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9 August 2021

Mayor and Council
Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

RE: Sir John A. Macdonald Statue at Gore Park

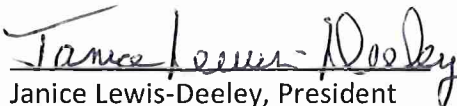
Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

The purpose of this letter is to express our disappointment in your decision of early July 2021 voting in favour of the statue remaining in-situ and status quo. This isn't OK with us nor is it for the majority of the urban indigenous population that call this city 'home'. We are standing in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in this city and calling for you to reverse your decision to remove and decommission this statue permanently.


This isn't just a 'Hamilton' issue. The whole world is watching. In the spirit of reconciliation, we urge you to revisit your decision-making and reflect that of a city wherein it is indeed, *"the best place to raise a child and age successfully"* reflects the kind of city Hamiltonians want to aspire to become. It means having an inclusive community, actively engaged in making Hamilton a better place for everyone."

Our organization has been in this community for forty-five years serving not just 'Indigenous' but any woman with/without children who requires our assistance. We are there for them the same way we support and advocate for our Indigenous families. We will continue to do this work as there is much work to be done. We count on you to be our biggest advocate – especially those Councilors in Wards 5 & 8.


In solidarity,


Janice Lewis-Deeley, President



Rae Anne Hill-Beauchamp, Vice-President



Michelle Hill, Treasurer


Eileen Williams, Secretary


Melanie McAulay, Member


Faith Johnson, Member


Sandra Williams, Member


Paula Whitlow, Executive Director