

MEDIA RELEASE

Public Input Invited for Sculpture Commemorating the Heritage of Indigenous People and Racialized Minorities in Kingston



A new sculpture, which commemorates the heritage of Indigenous peoples and racialized minority peoples in Kingston, is planned for the forecourt of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. Five proposals for the art installation are on display in the atrium of the Isabel and the public is invited to provide input.

The art installation will be the culmination of a research project investigating the impact of Kingston's dominant cultural heritage narratives on the wellbeing of Indigenous and racialized minorities. The project is led by a multidisciplinary research team of political and legal theorists as well as health care researchers, with guidance provided by an advisory circle of Indigenous and racialized minority community leaders.

The project, 'Toppling Monuments: Colonial Trauma, Justice, Heritage and Restorative Healing', centres on key questions about Kingston's cultural heritage: Whose stories are being honoured, in what way, and at what cost? And especially important, what is the way forward?

'We learned that Kingston's heritage narratives – think of Sir John A Macdonald or the United Empire Loyalists – have had a complicated effect on underrepresented groups', says Professor Christine Sypnowich, the project's principal investigator. The project's research indicates that, while some people admire Kingston's limestone buildings or welcome a holiday to mark Canada Day, others find the cultural heritage stories told about Kingston to be exclusive and hurtful. The art installation will try to remedy that by commemorating heritage narratives of the oppression, resilience, and achievements of Indigenous and racialized minority peoples.

'The prospect of a new art installation that will honour the untold stories of Kingston's heritage is so exciting,' says Carol Ann Budd, an Indigenous alumnus of Queen's Engineering and a member of the project's advisory circle. 'The sculpture promises to be a key Kingston landmark for generations to come.'

The proposals will be on display at the Isabel Bader Centre until May 12th. Members of the public can also view the proposals and offer their feedback online: [Queen's 'Toppling Monuments' Project: Tell us what you think! – Fill out form](#) See also the attached poster and flyer.

For further information: Christine Sypnowich christine.sypnowich@queensu.ca