WELCOMING WINNIPEG : RECONCILING OUR HISTORY

What We Heard

October 2019

Background

The Welcoming Winnipeg initiative emerged through previous discussions with members of a tri-level government committee considering Indigenous priorities and identifying ways to create a more welcoming Winnipeg.



The Indigenous Relations Division pursued the development of an inventory of historical sites and monuments, murals, business, and other opportunities to promote Indigenous contributions, stories, and perspectives through signage, digital media and various other forms.

Dialogue across the country on shared history in various cities specific to markers, plaques and names prompted action in Winnipeg and is one aspect of the Welcoming Winnipeg initiative.

On January 29, 2019, the Mayor announced that the City would be launching a public engagement process to assist the City in the development of a process and policy to guide how the city recognizes and commemorates various historical figures and events with markers, place names, plaques, signs, street names, etc.

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg, please visit winnipeg.ca/welcomingwinnipeg

Winnipeg | Indigenous Relations
Relations avec les Autochtones

WELCOMING WINNIPEG : RECONCILING OUR HISTORY

What We Heard

October 2019

Engagement

The **first phase** of public engagement was held from January to March 2019 and included an introductory video, public discussions, workshops, an online survey, a mapping tool, a panel event and discussion. Participants provided feedback on options for making a more Welcoming Winnipeg and how that could be achieved.

Date	Activity	Details
January 29/19 - March 19/19	Online survey and mapping tool	Completed by 709 participants (694 English surveys, 15 French surveys) Identifying as: non-Indigenous (72.91%); Mètis (10.58%); preferred not to answer (7.61%); Ojibway/ Anishinaabe (3.71%); Other (3.15%); Cree (1.3%); Dene (0.37%); Inuit (0.19%), and; Dakota (0.19%).
February 7/19 & February 28/19	In-person story recordings	Drop-in sessions held at the ideaMILL within the Millennium Library were not utilized.
January 29/19 – March 19/19	Digital story collection	Through the online form and email a total of 15 residents shared their story an additional resident used the dedicated phone line to submit their story.
February 14/19 & March 20/19	Group Sessions	Invitations were shared with over 80 organizations though the Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle and Red River College. These meetings were attended by project staff and representatives from eight different organizations.
March 13/19	Panel and public workshop	The event was attended by 60 members of the public. Panelists were local historians, archeologists, and scholars: Karine Duhamel, Lorena Sekwan Fontaine, Mary Jane Logan McCallum, Adele Perry, Jarvis Brownlie and Kevin Brownlee. The panel discussed their perspectives on Indigenous stories and experiences related to historical markers, Indigenous place names, our shared history, and how the discussion applies in Winnipeg. The panel event was recorded and shared through the videos tab of the project website. The discussion was directly followed by a public workshop attended by project staff and 22 members of the public.

The **second phase** of public engagement occurred during July and August 2019 and included an online survey, community discussions, and one on one input. Participants were asked to provide feedback on a proposed process and criteria to evaluate requests to create new, add to or remove/rename historical markers and place names.

Date	Activity	Details
July 11/19 – August 2/19	On line Survey	171 respondents provided feedback on the draft process and evaluation criteria.
July 18/19 – August 1/19	Community discussions	Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – Eagle Urban Transition Centre, Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc., Neeginan learning centre, Urban Circle Training Centre, Manitoba Metis Federation, and Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc. 91 participants provided feedback in a community workshop format which guided a discussion on evaluating applications and working through an application scenario.

Promotion of Public Engagement Opportunities

Phase 1 public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

Date	Promotion method	Details
January 29, 2019	City of Winnipeg website launched	2,788 page views
January 29, 2019	News release	(see Appendix A)
January 29 – March 17, 2019	8 Facebook posts	16,797 followers
January 29 – March 17, 2019	8 Twitter posts	78,700 followers
January 31, February 2 and 28, March 14, 2019	City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter	over 5,300 recipients
January 29 – February 28, 2019	Advertisement on Facebook	117 clicks
February 2019	Promotional stickers place at 12 City owned historic sites	(see Appendix A)
January 31	Project update sent to email notification list	160 recipients
February 25, 2019	Project update sent to email notification list	280 recipients
January 29, 2019	Introductory video shared on project website and social media	viewed 134 times
January and February 2019	media stories: CTV, Winnipeg Free Press, Radio-Canada, APTN, NationTalk, Indigenous Business & Finance Today, Indigenous Lands & resources Today, Municipal Information Network, and NetNewsLedger.com	Twelve (12) different
February 2019	Posters placed in all branches of the Winnipeg Public Library	(see Appendix A)

Phase 2 public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

Date	Promotion method	Reach
July 11, 2019	City of Winnipeg website update	Updated all subscribers
July 11, 2019	News release	(see Appendix A)
July 11 to August 2, 2019	8 Facebook posts	16,797 followers
July 11 to August 2, 2019	8 Twitter posts	78,700 followers
July 18 and August 1, 2019	City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with-two newsletters	over 5,300 recipients
July 2019	Direct email outreach to community organizations and individuals	Over 1,200, including the Welcoming Winnipeg subscribers list

Historical Markers

Category Highlight – Phase 1

Removal of historical markers

Participants expressed low support for removing historical markers. There was a shared belief between those who support removing markers and those who supported keeping historical markers that context and education is needed. However, there was a broad spectrum of input received. See Figure 2.

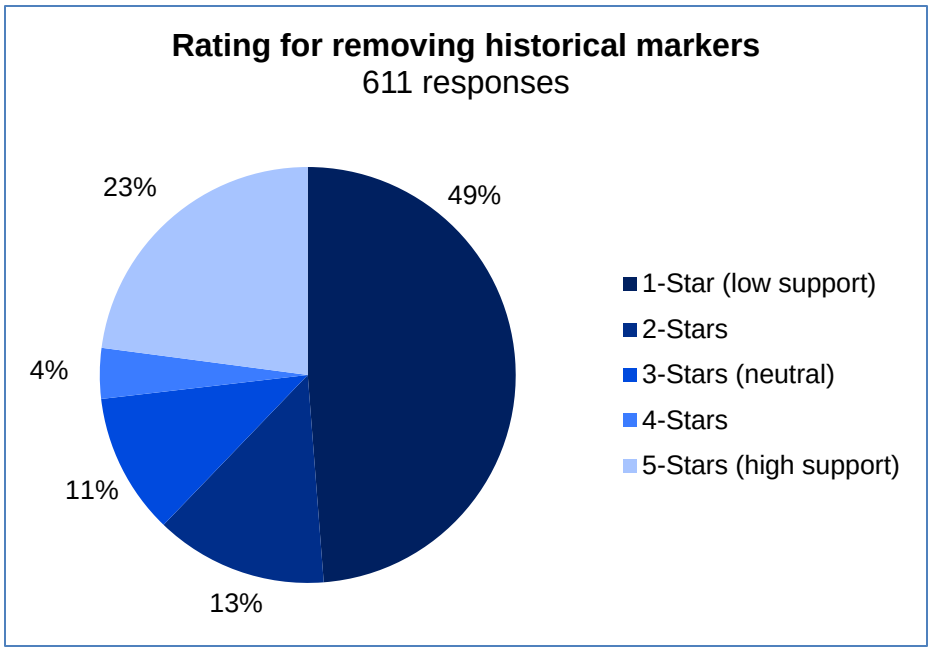

Figure 1 Pie chart, Phase 1: Ratings to remove historical markers

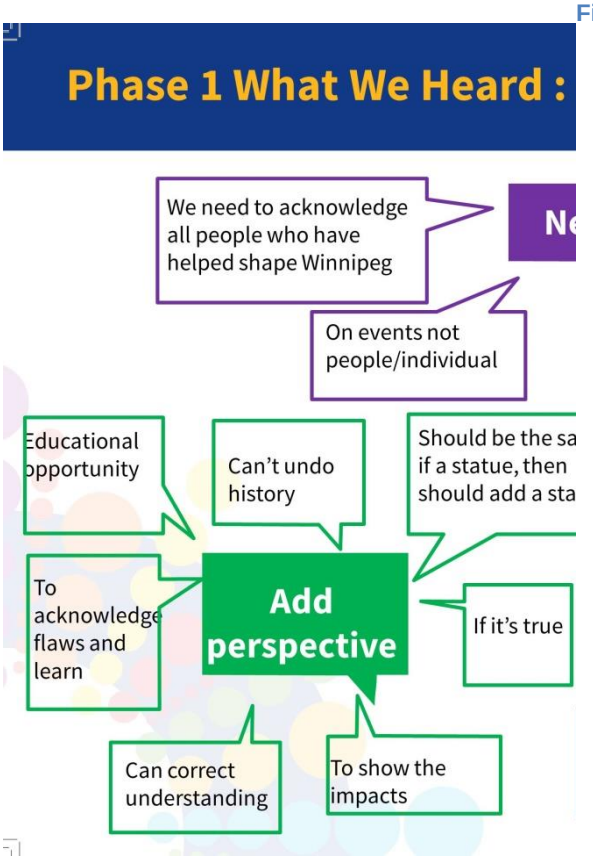

Figure 2 Comment map, Phase 1: Historical markers

Place Names
Category Highlight – Phase 1

New Place names - Priority should be given to Indigenous names

Overall support leaned towards honouring Indigenous people and their contributions through permanent street and place names. However, there was a broad spectrum of input received. See

Figure 3.

"Name landmarks, public parks and gathering spaces, new schools and community centres in Indigenous languages or for Indigenous peoples"

"Design and name public spaces for Indigenous heroes and community members."



Figure 3 Comment map, Phase 1: Place names

Key Messages

Shaping the Process – Phase 1

Feedback from phase 1 indicated that all options to create new add to and rename/remove historical markers and place names are important to community members. Using feedback from phase 1, a proposed process and policy were developed to guide how we move forward in reconciling our City's history using your feedback, information from other cities, and Winnipeg's current processes. How we address requests regarding additions or changes to historical markers and place names:

Phase One - What We Heard	How It will be considered
That community input needs to be incorporated throughout the process.	Included in recommendations to council and draft process and policy.
That the process needs to be less politicized.	Included in the policy and process. The proposed process has more opportunities for community input and feedback. This includes review of application by a Committee of Community Members.
Elders and Youth have to be included in the input process.	Included in recommendations to Council and draft process and policy. Also captured in the recommended composition of the Committee of Community Members.
Do not try to erase history, add to existing in order to enhance education and awareness of our collective history.	Considered in the drafting of the guiding principles and criteria.
All options regarding historical markers and place names need to be included.	Included in the development of criteria to review requests to: create new, add perspective, remove/rename historical markers and place names.



Figure 4 Process graphic: current process in general

What We Heard:

- Less Politicized
- Community input
  - Process Design
  - Decision-making
- Work with Elders
- Opportunities for Ongoing Input

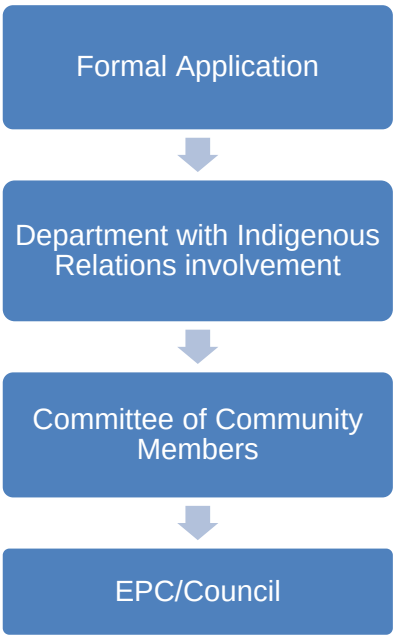

Figure 5 Process graphic: proposed process

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg, please visit winnipeg.ca/welcomingwinnipeg

Winnipeg | Indigenous Relations
Relations avec les Autochtones

Key Messages – Highlights from Phase 2

Criteria for Historical Markers

Phase two asked for community feedback on the draft process, including criteria for evaluating applications of all types. Participants were asked to rate criteria for evaluating an application to add perspective to an existing historical marker from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest. From the criteria available for feedback, the results are as follows:

- 'Can the marker be linked to another existing marker that tells a fuller picture' was the highest rated - average rating of 3.98
- 'Addition should be the same type and scale as original marker. For example, an added statue with an existing statue - average rating of 3.84
- 'Additional perspectives should come from Indigenous people' was third highest - average rating of 3.01
- 'Addition should be commissioned to Indigenous artists.' – average rating of 3.00

In addition, there was a variety of criteria submitted for considering applications for creating new, adding to and remove/renaming historical markers and place names. See Figure 6.

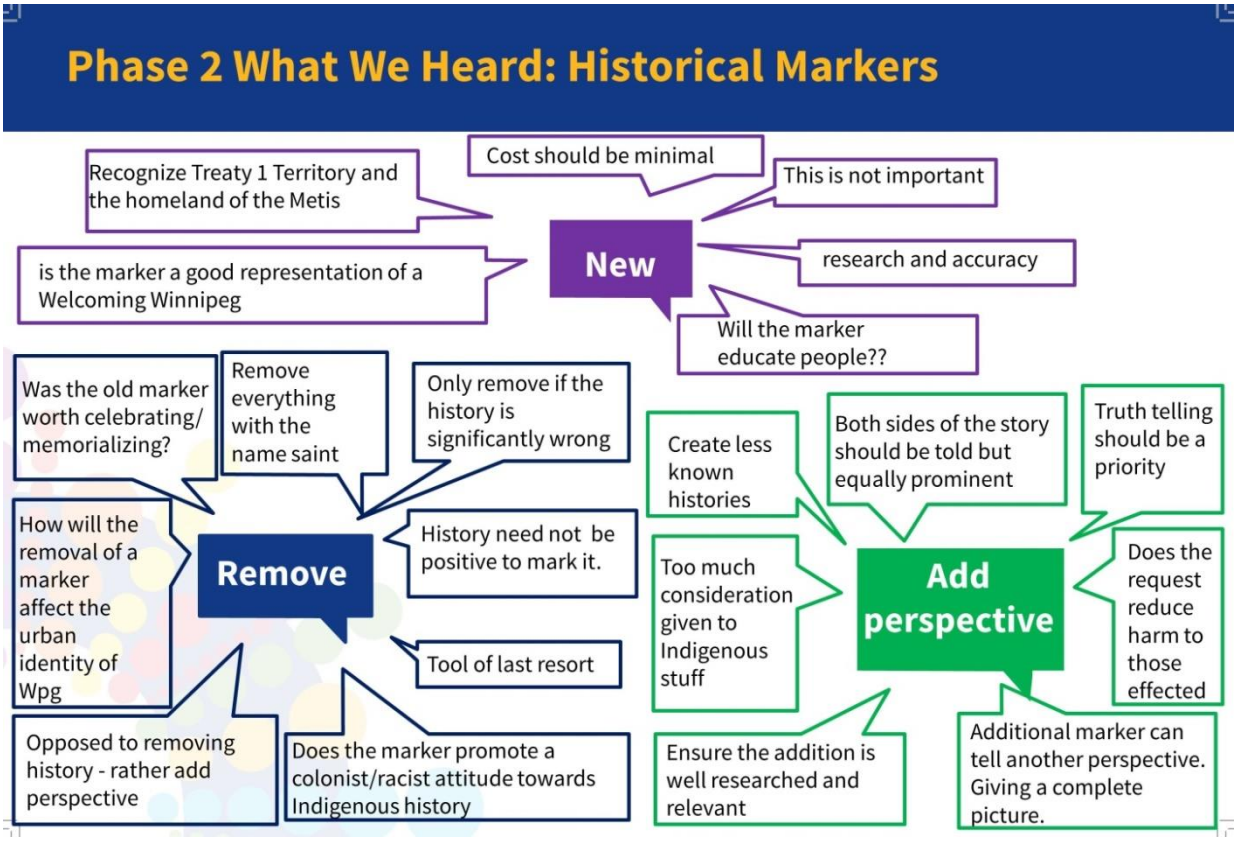

Figure 6 Comment map, Phase 2: Historical markers

Key Messages – Highlights from Phase 2

Criteria for Place Names

Participants were asked for input on criteria for evaluating applications for place names. Participants were asked to rate criteria for evaluating applicants for renaming a place name from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest. From the criteria available for feedback, the results are as follows:

- 'Connect naming to Traditional and Treaty lands and Indigenous law' – average rating of 3.49
- 'Connecting name to Indigenous and Treaty Rights' - average rating of 240 out of 3.23
- 'The original place name was Indigenous' – average rating of 2.72

In addition to ranked criteria for evaluating renaming a place, a variety of evaluation criteria ideas within each of the three place name options was provided. See Figure 7.

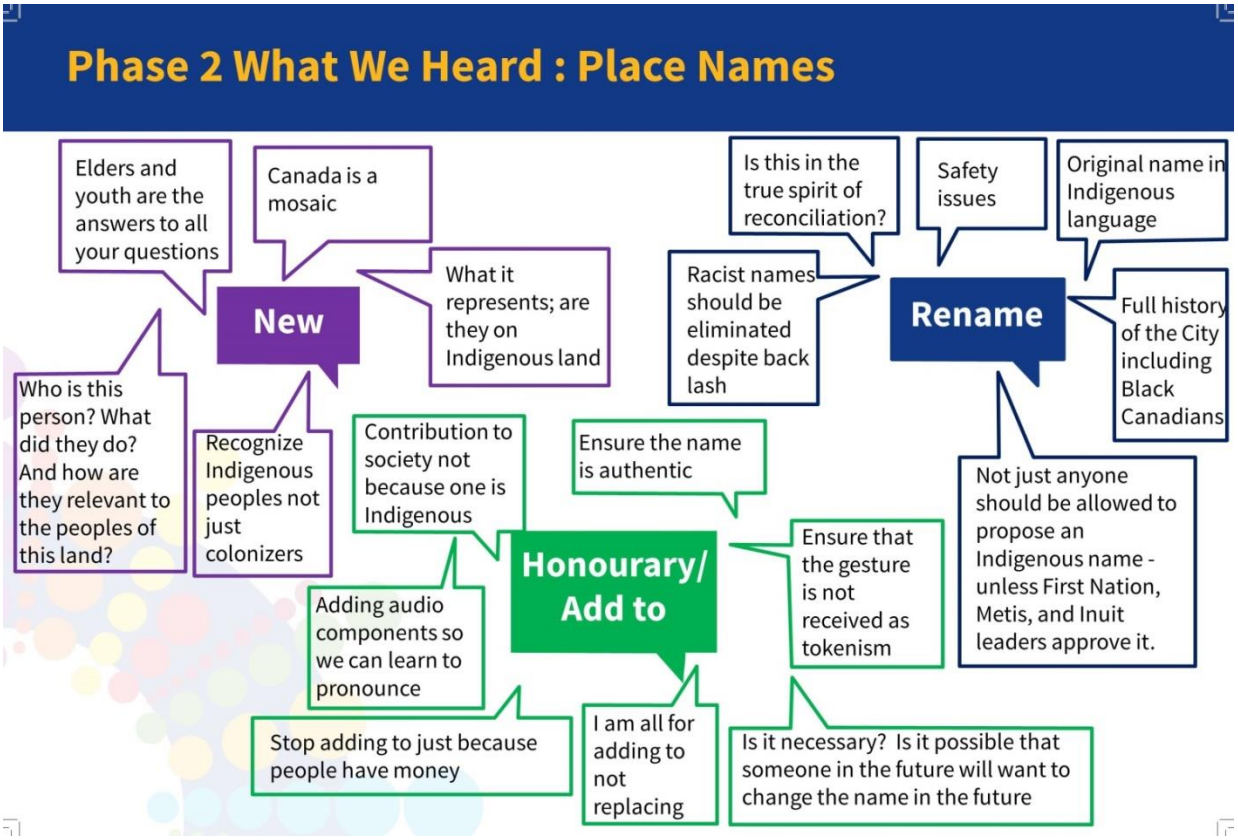

Figure 7 Comment map, Phase 2: Place names

Formulating Committee of Community Members Membership

Survey participants were asked to rate options for who should make up the Committee of Community Members from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. See Figure 8.

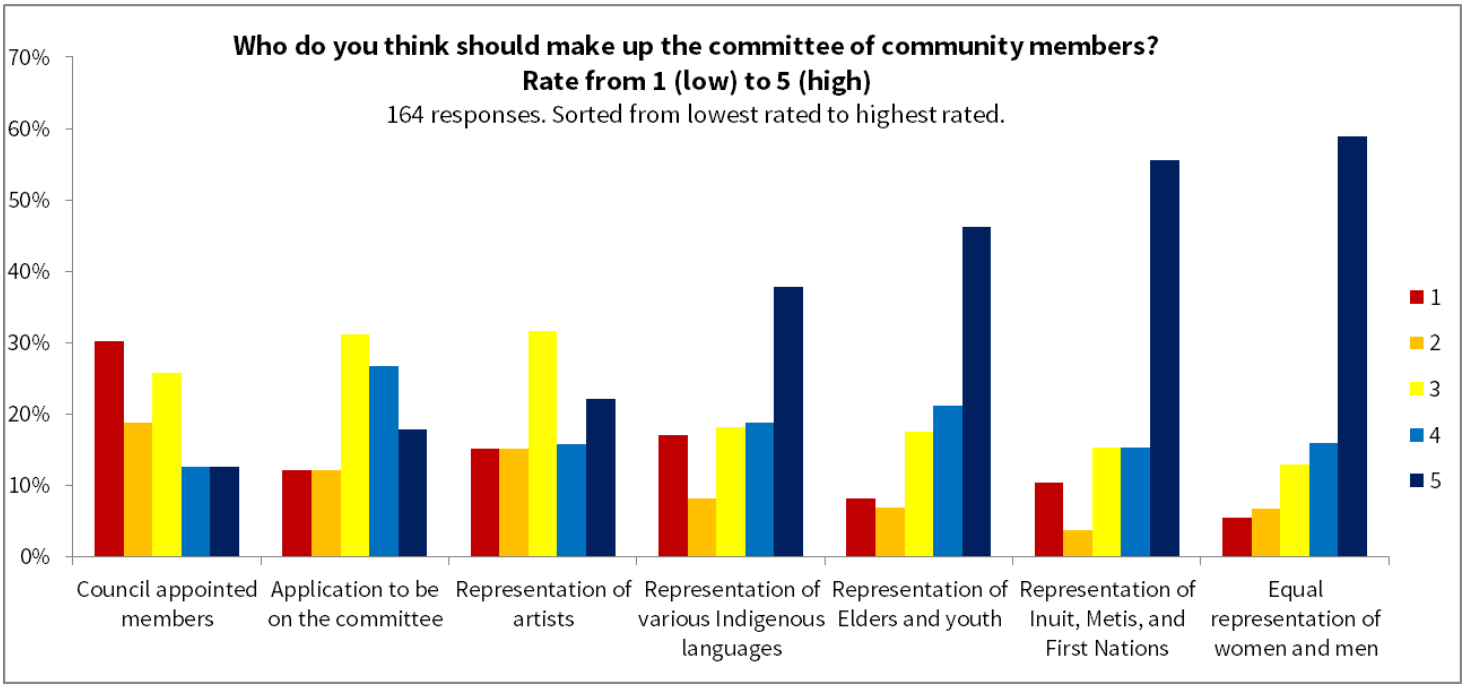

Figure 8 Bar graph, Phase 2: Committee membership

Guiding Principles

When the Committee of Community Members receives applications to create new, to add perspective to, and to remove/rename historical markers and place names, the public ranked the following areas should guide the evaluation of applications, therefore defining guiding principles for the committee. The highest ranked guiding principle was 'does the group/person/event demonstrate significant contributions in shaping a Welcoming Winnipeg. See Figure 9.

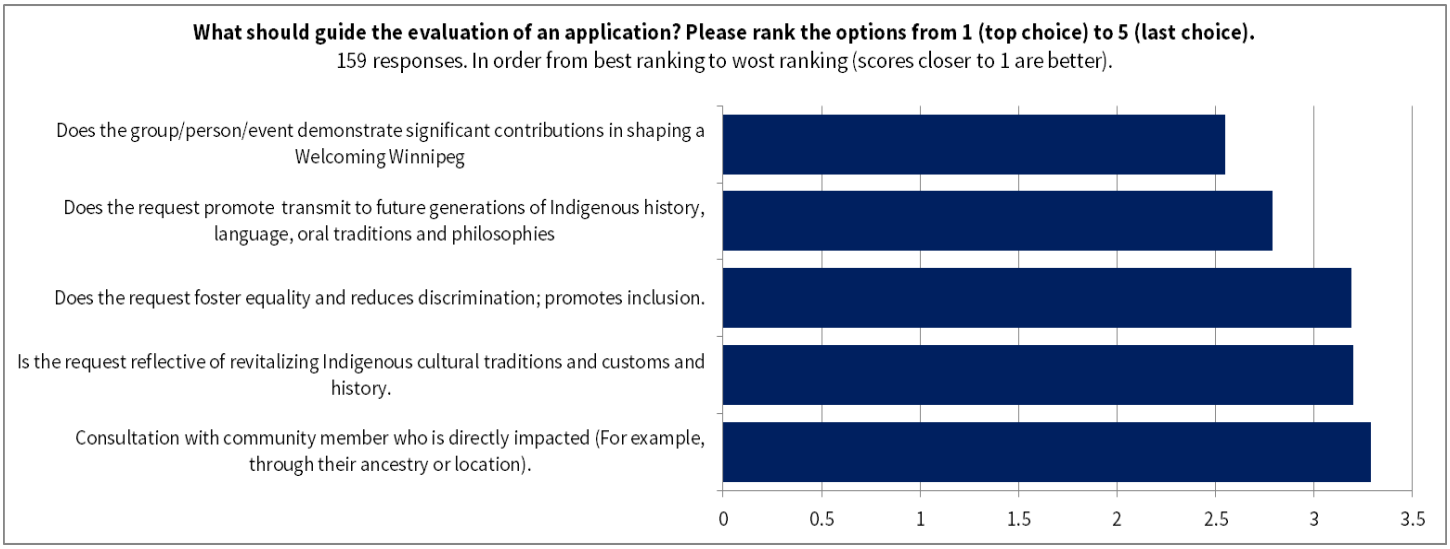

Figure 9 Bar graph, Phase 2: guiding principles

Key Messages – Phase 2

Refining the Process

Phase Two - What We Heard	How It will be considered
The most popular option for continued public feedback was through an online portal, selected by 64/171 respondents.	For the details of the application process.
The most common responses to demonstrate support in an application to create new, add to and remove/rename historical markers and place names included a petition and Indigenous community and local resident support.	For drafting the application process.
Equal representation of men and women, Inuit, Metis, and First Nations, Elders and youth, were all highly rated options for the makeup of the Committee of Community Members.	For drafting of membership and terms of reference for the Committee of Community Members.
Evaluating applications (especially when adding to or removing) on providing an educational opportunity through a fuller picture of history was noted by several participants.	We anticipate that this will be an outcome and create dialogue upon publicizing the applications and results to create new, ad to and remove/rename historical markers and place names.
Historical context and accuracy were noted as important considerations for evaluating each application. Including historians, researchers, and academics in the process were noted as adding value to the process.	For drafting the membership of the Committee of Community Members.
There were some questions and opinions around the necessity of this initiative and how this will contribute to reconciliation.	This initiative is just one aspect of the reconciliation process the City is committed to. The Journey of Reconciliation requires improved and ongoing awareness, learning, and continued listening and dialogue.
Community input noted the importance of an Indigenous and non-Indigenous lens.	For drafting the membership of the Committee of Community Members.

Next Steps

The project team is currently developing recommendations for Executive Policy and Council consideration using the feedback provided in phases 1 and 2. Executive Policy Committee and Council will consider recommendations in fall 2019. Those who participated and requested updates will be notified when an administrative report goes forward for consideration.

Appendices available on Documents tab

Appendix A – Phase 1 Promotional Materials

Appendix B – Phase 1 Group Session Meeting Notes

Appendix C – Phase 2 Survey Results

Appendix D – Phase 2 Promotional Materials

Appendix E – Phase 2 Community Discussion Workbook

Appendix F – Phase 2 Community Discussion Feedback

Appendix G – Phase 2 Survey Feedback

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg, please visit winnipeg.ca/welcomingwinnipeg