

To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Karla Avis-Birch, Chief Planning Officer
Date: December 1, 2022
Re: Planning & Development Quarterly Report

This report provides an update on recent activity and key milestones over the past quarter:

In October, we excitedly welcomed Jay Pitter, award-winning placemaker, author and urban planner for a staff lunch and learn. Pitter challenged the team to ask critical questions and embed equity in every stage of our projects to better become professional advocates. The discussion was thought-provoking and insightful.

The Design Division's Customer Transit Design team are embarking on a strategy to reach an untapped customer base by expanding Universal Design to be inclusive of all potential customers. Following an assessment to understand the inclusivity gap, we are developing guidelines to support inclusive thinking, decision-making and human-centered design approaches. Our objective is to develop guidance that embeds diversity and inclusion design principles into the physical spaces we build, operate, and work in. We seek to reach and welcome underserved communities and individuals to our transit network and provide a comfortable and safe way to connect within the region.

We continue to make positive strides in the implementation of the Indigenous Relations Program while on the path to reconciliation. We continue to advance approaches to further embed Indigenous engagement and consultation into Metrolinx business practices. Over the last several months, we have met with six Indigenous communities and Nations to review how the typical project lifecycle unfolds, including the stage gate process, to better understand how engagement can be incorporated into the full project lifecycle.

Metrolinx is developing and executing Indigenous Relations training for Metrolinx Staff and related change management, and a long-term training plan. Training will be rolled-out in 2023. We look forward to continuing to foster meaningful and comprehensive engagement with Indigenous communities and Nations that facilitates project progress, which is also supportive of our Transformation 2025 Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Avis-Birch
Chief Planning Officer