



Town of Arnprior
Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 6th, 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 – September 2, 2025** (Page 1-5)
- 7. Presentations / Delegations**
- 8. Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business**
 - a) Land Acknowledgement Workshop – Finalize Statement, Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator
- 9. Staff Reports (by Department)**
 - a) **Curator's Report**, Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator (Page 6-11)
- 10. New Business**
 - a) 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
September 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Town Hall Council Chambers– 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior**

Committee and Staff Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Michael Bradley, Chair
Chris Couper, Vice Chair
Leslie Anne Hook, Committee Member
Dan Lynch, County Councillor
Jennifer McGuire, Committee Member
Jo Ann Pecaskie, Committee Member

Town Staff Present:

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture /
Curator
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk
Kelly Vieira, Client Services
Coordinator

Committee Members Absent:

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.

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.”

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 013-25
Moved by Leslie Anne Hook
Seconded by Jo Ann Pecaskie

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting dated Monday, September 2nd, 2025, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 014-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Dan Lynch

Be It Resolved That the minutes for the June 2, 2025, Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Resolution Carried

7. Presentations/ Delegations

None

8. Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business

a) Land Acknowledgement Workshop – Finalize Statement, Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator, suggested to the Committee that they could recommend to Council to develop a procedure for a personalized Land Acknowledgement Statement instead of a pre-crafted one. The Committee had a discussion with the following being a summary:

- Importance for personalization for a meaningful Land Acknowledgement statement.
- Suggested starting with a slight improvement to the current statement before transitioning to a fully personalized statement.
- Members raised questions about how to ensure that the individual delivering a personalized Land Acknowledgement Statement is delivering factually and historically correct information.

Resolution Number 015-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Leslie Anne Hook

That the Committee defer the creation of a new Land Acknowledgement Statement to the next regular meeting; and

That staff come back to the Committee with a draft Land Acknowledgement Flow Chart as discussed.

Resolution Carried

9. Staff Reports

a) Curators Report – Manager of Culture/Curator

Resolution Number 016-25

Moved by Leslie Anne Hook

Seconded by Jennifer McGuire

That the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee received the Curators Report for information.

Resolution Carried

The Manager of Culture/Curator provided an overview of the report.

Discussion ensued among Committee members with the following being a summary of the comment:

- Highlighted desire to see more performance-based events in Town that are not just seasonal.
- Ensure that Cultural Mapping connects to the Town's other Master Plans.
- Avenues to collect research about how culture is creating jobs locally.
- Members were invited to participate in the museum's strategic planning process which is ongoing.
- Suggested that the Town could explore grant opportunities to support cultural planning.

Resolution Number 017-25

Moved by Leslie Ann Hook

Seconded by Jo Ann Pecaskie

That the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee request staff return to the Committee with a report about what neighbouring municipalities are doing for cultural plans or other relevant strategic planning initiatives, and how it aligns with cultural goals and strategies of the Town of Arnprior and aligns with the Committee's work.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 018-25
Moved by Chris Couper
Seconded by Jennifer McGuire

That the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the Manager of Culture/Curator include a 2026 budget item request for the preparation of a Cultural Plan.

Resolution Carried

10. New Business

a) Blanket Exercise Overview, Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator provided an overview of the upcoming Blanket Exercise that Council and senior Town staff members will be participating in. She invited Committee Members to participate in the exercise, scheduled for October 3rd, 2025 at the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall.

b) Roundtable Discussion

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

- Councillor Chris Couper provided an update from the AMO Conference that he attended. He noted that he will share the presentations from the relevant sessions he attended once he receives the materials.
- Councillor Chris Couper updated the Committee that he provided greetings at the Cultural Night Market on behalf of Council.
- County Councillor Dan Lynch noted that Cultural Night Market was a great success and the performers were excellent. Folks said it was the best one yet. There were some problems with the generators for vendors, a lack of sufficient garbage bins, but overall great.
- County Councillor Dan Lynch recognized the award presented by the Local Immigration Partnership to Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture/Curator.
- Jennifer McGuire noted that the Town should consider using art as a way to create tourism.
- Jo Ann Pecaskie noted that Portugal has rotating artist installations that bring people back to see the new art each year.
- Leslie Ann Hook raised a desire for a future discussion item on public art opportunities, funding these projects, and the availability of spaces. She also noted that more should be done to showcase local stories and artists, including recognition within the Town awards.

11. Adjournment

Resolution Number 019-25

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Jennifer McGuire

That the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:46 PM.

Resolution Carried



Curator's Report

Emily Stovel
Manager of Culture/Curator

October 6, 2025

Activities

- AGOV Presentation to Renfrew County Council
- Willis College Placements
- St. Joseph (Renfrew) Coop Placement
- Blanket Exercise, October 3rd
- ADHS WWI Exhibit collaboration underway
- Remembrance Day Exhibit
- Arnprior Regional Health 80th Anniversary Touring Exhibit
- Community interviews for Arrival Exhibit
- After School programming
- School Tour bookings
- Municipal staff conversations



Organizational Planning

- Volunteer Plan staff collaboration
- Strategic Planning update
- Staffing changes
- Friends of the Museum

Next Up

- CCNC paper, October 9th
- Blackbird Medicine workshop, October 25th
- Noche Latina, November 29th
- Climate Change and Art Advocacy Exhibition, November 1st, 2025 to March 29th, 2026
- Strategic Planning Retreat, December 2025

Local Planning Efforts

- Eganville: Tourism Plan
 - <https://www.bonnecherevalleytwp.com/download.php?dl=YToyOntzOjI6ImkljtzOjQ6IjlxNjAiO3M6Mzoia2V5ltpOjE7fQ==>
- Ottawa Culture Plan: 2026-2031
 - <https://engage.ottawa.ca/culture-plan>
- Town of Renfrew Arts, Culture and Heritage Master Plan
 - <https://www.renfrew.ca/uploads/AR-TS-CULTURE-AND-HERITAGE-MASTER-PLAN-Final-Sept-2024.pdf>
- Smith Falls Culture Plan
 - https://www.smithsfalls.ca/en/visiting-us/resources/Documents/SF_Cultural_Plan_2021-March-10-FINAL.pdf
- Rideau Canal Cultural Landscape Study
 - <https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/our-plans/rideau-canal-cultural-landscape-study>
- Deep River planning underway
 - <https://www.deepriver.ca/residents/surveys/survey-recreation-culture-master-plan/>

Questions?



• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •