

Indigenous Engagement Framework Report

Prepared for: Elfrida Community Builders Group Inc.

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Definitions

Aboriginal, collectively refers to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada, defined in the Canadian Constitution.¹ This distinction legalized in 1982 when the Constitution Act came into being. Section 35 (2) of the Act states, “Aboriginal Peoples of Canada” includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

Anishinaabeg, (alternatively spelled Anishinabe, Anicinape, Nishnaabe, Neshnabé, Anishinaabe, Anishinabek) are a group of culturally related Indigenous peoples present in the Great Lakes region of Canada and the United States. They include the Ojibwe (including Saukteaux and Oji-Cree), Odawa, Potawatomi, Mississaugas, Nipissing and Algonquin peoples.²

First Nation is one of three, Indigenous people of Canada, the other two being Métis and Inuit. Due to the *Indian Act*³ still being in force, the term Indian remains in the Canadian Constitution, however terminology has changed to be more reflective of present-day language standards.

Haudenosaunee, Called the Iroquois Confederacy by the French, and the League of Five Nations by the English, the confederacy is properly called the Haudenosaunee Confederacy meaning People of the long house. The confederacy, made up of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, was intended to unite the nations and create a peaceful means of decision making.⁴

Indigenous, interchangeably with the definition of Aboriginal.

Indigenous communities, organized groups of Indigenous Peoples with shared governance, cultural identity, or land-based claims (e.g., First Nations, Métis Councils, Inuit communities, and urban collectives).⁵

Rightsholders, for the purpose of this document are the *Aboriginal people*, collectively referred to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada. This may also include the urban community members.

Urban Indigenous Community, Indigenous individuals and families living in cities, often served by Indigenous-led organizations (e.g., De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre)⁶

¹ *Constitution Act*, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11., <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Const/index.html>

² Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anishinaabe>

³ *Indian Act* (R.S.C., 1985, c. I-5), <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/i-5/>

⁴ Haudenosaunee Confederacy, <https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/who-we-are/>

⁵ Ontario Provincial Policy Statement (PPS 2024) – & City of Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy

⁶ City of Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy, 2019, <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-05/EDI-2019urbanindigenouststrategy-Report.pdf>

1. Executive Summary

This report outlines the Indigenous engagement activities undertaken in support of the Elfrida Secondary Plan application for the City of Hamilton. The report summarizes the engagement approach, identifies Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations notified of the project, and documents the engagement activities conducted to date. The Elfrida Secondary Plan application is being advanced by the Elfrida Community Builders Group Inc. (the “Applicant”), a consortium of landowners seeking to plan for the future development of the Elfrida lands within the City of Hamilton.

Engagement with Indigenous communities began in November 2024 in relation to the Urban Boundary Expansion (UBE) application and has continued through 2026 as part of the Secondary Plan planning process. Outreach was undertaken with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre. Engagement activities included the distribution of project information, invitations to meetings, follow-up correspondence, and the sharing of planning and technical materials where available.

A virtual meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation was held in May 2025 to review the proposed Urban Boundary Expansion application and supporting materials. A Technical Review Agreement was subsequently executed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to facilitate review of project documentation and support meaningful participation in the planning process. Engagement activities continued in 2026 with notification to Indigenous communities regarding the Elfrida Secondary Plan application and associated studies, and a meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation held on March 6, 2026, to present the Secondary Plan proposal and supporting technical work.

Through engagement to date, Indigenous communities have expressed interest in environmental stewardship, cultural heritage protection, and continued dialogue throughout the planning process. Input received through engagement has informed the project team’s approach to environmental review, archaeological assessments, and the ongoing sharing of project information with Indigenous communities.

This report demonstrates that engagement with Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations has been undertaken in a manner consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement (2024), the City of Hamilton Urban Hamilton Official Plan, and broader commitments to reconciliation and respectful relationship-building with Indigenous communities. The engagement activities documented in this report are intended to support transparency in the planning process and to demonstrate that Indigenous communities have been informed of the project and provided opportunities to participate in discussions related to the proposed Secondary Plan.

2. Introduction

Project Overview

The Elfrida Secondary Plan area (Figure 1) represents a unique opportunity to plan for and accommodate some of the City of Hamilton’s planned future growth in a manner consistent with previously prepared reports, studies and infrastructure planning completed by or on behalf of the City. The Elfrida Secondary Plan area is currently outside of the City’s urban boundary. To bring the Elfrida lands into the urban boundary, applications for Official Plan Amendments (“OPAs”) to the Rural Hamilton Official Plan (“RHOP”) and the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (“UHOP”) were submitted to the City on November 20, 2024 (the “Elfrida UBE Application”).

The Elfrida UBE Application proposed to establish a policy framework outlining subsequent steps, including supporting plans and studies, for the future Secondary Plan to establish detailed land uses, road networks, and intensification areas within Elfrida, among other matters. The Elfrida UBE Application was deemed complete by the City on March 14, 2025, but was refused by City Council on June 25, 2025. On August 12, 2025, the Applicant appealed City Council’s decision to deny the Elfrida UBE Application to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). The Elfrida UBE Application is now before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) for decision.

Although a decision on the Elfrida UBE Application has not been made by the OLT, the Applicant has continued to advance the preparation of the Official Plan Amendment (OPA), to establish the Secondary Plan and appropriate land uses and policies that will set the context for the future growth of Elfrida and the City of Hamilton. The Secondary Plan OPA will plan for the development of Elfrida as a complete urban community incorporating a wide range of uses to serve existing and future residents that could accommodate some of the City’s future growth.

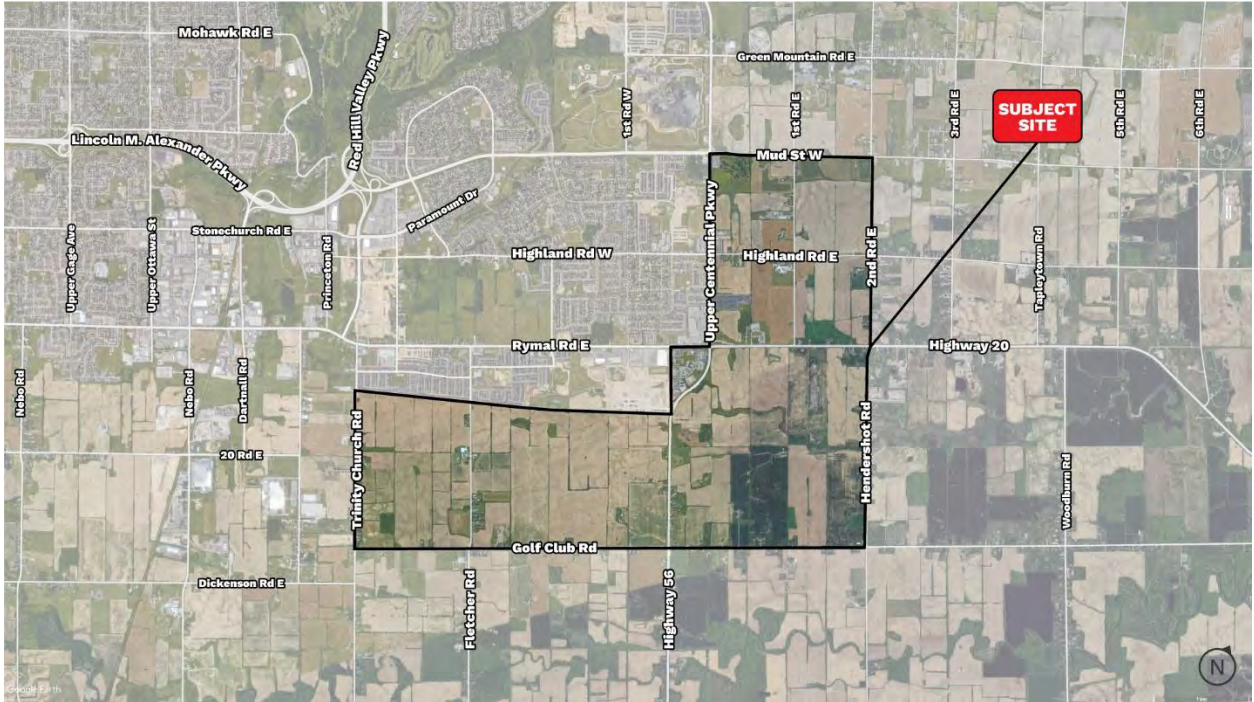


Figure 1 - Elfrida Lands - Boundaries

3. Legislative and Policy Overview

The Indigenous engagement process for the Elfrida Secondary Plan is guided by the following legal and policy frameworks:

Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) 2024

The Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS), recognizes the distinct role of Indigenous communities in land use planning and development, and the importance of integrating Indigenous perspectives and traditional knowledge into planning decisions. The Province also recognizes the importance of consulting with Aboriginal communities on planning matters that may affect their section 35 Aboriginal or treaty rights. Meaningful early engagement and the establishment of cooperative relationships between planning authorities and Indigenous communities are required to facilitate knowledge-sharing and to ensure that decision-making processes are informed, transparent, and consistent with applicable legislative and policy obligations.⁷

⁷ *Provincial Planning Statement, 2024*, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ontario), effective October 20, 2024, p. 1, 2.

Policies 4.6(5), and 6.2(2) of the PPS require planning authorities to engage early with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters that may affect Indigenous interests. This includes ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are considered when identifying, protecting, and managing archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes. The PPS further directs that early engagement should facilitate knowledge-sharing, support the integration of Indigenous interests into decision-making, and help identify potential impacts of proposed decisions on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Policy 6.1 (2) reaffirms the PPS is to be applied in a manner consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights as set out in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Additionally, Policy 6.1(9) of the PPS states that the Province may, in consultation with municipalities, Indigenous communities, public bodies, and other stakeholders, identify key indicators to assess the effectiveness, relevance, and outcomes of its policies. This underscores the importance of transparency, measurable outcomes, and continuous improvement in Indigenous engagement practices.

In the context of this application, these policy directives require a proactive and respectful engagement process that goes beyond procedural consultation. It involves early and ongoing communication, culturally appropriate engagement methods, and a commitment to incorporating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into planning outcomes. The intent is to ensure that decisions not only meet statutory requirements but also contribute to the broader goals of reconciliation, mutual respect, and the protection of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

City of Hamilton – Urban Hamilton Official Plan

The City’s Urban Hamilton Official Plan (“UHOP”) establishes a clear and enduring commitment to advancing reconciliation and fostering respectful, collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities. This commitment is grounded in the recognition of the inherent rights, unique status, and rich cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples. As articulated in the Plan: *The City of Hamilton has committed to informing, consulting, and collaborating with local Indigenous communities and First Nations to strengthen their role in local land use planning processes. This approach reflects a recognition that Indigenous voices must be included in shaping planning decisions that affect their rights and interests, and it is reinforced through Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 167*⁸The Plan further reinforces, the City’s commitment to respect the established consultation protocols of Indigenous communities and First Nations whose traditional territories fall within Hamilton’s municipal boundaries. Moreover, the City will initiate the development of a formal Indigenous Engagement Protocol for Land Use Planning.⁹ These implementation tools align with the principles set out in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which affirms and protects Aboriginal and Treaty rights, as well as with the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024), which requires meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities on matters that may impact their rights, heritage, or interests.

⁸ City of Hamilton. Urban Hamilton Official Plan, Policy 1.17.8 (as amended by OPA 167).

⁹ City of Hamilton. Urban Hamilton Official Plan, Policies 1.17.8.1–1.17.8.2 (as amended by OPA 167).

In practice, this commitment requires the City to ensure that Indigenous voices are meaningfully included at all stages of planning and decision-making, that Indigenous knowledge systems and perspectives are respected, and that processes are transparent, inclusive, and mutually beneficial. By embedding these principles into the UHOP, the City signals its dedication to building trust, honouring historical and contemporary relationships, and contributing to the broader work of reconciliation.

4. Commitment to Reconciliation and Collaboration

Ontario, the City of Hamilton, and the Applicant continue to recognize the critical role Indigenous communities play in land use planning. Indigenous perspectives and traditional knowledge enrich planning decisions and ensure outcomes that respect cultural values and rights.

Meaningful and early engagement guided by principles of reconciliation, mutual respect, and knowledge sharing forms the basis for constructive relationships and inclusive, informed decision-making in the development of the Elfrida Secondary Plan.

5. Indigenous Engagement Objectives

When initiating the engagement process, it is of paramount importance that the Applicant provide clear and accurate information on the Project. This will allow the Applicant to clearly address sensitivities that Rights Holders may have about the proposed project. Meaningful engagement provides a great opportunity to build broad community and public support for the future development of a new, complete urban community that incorporates a wide range of uses. Given the Applicant's ongoing work with building a partnership, the team is well positioned to understand key community concerns and issues that may arise with this Project. The Applicant will lead the engagement on this Project with support from the consulting team, SL Indigenous Advisory Services (SL). SL is an Indigenous owned and operated consulting business, dedicated to building meaningful, respectful, and long-lasting relationships between Indigenous communities, corporations, and government. With over 18 years of experience in Indigenous relations, energy, infrastructure, and policy, they specialize in bridging gaps through trust, respect, integrity, and a commitment to future generations.

SL has established a good working relationship and experience with the local communities to be engaged in this Project. This, along with SL's expertise with Indigenous engagement, will be leveraged to ensure that community feedback is adequately incorporated into the application. The Applicant will be on the front lines engaging with stakeholders, Rights Holders, communities, and decision-makers to foster meaningful relationships and ensure all parties are provided with the opportunity to learn more about the Project and ensure genuine and respectful dialogue.

6. Identification of Indigenous Rights Holders and Communities

The following Indigenous Rights Holders and communities have been notified as part of our initial outreach, however if there are assertions of rights by other communities, we will engage with those members as well. The communities are:

- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,
- Six Nations of the Grand River,
- Haudenosaunee Development Institute,
- Huron-Wendat,
- Métis Nation of Ontario, and
- Hamilton Regional Indian Centre.

This list was informed by historical treaties, and land claim areas.

7. Record of Engagement and Engagement Process

City of Hamilton Staff undertook engagement in 2022 respecting amendments to the Rural and Urban Hamilton Official Plans as part of the Growth-Related Integrated Development Strategy (“GRIDS”). The technical studies associated with the GRIDS work identified the need to introduce additional lands, including the Elfrida Lands, within the City’s urban boundary to accommodate forecasted growth. Engagement during this phase included outreach to 11 local Indigenous community contacts and 15 Indigenous communities, with meetings held in March 2022 involving the Six Nations of the Grand River, the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, in addition to broader public and stakeholder engagement.

Urban Boundary Expansion (UBE) Engagement (2024–2025)

Engagement associated with the Urban Boundary Expansion (UBE) application commenced in November 2024 and has continued through the current Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) process, reflecting the Applicant’s commitment to ongoing engagement despite the application being under appeal.

As part of the UBE application, the Applicant initiated engagement with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River, as well as outreach to the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre.

Initial outreach included formal notification letters, followed by ongoing correspondence, information sharing, and invitations to meet. Engagement during this phase was iterative and responsive, with follow-up communications undertaken to confirm receipt, provide clarification, and facilitate opportunities for dialogue.

Throughout late 2024 and 2025, engagement activities included detailed exchanges with Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation regarding the scope of the UBE application and associated technical materials. Discussions with Six Nations focused on environmental considerations, including the need for a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study (EIS) or equivalent analysis, the status of the subwatershed study, and the potential impacts of development on ecological systems and the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Six Nations also expressed interest in undertaking a technical peer review of environmental materials, including a proposal from a Six Nations-affiliated organization.

Engagement with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation included a virtual meeting held on May 7, 2025, to review the UBE application, supporting studies, and planning framework. Following this meeting, MCFN provided formal correspondence outlining consultation expectations and submitted a Technical Review Agreement to support their review of project materials. This agreement was executed in May 2025 and established a formal exchange for information sharing, technical review, and ongoing dialogue throughout the planning process.

This phase of engagement reflects a transition from initial notification to more substantive, technical-level discussions, with Indigenous communities actively identifying information gaps, requesting additional studies, and establishing processes for continued participation.

Integration with Ongoing Technical Studies (Subwatershed and Archaeology)

Engagement has continued in parallel with the preparation of supporting technical studies, including natural heritage assessments, subwatershed studies, and archaeological investigations. Indigenous communities have been informed of the status and timing of these studies and have expressed an interest in reviewing materials as they become available.

In particular, Six Nations of the Grand River emphasized that completion of the subwatershed study is critical to understanding potential impacts on environmental systems and Aboriginal and Treaty rights, noting that meaningful assessment of impacts is constrained in the absence of this information. In response, the project team has committed to sharing the subwatershed study upon completion and incorporating feedback into subsequent planning stages.

With respect to archaeological assessments, Stage 1 archaeological assessment was completed across the Elfrida study area by ASI on behalf of the City of Hamilton. Subsequent Stage 2 archaeological assessments will be undertaken by individual landowners as part of future development processes. Indigenous communities, particularly the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have been provided with relevant information regarding archaeological consultants, the status of assessments, and opportunities for participation. Engagement to date has included discussions on Indigenous involvement in archaeological

monitoring, fieldwork participation, and the review of assessment findings, in a manner that aligns with community protocols and applicable provincial standards.

This approach ensures that Indigenous engagement is integrated with the technical planning process and directly informs the identification of potential impacts, mitigation measures, and future land use decisions.

Pre-Application and Iterative Engagement

In advance of the Secondary Plan submission, engagement included the circulation of draft and preliminary materials, including historical studies completed by the City of Hamilton and early-stage technical information prepared by the project team. This approach enabled Indigenous communities to review available information early and identify areas requiring further study or clarification.

Follow-up communications throughout 2025 demonstrate an iterative engagement process, where questions raised by Indigenous communities particularly regarding environmental scope, study boundaries, and technical adequacy were addressed through additional correspondence, clarification of study methodologies, and commitments to future information sharing.

This pre-application engagement approach reflects a good faith effort to provide early and ongoing opportunities for Indigenous input, consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement (2024).

Secondary Plan Engagement (2026)

Engagement activities continued in 2026 in relation to the Elfrida Secondary Plan application. Updated outreach letters were circulated in January 2026 to Indigenous Rights Holders and organizations to notify them of the upcoming Secondary Plan submission and associated studies. Communities contacted included the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre.

In February 2026, notices were distributed inviting participation in an online community engagement session regarding the Secondary Plan. A meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation was subsequently held on March 6, 2026, to present the proposed Secondary Plan, including an overview of the policy framework, site location, development concept, and supporting technical studies.

At the time of this report, Indigenous communities and organizations have been notified of the Secondary Plan process and engagement opportunities. Engagement is expected to continue as additional technical studies are completed and as the planning process advances, including through the ongoing Ontario Land Tribunal proceedings related to the UBE application.

Meeting summaries can be found in Appendix A.

Overall, the engagement undertaken to date demonstrates a phased and responsive approach that has evolved from initial notification to substantive technical engagement and ongoing dialogue. Indigenous communities have been provided with multiple opportunities to review information, identify concerns, and participate in discussions related to environmental, archaeological, and land use planning considerations. Engagement will continue to evolve alongside the planning process, including through the completion of technical studies and the ongoing Ontario Land Tribunal proceedings.

8. Engagement Process and Methodology

Engagement was initiated early in the planning process to ensure Indigenous Rights Holder and communities had the opportunity to review, respond, and shape project direction.

Methods used:

Initial Communication

- Distribution of information materials (via email) to local First Nations, Métis, and Indigenous organizations regarding the proposed development.
- Follow up telephone calls
- Inclusion of a designated point of contact to facilitate consistent communication.
- Initial communication began January 2026:
 - What engagement occurred as part of the UBE application.
 - What engagement is currently occurring as part of the subwatershed study and arch assessments for individual property owners.
 - Any additional pre-application engagement (draft studies)
 - Any Proposed post-submission engagement

Meeting Opportunities

- Offering in-person or virtual meetings with Indigenous community members and organizations.

Flexible Engagement Formats

- Sharing technical studies and information
- Adjusting engagement formats based on community preferences, including one-on-one discussions or alternative forums.

Documentation and Reporting

- Preparing an Indigenous Engagement Summary and Comment Response document as part of the application, summarizing consultation activities and how feedback was addressed.

9. Summary of Feedback and Key Themes

Engagement with Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations for the Elfrida lands began in November 2024 in relation to the Urban Boundary Expansion (UBE) application and has continued through 2026 as part of the Elfrida Secondary Plan process. Initial outreach letters were sent to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR), the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI), the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre. These communications introduced the proposed development and provided opportunities for communities to review project materials and participate in engagement discussions.

Throughout 2025, engagement included follow-up correspondence, information sharing, and a virtual meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation took place on May 7, 2025, during which the proposed Urban Boundary Expansion application, planning framework, site context, and supporting technical studies were reviewed. Following the meeting, MCFN provided consultation expectations and a Technical Review Agreement, which was subsequently executed to support their review of project materials. Engagement, via email correspondence with Six Nations of the Grand River during this period focused primarily on environmental considerations, including questions regarding the availability of environmental studies such as an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and subwatershed study. Six Nations also indicated interest in reviewing technical materials to better understand potential impacts on ecological systems and Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

In 2026, engagement efforts continued in relation to the Elfrida Secondary Plan application. Updated outreach letters were circulated in January 2026 notifying Indigenous communities and organizations of the upcoming Secondary Plan submission and related technical studies. Notices inviting participation in an online engagement session were distributed in February 2026. A meeting with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation was held on March 6, 2026, during which the Secondary Plan proposal, planning policies, site layout, and supporting studies were presented and discussed. At the time of this report, Indigenous communities and organizations have been notified of the Secondary Plan process and engagement opportunities, and engagement is expected to continue as additional technical studies are completed and further planning milestones are reached.

Feedback themes included:

- Interest in land use planning and environmental stewardship
- Concerns regarding potential impacts to culturally significant areas
- Requests for archaeological assessments and cultural heritage protection
- Interest in reviewing environmental and technical studies
- Interest in ongoing dialogue and participation throughout the planning process
- Capacity considerations and the need for appropriate resourcing to support engagement

Engagement activities described in this report are intended to support early relationship-building, information sharing, and meaningful dialogue with Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations whose interests may intersect with the project area. While the duty to consult and accommodate rests with the Crown, the Applicant has undertaken these engagement efforts to ensure that Indigenous communities are informed of the proposed planning process, have opportunities to review project materials, and are able to provide input that may inform project planning and implementation.

10. Responses and Integration into the Plan

Feedback received through engagement with Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations has informed the ongoing planning process for the Elfrida Secondary Plan. Input related to environmental stewardship, cultural heritage protection, and access to technical information has been considered by the project team in shaping the approach to study preparation, information sharing, and future engagement activities.

Environmental considerations raised during engagement are being addressed through the preparation and review of supporting technical studies, including natural heritage and subwatershed analyses. These studies will inform planning decisions and mitigation measures associated with the proposed development and will continue to be shared with Indigenous communities as part of ongoing dialogue and review.

Engagement also highlighted the importance of protecting archaeological resources and enabling Indigenous communities to review project materials. Archaeological assessments will be undertaken by the individual applicants in accordance with provincial requirements, and opportunities for Indigenous participation in monitoring and cultural heritage review will be considered where appropriate. To support meaningful participation, a Technical Review Agreement has been executed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to facilitate the review of project materials. The Applicant will continue to share information and engage with Indigenous communities as additional studies are completed and the planning process advances.

11. Ongoing Relationship Building and Recommendations

The Applicant recognizes that Indigenous engagement is an ongoing process grounded in the principles of respect, transparency, reciprocity, and relationship building. Engagement undertaken to date represents an early stage in a longer process of dialogue with Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations whose interests may intersect with the Elfrida lands. As the planning process progresses, the Applicant remains committed to maintaining open communication and providing opportunities for continued participation.

As additional technical studies and planning materials are completed, these documents will be shared with Indigenous communities to support informed review and dialogue.

Opportunities for meetings and discussions will continue to be offered to communities who wish to engage further regarding project planning, environmental studies, or cultural heritage considerations.

Future project phases will continue to respect applicable archaeological and cultural heritage requirements. Where appropriate, opportunities for Indigenous participation in archaeological monitoring or cultural heritage review will be considered in accordance with provincial standards and community consultation protocols.

The Applicant also recognizes the importance of supporting meaningful participation by Indigenous communities in planning processes that may affect their interests. Where applicable, technical review processes and information-sharing mechanisms will continue to be used to support community review of project materials.

Through these actions, the Applicant seeks to maintain relationships with Indigenous communities and ensure engagement remains ongoing, transparent, and respectful as the Elfrida planning process advances.

12. Closing Statement

This report outlines how the Project is consistent with applicable Provincial and City policies and demonstrates a commitment to reconciliation, responsible planning, and meaningful Indigenous engagement. The engagement undertaken to date reflects efforts to respect Indigenous rights and ensure that Indigenous perspectives are considered in the planning process. As the project advances, the Applicant will continue to build on these relationships through ongoing dialogue and information sharing with Indigenous communities, ensuring that their perspectives remain an important consideration in future phases of planning and implementation.

APPENDIX A

Indigenous Community	Initial Outreach & Follow up Dates	Correspondence Summary	Notes
Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR)	November 19, 2024	Initial outreach to inform community of upcoming Urban Boundary Expansion Official Plan Amendment submission	UBE Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Six Nations of the Grand River.pdf
	November 20, 2024	SNGR strongly supports maintaining the current boundaries and opposes the province’s proposed expansions, while expressing interest in reviewing technical studies, particularly those on potential environmental impacts. They noted the absence of an EIS/natural heritage study and look forward to learning more about ECBG’s proposal, meeting the LOG team, and scheduling a follow-up meeting.	Email Correspondence: Consultation Outreach RE Elfrida Lands City of Hamilton (Six Nations of the Grand River).msg
	December 9, 2024	Sara Jane followed up and noted that the City of Hamilton application had been submitted on November 20, 2024. The LOG suggested scheduling a meeting in early 2025 to share more information, including historic city reports submitted with the application.	

		SNGR agreed with the approach and meeting.	
	March 7, 2025	DUI notified SNGR of the UBE application materials on City's website. Requested for availabilities for a meeting.	
	March 12, 2025	<p>SNGR noted after consulting with the City on its boundary expansion framework, they prefer an in-person meeting now that they better understand the proposal. They also asked if the Elfrida Community Builders Group would fund a technical review of the natural environment studies, in which case SNGR will provide a cost estimate.</p> <p>SNGR followed up requesting further for confirmation of the EIS Study or any equivalent study</p>	
	March 25, 2025	DUI confirmed that a detailed EIS was not required and that the link SNGR referenced includes the Preliminary Vegetation Inventory and Constraints Memo summarizing natural heritage features and fieldwork. Additional fieldwork will support the Subwatershed Study, expected to be ready around Fall 2025.	

	March 27, 2025	<p>SNGR stated that natural environmental studies must be completed before submissions and opposed applications on environmentally sensitive lands, noting that without the sub-watershed study it is impossible to assess impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights or recommend mitigation. They requested that the boundary expansion application be withdrawn until the study is available and asked that any animals and plants important to SNGR members.</p>	
	March 31, 2025	<p>DUI clarified that while the detailed sub-watershed study for the Urban Boundary Expansion application is still in progress, it is expected to be completed by the fall for the Secondary Plan submission and will then be shared with Six Nations for review; they also noted that the City of Hamilton completed a Subwatershed Study for the Elfrida lands in 2018. The LOG confirmed receipt of the confidential list of important animals and plants, invited SNGR representatives to a public virtual open house, and expressed openness to meeting directly to support meaningful consultation.</p>	
	April 1, 2025	<p>SNGR acknowledged the 2018 study and asked whether the natural heritage review fully overlaps with the lands in question or if portions of the study extend beyond them.</p>	

	April 2, 2025	<p>DUI replied that the City’s Subwatershed Study and the LOG’s natural heritage work completely overlap, except for the existing dry industrial/commercial area at the southwest corner of Rymal Road East and Upper Centennial Parkway. These lands are not being fully assessed in the LOG’s work since they are already developed, but the City’s study has accounted for them.</p> <p>A follow-up email was sent to confirm whether the previously shared information was satisfactory and to ask if there is anything further LOG can assist with.</p>	
	May 6, 2025	<p>SNGR replied that, while a dedicated up-to-date EIS is needed to assess impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, they can review what information can be drawn from the 2018 study. They asked if LOG is agreeable to SNGR obtaining a quote for a professional document review.</p>	
	May 6, 2025	<p>DUI stated that the LOG is agreeable to Six Nations obtaining a quote for the Landowner Groups consideration.</p>	

		A further follow up was made to see if SNGR had a chance to obtain the quote, for the Landowners consideration.	
	June 27, 2025	SNGR replied that they are onboarding a Six Nations company to conduct peer reviews, so the process is still ongoing. They also advised canceling the previous request due to Hamilton’s decision.	
	January 15, 2026	Subsequent Outreach to inform community of upcoming Secondary Plan Application Amendment and submission of related studies and reports.	Secondary Plan Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Six Nations of the Grand River - January 2026.pdf
	February 6, 2026	Sara Jane circulated the Notice of the Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan Application amendment on February 18 th , 2026.	Notice of Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan: 2026-01-27 - Notice of Elfrida Secondary Plan Community Meeting.pdf

Mississauga of the Credit First Nations (MCFN)	November 19, 2024	Initial outreach to inform community of upcoming Urban Boundary Expansion Official Plan Amendment submission A further follow up was sent to confirm receipt of the letter and interest in engagement.	UBE Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.pdf
	January 9, 2025	MCFN sent a letter of response from the MCFN-DOCA. They look forward to engaging meaningfully with you on this project as Treaty Holders of the land on which this project is situated.	MCFN DOCA Response Letter: 2025-03-31 - MCFN DOCA-Response.pdf
	March 7, 2025	DUI replied to MCFN with proposed dates for an introductory virtual meeting and shared application materials available on the City’s website. A further follow up was sent, and a meeting was scheduled for May 7, 2025.	
	May 7, 2025	A meeting took place between DUI/LOG and MCFN, during which the proposed UBE Application Plan application was reviewed, including an overview of the policies, site location, neighborhood layout, and supporting studies, followed by a Q&A session	Meeting Presentation: 2025-05-07 - Elfrida UBE Indigenous Engagement Presentation.pdf

	May 8, 2025	Following the meeting, MCFN shared their standard Technical Review Agreement as well as a letter from MCFN-DOCA, about their expectations for consultation and engagement.	
	May 8, 2025	DUI acknowledged the letter, forwarded it to the landowners along with the list of preferred archaeological consultants from the meeting. Further information was provided on the Stage 1 archaeological assessment completed by ASI and the reliance letter, and map showing participating owners' lands and assessment status.	
	May 26, 2025	DUI clarified that the capacity funding agreement applies to reviews of overall Elfrida-related items, including MCFN's review of the UBE application materials and natural heritage or archaeological studies covering the full Elfrida lands. Individual owners' agreements, however, would only cover site-specific works, such as MCFN field staff participation or review of reports for a particular owner's property.	Executed Technical Review Agreement: Elfrida Lands Technical Review Agreement 2025-05-23.pdf

		The Technical Review Agreement by both parties on May 28, 2025.	
	June 19, 2025	MCFN shared a comment letter on the UBE application materials. MCFN appreciated the continued meaningful engagement with LOG on this project as Treaty Holders of the land on which this project is situated.	MCFN DOCA Comment Letter: 2025-06-19 - MCFN DOCA-Response.pdf
	August 27, 2025	DUI provided a response letter addressing MCFN’s comments on the UBE Application materials.	ECBG Response Letter: 2025-08-27 - MCFN Response Letter (Elfrida 2024-0652).pdf
	January 15, 2026	Subsequent Outreach to inform community of upcoming Secondary Plan Application Amendment and submission of related studies and reports.	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation - January 2026.pdf

	February 6, 2026	Sara Jane circulated the Notice of the Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan Application amendment on February 18 th , 2026.	<p>Notice of Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan:</p> <p>2026-01-27 - Notice of Elfrida Secondary Plan Community Meeting.pdf</p>
	March 6, 2026	A meeting took place between DUI/LOG and MCFN, during which the proposed Secondary Plan application was reviewed, including an overview of the policies, site location, neighborhood layout, and supporting studies, followed by a Q&A session	<p>Meeting Agenda:</p> <p>2026-03-06 - Elfrida - MCFN Meeting Agenda.pdf</p> <p>Meeting Presentation:</p> <p>2026-03-06 - Elfrida Secondary Plan_FINAL Presentation MCFN.pdf</p>
	March 6, 2026	Following the meeting, MCFN shared their standard Technical Review Agreement to DUI/LOG and Treaty Acknowledgement language to incorporate into the Elfrida Secondary Plan document.	
	April 2, 2026	The sender thanks Megan for the draft Technical Review Agreement and provides a marked-up version following internal review. Two key revisions are proposed: flexibility around	

		sharing draft reports due to tight timelines (with full materials provided at submission and opportunity for MCFN review), and clarification that archaeological work is undertaken by individual landowners, with notification and engagement opportunities for MCFN where applicable. The revisions also aim to keep the agreement current with evolving legislative and archaeological standards, and the sender looks forward to finalizing the agreement promptly.	
	April 7, 2026	Megan emphasizes that proponents must build project timelines that allow for meaningful consultation with MCFN, noting that delayed consideration of feedback undermines their role. She seeks clarification on revisions to Clause 6, asserting that the LOG must provide notice for archaeological work and that references to provincial requirements be removed in favour of MCFN's own standards. She also questions the removal or status of several clauses related to documentation, fieldwork, archaeological standards, and burial protocols, stressing that these are essential to MCFN's review process and should remain.	
	April 20, 2026	Virtual meeting with Megan to discuss the agreements and a commitment to ongoing engagement following submission of the Secondary Plan application.	
Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI)	November 19, 2024	Initial outreach to inform community of upcoming Urban Boundary Expansion Official Plan Amendment submission	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Haudenosaunee Development Institute.pdf

	January 7, 2025	HDI confirmed receipt of letter and interest in-person meeting with DUI/LOG.	
	March 31, 2025	DUI followed up to coordinate meeting and advise of Online Community Meeting	
	January 15, 2026	Subsequent Outreach to inform community of upcoming Secondary Plan Application Amendment and submission of related studies and reports.	<p>Outreach Letter:</p> <p>Elfrida Outreach Letter - Haudenosaunee Development Institute - January 2026.pdf</p>
	February 6, 2026	Sara Jane circulated the Notice of the Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan Application amendment on February 18 th , 2026.	<p>Notice of Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan:</p> <p>2026-01-27 - Notice of Elfrida Secondary Plan Community Meeting.pdf</p>

Huron-Wendat	November 19, 2024	Initial outreach to inform community of upcoming Urban Boundary Expansion Official Plan Amendment submission.	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Huron-Wendat.pdf
	March 31, 2025	DUI followed up to coordinate meeting and advise of Online Community Meeting	
	January 15, 2026	Subsequent Outreach to inform community of upcoming Secondary Plan Application Amendment and submission of related studies and reports.	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Huron-Wendat - January 2026.pdf
	February 6, 2026	Sara Jane circulated the Notice of the Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan Application amendment on February 18 th , 2026.	Notice of Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan: 2026-01-27 - Notice of Elfrida Secondary Plan Community Meeting.pdf

Metis Nation Organization	November 19, 2024	Initial outreach to inform community of upcoming Urban Boundary Expansion Official Plan Amendment submission	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Metis Nation Organization.pdf
	March 31, 2025	DUI followed up to coordinate meeting and advise of Online Community Meeting.	
	January 15, 2026	Subsequent Outreach to inform community of upcoming Secondary Plan Application Amendment and submission of related studies and reports.	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Metis Nation Organization - January 2026.pdf
	February 6, 2026	Sara Jane circulated the Notice of the Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan Application amendment on February 18 th , 2026.	Notice of Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan: 2026-01-27 - Notice of Elfrida Secondary Plan Community Meeting.pdf

Hamilton Regional Indian Centre	November 19, 2024	Initial outreach to inform community of upcoming Urban Boundary Expansion Official Plan Amendment submission	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Urban First Nation Centre.pdf
	March 31, 2025	DUI followed up to coordinate meeting and advise of Online Community Meeting.	
	January 15, 2026	Subsequent Outreach to inform community of upcoming Secondary Plan Application Amendment and submission of related studies and reports.	Outreach Letter: Elfrida Outreach Letter - Urban First Nation Centre - January 2026.pdf
	February 6, 2026	Sara Jane circulated the Notice of the Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan Application amendment on February 18 th , 2026.	Notice of Online Community Engagement for the Secondary Plan: 2026-01-27 - Notice of Elfrida Secondary Plan Community Meeting.pdf

