkoong First Nation

What is a Territory or Land Acknowledgement?

A territory or land acknowledgement is intended to be an act of reconciliation by settlers on Indigenous lands. A meaningful statement is one from the heart; it involves recognition and respect for the ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples and more-than-human beings who still know these places as home. Land acknowledgements must include a recognition of the continued impacts of settler colonialism, and include an action-based commitment to be in best relation on these homelands. Land acknowledgements are not simply statements to be said and then forgotten – they must be a commitment to the ways in which we will change our day-to-day lives to be good relatives on Indigenous lands.

Land acknowledgements can easily become a token gesture rather than a meaningful practice. We have a responsibility to consciously and continuously reflect on what it means to truly acknowledge and atone for the history and legacy of colonialism on Indigenous lands. A land acknowledgement is a very small gesture and may serve as a starting point for a life-long learning (and un-learning) journey, and a reminder to remain accountable on the path toward reconciliation.

Many people may be unaware of Canada's complicated and difficult history. A land acknowledgement can be a subtle way to recognize and understand settler histories and impacts – and the need for change as we move together into the future.

Land Acknowledgement Workshop

Workshop (Virtual, In-Person)

This session encourages all participants to contribute to the creation the content of a land acknowledgment through a facilitated conversation. This workshop will work through a number of questions, including: Whose territory are you on? Why do you (as an individual) feel it's important to do a land acknowledgement? How do you currently honour these lands and waters? How can you carry the sentiment of this land acknowledgement with you as you go through all parts of your day? This workshop will create a land acknowledgement that incorporates all contributor voices, best reflecting the spirit and values of your organization.

Follow Up (Virtual)

Your land acknowledgement will require a bit more time outside of the workshop in order to revise and refine this statement. Waaseyaa Consulting will review any final drafts and provide guidance if needed, up to 1 hour.

WAASEYAA CONSULTING

Indigenous Culture & Heritage Consultants
Attn: Christine Luckasavitch, Owner/Executive Consultant
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ARNPRIOR & DISTRICT MUSEUM

Land Acknowledgement Workshop: Guiding Questions

1. What is the purpose of this acknowledgement?
2. Why is this organization doing a territory acknowledgement?
3. How does this acknowledgement relate to the event or work that you are doing?
4. Who calls this place their ancestral territory? Which Indigenous peoples also share this territory?
5. What is the pre-contact, contact, and post-contact history of this territory? What are some of the direct impacts of colonialism in this region?
6. What is your relationship to this territory? How did you come to be here?
7. What intentions do you have to disrupt and dismantle colonialism beyond territory acknowledgement?
8. How will this land acknowledgement reach beyond meetings to patrons of the organization and members of the community? Has your organization considered providing resources (books, website information, etc.) on the Indigenous peoples whose territories are listed within the land acknowledgement?
9. What are your next steps? Has your organization considered developing relationships with local Indigenous nations and organizations to build relationships and support their work?



Curator's Report

Emily Stovel
Manager of Culture/Curator

June 2, 2025



Community Connections

- L'Arche Arnprior collaboration continues
- Two video projects underway with ADHS Coop students
- AMBA collaboration on Macnamara Exhibit underway
- Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley meeting, March 17th
- Visit to AJ Charbonneau staff meeting March 20th, and Spring open house, May 8th.
- Participation in Arnprior's Age-Friendly Plan Renewal process, March and April
- Joined Iftar Potluck at ADHS, March 25th



Community Connections

- Dementia Society partnership, April 11th and May 7th
- Water station for Bunny Run, April 19th
- Hosted Arnprior's Trash Pick Up Day, April 23rd
- Alternatives to Violence Workshop, April 26th
- Support of Longer Table Initiative, May 8th
- Attended Arnprior Ministerial Committee Meeting, May 14th
- Joined ADHS Robotics Open House May 22nd
- Presentation to Rotary Club, May 26th
- Heritage Radio visit, May 26th

Exhibits and Programming

- Developed and launched ten new school tours, one in partnership with Ottawa artist Sanjay Sundram.
- Local Quaker Peace exhibit installed in May, with a short film made by museum staff.
- Almonte Beaver Scout Tree Program, March 5th.
- Vibefest, March 22nd, 65 attendees, with folks from Ottawa, Petawawa, and Matawa.
- Repair Café, April 19th



Exhibits and Programming

- ADHS Grade 10 WWI Digital Exhibit in final production stages, opening June 11th
- Arnprior Regional Hospital 80th Anniversary Exhibit planning underway
- Waterside Retirement Tour, April 16th
- Public Talk by Erin Lee, ED Interval House Lanark County, May 24th



Organizational Planning

- Visitation analysis in partnership with Willis College student
- File Management underway – in collaboration with Clerk's office – paper and digital filing along with retention planning
- Three summer staff and two weekend staff hired and in training.
- YCW granting completed and under process
- Summer Camp planning almost finished



Facilities

- Back programming rooms fully painted
- Fire escape planning almost finished
- Air conditioners installed



Next Up

- Strategic planning with local partners
- Art installation, June 9th
- Collage Workshop, June 14th
- CMOG due June 30th
- Signage proposal under development
- Revenue planning under development
- Cultural Night Market planning well underway

Questions?



• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •