



Memorandum to the Members of Council

From: Michelle Willson
Position: Chief Administrative Officer
Title / Subject: Proposed Indigenous Engagement Guide for Durham Region Area Municipalities
Date of Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025
Report Number: 2025-GG-020

All eight lower-tier municipalities in Durham Region are initiating the creation of an Indigenous Engagement Guide to support both legislated consultation requirements and the advancement of best practices related to land use planning, infrastructure, and other municipal projects across the Region.

The key objectives of the project include:

- Collaborating with the Williams Treaties First Nations and Durham Region municipalities to develop a consistent, region-wide approach to Indigenous engagement;
- Ensuring alignment with legislated consultation obligations (e.g., Planning Act, Provincial Planning Statement, Environmental Assessment Act);
- Equipping municipal staff with practical tools to support respectful and informed engagement;
- Establishing clear and consistent expectations and guidelines that can be implemented across all Durham Region municipalities; and
- Supporting and growing relationships through collaboration, meaningful engagement, and transparency across the lower tier Durham Region Municipalities and Indigenous communities.

A Request for Proposal is expected to be released in fall 2025 and awarded to a consultant in December 2025. The final Indigenous Engagement Guide for Durham Region area municipalities is expected to be issued in September 2026.

The municipalities will jointly share in the costs of drafting and developing the Guide based on the following percentages:

- Whitby: 31%
- Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa, and Pickering: 15% each

- Brock, Scugog, Uxbridge: 3% each

Staff anticipate this to be a minimal cost which can be covered through the CAO's Contract Services operating budget.

End of Memorandum