



Georgian Bay Métis Council
355 Cranston Cr, PO Box 4
Midland, ON
L4R 4K6

July 31, 2020

Dear Mr. Garratt and members of the Georgian Bay Métis Council,

We discussed your email and proposed correspondence dated July 18, 2020 addressed to the Culture Alliance in the Heart of Georgian Bay at our meeting this week. We commend and appreciate your commitment to the Métis community in our area. And, reading your correspondence, we were concerned that you did not feel your community was being represented on or engaged in the Culture Alliance. We took it upon ourselves to refresh our knowledge of the Culture Alliance and review the composition of the Alliance.

As you are aware, the Culture Alliance is made up of five communities: Beausoleil First Nations, Midland, Penetanguishene, Township of Tay and Township of Tiny. Each of these communities has committed \$20,000 each so far to support the Alliance.

You express concern that there is “not a single voice for the Métis or Francophone cultural communities. Within the geographic boundaries of our five communities are many residents who identify as being Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) or Francophone. It is important to us, and our five community representatives on the Culture Alliance, that these cultures be represented. It is for that reason that the application form used for applying for appointments to the Culture Alliance asks for such identification and that consideration is given to such factors when selecting the six at-large positions on the Culture Alliance. We were pleased to learn, and trust that you will also be pleased to learn, that both Métis and Francophone cultural communities are represented on the Cultural Alliance. Just recently, a former member of the Georgian Bay Métis Council has joined the committee.

You express concern about the selection process for At-Large delegates. In preparation for our meeting, we asked members of the Culture Alliance to advise us of any efforts to engage you, as a leader in the Métis community. We have been assured that you were provided multiple opportunities to participate:

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| August 14, 2019 | Councillor Hastings and Karen Mealing met with Georgian Bay Métis Council to provide background on the Culture Alliance |
| August 15, 2019 | Application form sent to you for distribution to your members |
| September 5, 2019 | Email from Karen Mealing to remind you of Sept. 6 application deadline as no applications had been received |
| October 23, 2019 | You submitted an application to the Culture Alliance. |

- October 26, 2019 Culture Alliance Chair, Fred Hacker, sent a letter to you explaining that the deadline had passed for the appointment but that the Culture Alliance would welcome your participation on its sub-committees

- November 25, 2019 Invitation sent to you to join the Cultural Heritage subcommittee which you accepted. Although you could not attend that meeting, you were copied on all correspondence for that subcommittee going forward

- February 24, 2020 You attended a Cultural Heritage subcommittee meeting (which appears to be the only sub-committee meeting you attended although the subcommittee has met several times)

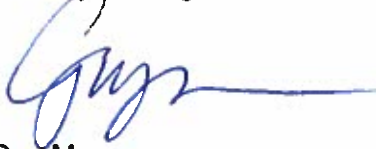
- May 7 and 22, 2020 E-newsletters and social media posts went out with a call for new applications

- May 28, 2020 Email to all subcommittee members inviting them to apply. As a member of the Heritage subcommittee you would have received that email.

- June 15, 2020 Deadline for applications extended from June 14th to June 26th

We trust that you are satisfied with this review of the Culture Alliance activities and their continued efforts at inclusion. We look forward to many exciting projects coming out of the Culture Alliance that include and highlight the important role that all cultural groups, including the Métis people, play in our communities.

Thank you, Miigwech, Merci,



Guy Monague
Chief Beausoleil First Nation




Stewart Strathearn
Mayor Town of Midland



Doug Leroux
Mayor Town of Penetanguishene



Ted Walker
Mayor Township of Tay



George Cornell
Mayor Township of Tiny