

To the members of the city's Emergency and Committee Services' committee:

Hope this finds you well. I write to you as a father of four children, as a Christian, a home-owner in Ward 8, and a life-long German settler in Hamilton, Ontario on lands governed by the Between the Lakes Purchase No. 3 Treaty of 1792.

I am writing in regards to the mayor's remarks at an event on Friday, April 29, dominated by his hopes for tougher anti-hate legislation within the city, hopes which were occasioned by the sighting of a Confederate flag flying from a home in Binbrook. After that event, he continued, expressing his hope that the statue of John A. MacDonald be erected again, along with a plaque including his role in the creation and maintenance of centres of oppression and cultural genocide, mistakenly termed 'residential schools'. As quoted in [redacted]'s 29 April 2022 article, Hamilton mayor wants John A. Macdonald statue reinstalled with residential school context, on the C. B. C. Hamilton website, I wish to re-state, with the First Peoples' Group, 'Re-installation of the statue now would be a step in the wrong direction. Clearing the site (placing all remaining components in storage indefinitely) would allow for future community engagement to happen in a good way'; and, to amplify [redacted]'s words, 'The people of Hamilton, the Indigenous community of Hamilton, and the lands that Hamilton sits on deserve far better than this'. I cannot state it better and more clearly than the First Peoples' Group and [redacted] have already done and I would urge you, as members of this committee who have been given authority, to heed their words, to adopt the review, and to continue to move forward listening to, and then acting on what you have heard from, Indigenous communities in Hamilton.

Thank you for your time and attention in these regards.

Respectfully,

Joshua Weresch