

OAC History Project
Community member's ideas
February 8th, 2017

Summary of the footprint exercise that was done at the February 8th, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Community Gathering.

A. The Basic Foundation of the History Project

- Represent all three Indigenous peoples (First Nation, Inuit and Métis)
- Represent the diversity of the community
- Show the resiliency of our people.
- Show who the community really is: Great, wonderful, beautiful, resilient, smart, diverse, wise, full of knowledge

B. These are the stories to tell

- a) The history of the relationship between Ottawa and Indigenous people**
- History prior to Champlain to now. Where did the original Indigenous people come from? How did they come to be in Ottawa?
 - More in-depth history of the whole area, not just Ottawa specific.
- b) The diversity of the community**
- "Real Life" living as an Indigenous person in Ottawa
 - Youth experience from Northern to Urban living
- c) Community member's individual stories.**
- The Elders' stories- how they came to be Elders, how they came to Ottawa
 - Residential school survivors to tell their healing story.
 - Aboriginal people in the justice system- they are often forgotten.
 - Youth-based- local story of first contact
 - How did you come to end up in Ottawa? Why did you stay?
- d) The story of Urban Aboriginal people who grew up in Ottawa**
- My story- about the Aboriginal people in Ottawa. Being an urban Indian who did not grow up in my community, my first step into learning about my identity came from developing a relationship with the Odawa Native Friendship centre. Through this organization, I utilized their services to get in touch with my cultural identity....
- e) Success stories**
- An Aboriginal Woman's Story- how she overcame struggles to become a leader in the community
 - Aboriginal Entrepreneurs, artists, role models
 - Indigenous film makers

f) Positive impact stories

- Wabano Gala 2016

g) The story of the community places and spaces and geography

- Gathering places by Indigenous people, for all people
- History of Aboriginal organizations in Ottawa and results they've achieved.
- The sacred spaces

C. Who would you want us to talk to?

- All community members
- Community members who were born and raised in Ottawa.
- Members of the community in all parts of the lifecycle: Elders and Youth
- Community leaders
- Members of the community that no one usually talks to, that are on the fringe or marginalized
- Survivors of Residential school
- All the organizations that serve Indigenous people in Ottawa
- Homeless- how they got here.
- Two-spirited community members
- Entrepreneurs
- Artists
- Traditional knowledge keepers

D. What formats would you like to see our history shared in?

- Videos and movies to reach broader audiences and age groups
- Record the stories of the Elders
- Music
- Storytelling
- Art
- Book or books
- Social media (Youtube)
- Kid's book
- Theatre productions
- Compilation of old photos
- Live presentation from a Residential school survivor instead of from books, etc.
- Interviews and videos, testimonials
- Traditional storytelling made more mainstream so that non-Indigenous people learn about the great beauty in and the vast diversity of Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit peoples
- Interactive exhibits

E. Other ideas that they would like the OAC to consider

- We need an Indigenous filmmaker committee
- More gatherings of First Nations, Inuit and Métis to gather to tell their stories with each other to learn our cultures together.
- Canadian Aboriginal history should be part of mandatory studies in all education at institutions at an early age. The general population needs to be aware and acknowledge all the displaced children from the North to here in Ottawa.
- Stop the environment violence and the Intensification that is impacting our forests, bogs, farmland.
- Jobs in the Aboriginal community do not sustain people's well being (salary, benefits, term contracts, part-time), means turnover.
- Cultural proficiency needed.
- Lateral violence.