

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Open Resolution Proposal to Hamilton City Council

From: Mary Love

Sent: June 3, 2021 12:10 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; letters@thespec.com

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Open resolution proposal re: Hamilton City response to discovery of 215 remains of children on the grounds of the Kamloops Residential School

Dear City Clerk, Hamilton City Councillors, and Fellow Citizens of Hamilton,

Perhaps you are wondering what a meaningful response to the tragic and shameful discovery of the remains of 215 children on the grounds of the Kamloops Residential School might be for you as the Hamilton City Council, and for us as a city?

Please consider our proposal:

1. Our city has an excellent final report from the Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy submitted in 2019. This report asks (under Group 3: Public Art, Museum, Markers and Heritage) that we “Examine existing monuments and memorials in public spaces, such as the Sir John A. MacDonald monument in Gore Park, in order to create a collective and inclusive space for all.” The time for this “conversation” (page 3 Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy Implementation Plan, February 2021) is well overdue and we urge you to act! We of the Extinction Rebellion Hamilton Indigenous Affinity Group request AGAIN that the John A MacDonald statue be removed and that the resolution below be voted on at your earliest convenience.
2. John A. MacDonald was a chief architect of the residential school system that was one part of the Canadian government’s genocide agenda from day one that persists to today. The generational trauma of the residential schools (re-education camps) makes it impossible for that part of Gore Park to be “a collective and inclusive space for all” with that figure of colonial doom looming over it.
3. Charlottetown P.E.I. City Council has just unanimously passed a resolution to remove their statue of John A. MacDonald despite their special relationship with confederation. Having missed a chance earlier in the month to show the Indigenous community there that they understood the harm his statue’s continued presence represented, one of the Charlottetown councillors expressed regret (in the publication Saltwire) that it took the horrific discovery in Kamloops to make them act. Former senator Murray Sinclair said in a statement this week covered by CBCNEWS, “Canadians should be prepared for more discoveries like Kamloops.”
4. Therefore, be it resolved that the Hamilton City Council declares that it is no longer willing to tolerate the Macdonald statue remaining in its present place of prestige, and that it be removed in consultation with the Urban Indigenous Strategy group members and other Indigenous community groups and members. This is the least you can do to show that you honour the memory of these lost children and are serious about “public art in a prominent location that honours mutual respect and the spirit of reconciliation” -not child abuse and genocide.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Love on behalf of the
XR Hamilton Indigenous Affinity Group

Mary Love

Feb. 4, 2021 Information Report on Implementation Plan for the Urban Indigenous Strategy
<https://pub-hamilton.escrimeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=254113>

Please note recommendations 70-80 and apply to municipalities.

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/94-truth-and-reconciliation-commission-recommendations-full-text-180956>