# Third Crossing Naming Campaign Meeting #3 – Summary Notes

Members of the Indigenous community in and around the City of Kingston met for the third meeting regarding the Third Crossing Naming Campaign on Tuesday May 11, 2021. The purpose of this third meeting was to come to agreement on a long list of naming suggestions that will then be narrowed down to a short list in an upcoming meeting.

May 9, 2021 marked the end of the survey that had been available to the public via Kingston's Get Involved webpage and by email. In total, 173 surveys were completed and over 60 unique naming ideas were put forward by Kingston residents through the survey. Prior to the community meeting on Tuesday, those who had registered or who had attended previous community meetings were sent anonymized data from the public survey for their review.

The first portion of the meeting had the participants review and confirm the naming criteria that was collectively created during meeting #2. This activity was used as a first step in narrowing down both the names that had been suggested through the public survey as well as the names and ideas that had been submitted or brainstormed in the first two community meetings. For example, using the criteria, name suggestions commemorating a person or people were disqualified from the long list.

This activity narrowed the list from over 60 names down to 49 naming suggestions. Naming ideas were then grouped into 4 categories: History & Geography, Relationships / Connections, Nature / Environment and Miscellaneous. The long list activity began with a discussion of how the first category, "History & Geography", was going to be considered. Since most of the suggestions would be honouring just one Nation or one point of history (for example, "Algonquin Crossing", "Haudenosaune Way" or "Wendat Bridge") it was decided that these names would also not qualify for the long list.

Participants were then split into small groups to discuss and come to consensus on names and naming ideas from the remaining three categories that would be recommended to move forward in the process.

The names that remained on the long list at the end of the exercise were categorized into three more general naming concepts: Relationships, Water, and Literal/Descriptive.

The following provides an overview of the three general naming concepts that remain as well as some of the naming suggestions that fit within the concept and a brief glimpse into the conversations that have been had about these suggestions

1. Relationships

Both participants of the Third Crossing Naming Campaign meetings and members of the public who participated in the survey provided naming suggestions that can be organized under the theme of relationships. The concept of building and strengthening relationships between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians has been a recurring theme throughout many of the discussions surrounding the Third Crossing. Specifically, participants of the community meetings have articulated their desire to utilize the opportunity of naming the bridge as a recognition of healing currently happening through Truth and Reconciliation process or choosing a forward-looking name that looks to a brighter future for all.

Suggestions of types of names that could describe this relationship included:

- Unity Bridge
- Noojimo ("heal" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Tehniiáshe ("two people" in Mohawk)
- Waaban ("dawn" or "east" or "tomorrow" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Kaien'kéna ("connect, bring together" in Mohawk)
- Canata (village, but also recognizes that Canada comes from an Indigenous word)
- Horizon (speaks to imagery / environment and can be a metaphor for looking to future)

2. Water

Nature and environmental themes were discussed in all three community meetings as well as in the survey. Unsurprisingly, the image that was most prominent in these discussions was the water that the bridge will cross. Water is a sacred element with significant spiritual meaning in many Indigenous cultures. Indigenous community members spoke of the Water Walkers who dedicate their lives to protecting and advocating for water. They listed educational opportunities about the geography, history and environmental health of the Cataraqui River itself, and also the overall importance of water and water protection to all humans. There would also be a natural opportunity to highlight the story of the bridge itself in terms of its context-sensitive design.

- Nibi Bridge ("water" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Ohne:ka Bridge ("water" in Mohawk)
- Awasagaam ("across the water" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Bimikiwan ("the water's current flows along" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Giizhig Jiimaan ("sky canoe" in Anishinaabemowin)

3. Descriptive

Throughout the process to date, participants of the Third Naming Campaign have expressed that, within an Indigenous worldview, place names do not simply mark a place or an inanimate object, but rather, many Indigenous Nations have traditionally and historically given names to places and spaces that provide reference points that orient a person in a physical, social, and cultural space. Translations of Indigenous languages used to name places and spaces are often literal descriptions of such.

In this particular case the word bridge translated into a number of Indigenous languages and then translated back into English is often provides a description of what a bridge is and its use. For example, some translations into Indigenous languages that have been suggested include:

- Ashkogan ("Bridge" in Mohawk)
- Aazhogan  ("Bridge" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Aazhoge, ("he crosses the water by bridge" in Anishinaabemowin)
- Ahska 'Tesahski:is'k, ("you cross the bridge" in Mohawk)

Additional conversations surrounding this general naming concept has also led to discussions around future learning opportunities to the general public.

A circle process will be used during meeting #4 on May 25th 2021, to come to consensus on a shortlist of names to present to the public. A key focus of this conversation will also be regarding the use of Indigenous languages and discussing processes for identifying which language or languages to use and how this might be done.