

Engage for Change Talking Circle

Event Recap

Anoonigozidaa
ji-aanjichigeng!

Contribuons
au **Changement**



Engage
for **Change**

Tewaterihwayè:na
ne **takaté:ni**

On Thursday, 13 July 2017, the Kingston Arts Council hosted a First Peoples Talking Circle as part of the City of Kingston's [Engage for Change](#) project that seeks to re-frame the relationship between Indigenous/First Peoples and non-Indigenous people in Kingston. We had the pleasure of welcoming twenty five participants to the beautiful Malting Tower at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, which is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory.

As part of the project, the City of Kingston tapped ten community partners to host their own Talking Circle. Each Talking Circle is designed to provide participants with an awareness of Indigenous cultures and beliefs, history of Indigenous peoples' movements prior to European settlement and encourage the development of mutual awareness, understanding and appreciation among all participants. The Talking Circles support all professionals, community members and specific populations, (youth, newcomers, seniors, business leaders etc.) with an opportunity to build their awareness, understanding and competency as they walk towards the path of reconciliation.

Each Talking Circle is designed with local input from the Indigenous community and facilitated by [Three Things Consulting](#), an Indigenous-owned company who works nationally on reconciliation projects and calls Kingston home.

The day opened with a smudging ceremony, a blessing from Elder Bernard and the making of tobacco pouches. Following ceremony, participants around the circle shared what reconciliation means to them.

The Three Things Consulting team comprised of Pyter Hogson, Shannon Monk Payne and Saimaniq Temela led the participants in discussions about local and national history, use of terminology, and local resources. Topics covered during the day included:

- The Indigenous peoples of Canada (with a focus on Kingston and surrounding Territories)
- Cultural differences in community, communication and collaboration
- Myths and facts driving relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Kingston and throughout Canada
- Ideas, experiences and input into putting reconciliation into action across the

Kingston region

Participants were provided with an incredible meal prepared by Carol Anne Maracle, Traditional Chef & Catering, Tyendingaga Mohawk Territory.

The day ended with an exercise based on the seven teachings during which participants contributed ideas that The City of Kingston can incorporate into the relationship protocol they are developing as part of the program. Once again, attendees were given the chance to express thoughts or feelings about things they learned during the day and ways they might incorporate the knowledge into their lives. A closing ceremony marked the end of the event.



Our gratitude to Three Things Consulting for sharing their knowledge and time, to the City of Kingston for bringing this initiative to Kingston and choosing the Arts Council as a partner and to the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning for sponsoring the event.



kingston
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Image above courtesy of Three Things Consulting