



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## Committee Report

**To:** Chair and Members of the Information, Heritage and Seniors Committee  
**From:** Jana Burns, Wellington Place Administrator  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024  
**Subject:** WCMA 2025 Projects Proposal

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### Background

The WCMA Action Plan was developed in collaboration with all WCMA and Economic Development staff, upon the beginning of the Administrator's term in 2021. The Action Plan is intended to be revisited in 2025 and committee will be provided an update on the status of the Plan this fall.

The Action Plan was also the impetus for the subsequent Wellington Place Mini-Masterplan, which has been incorporated into the 10-year capital budget. The capital projects consist of a pavilion, root cellar, trail network, Commons area, and an artifact storage building. The artifact storage building, root cellar, bicycle repair and water refill stations are proposed within the 2025 budget.

This report requests Committee's approval to pause 2025 capital work and focus on the Museum interior. Two specific projects are of priority, including comprehensive research of Wellington County's Indigenous history and a dedicated children's space. These projects would take place as the major projects in 2025, in addition to the planned flooring upgrade in the Exhibit Hall and lighting upgrades on the second floor.

### Indigenous History of Wellington County

The 2021 Action Plan identified the need to consult and collaborate with the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) and Indigenous communities to accurately reflect the Indigenous history in the County Museum. During the formation of the Gathering Circle in 2023, discussions with the IAC and Indigenous partners further identified the gap and need to have a comprehensive history and a better understanding of the County's Indigenous history. The IAC has conducted primary research to date, using online research, but a historian conducting an in-depth analysis would ensure the history is accurate and as complete as possible. Many Indigenous community members and relationships have been established and/or nurtured through the creation of the Gathering Circle, and those contacts would be involved in aspects pertaining to the research collection.

All opportunities would be pursued to receive input from Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. Should Committee approve this direction, a budget estimate and scope of work would be developed and presented in the fall. One of the objectives would be to remove the current Long House exhibit on the second floor and create a new exhibit that reflects the County's full Indigenous history and its communities, making connections to the Gathering Circle, and to programming.

## **Museum Childrens' Space**

As Wellington County grows, the Museum is fast becoming a destination for families and specifically, children to explore, create and learn. To better serve families in the community, the WCMA would like to invest in developing a dedicated children's space within the Museum.

Museums with dedicated children's areas provide an excellent environment to expose children to rich and memorable experiences, provoking imagination and bringing together art, history and science in play. Staff would like the same opportunity available to Wellington County families and envision a space where children can engage in imaginative, interactive ways to learn about the community's history and culture and be encouraged to becoming a mindful contributor to the community's future.

For this project, staff would work with a consultant to design the space within an existing second floor gallery, which would be presented to Committee at the end of the year for review. The WCMA's Childrens' Space would ensure that the WCMA continues to be a highly sought-after destination for families, while providing opportunities for local families to connect with each other and create lasting memories.

### **Strategic Action Plan**

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

- Best services in place to service the County's residents and businesses.
- Best infrastructure in place to meet the current and future needs of the community.

### **Recommendation**

That the WCMA Projects Proposal report be received for information and be forwarded to County Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Jana Burns  
Wellington Place Administrator