

April 7, 2026

Indigenous Advisory Circle

of the Municipality of North Grenville

COMMUNITY VISION 2026 and beyond

The language of the original Anishinabek peoples of this territory describes the lands and spirits of this place.

VISION STATEMENT

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) envisions a future where all residents of the Municipality of North Grenville recognize and respect the lands of the Algonquin Nation, the history and connection that the people have to the land, and the stewardship and care roles they played in maintaining these lands. The IAC envisions a diverse community that is sustainable, and viable, built on respect for Indigenous cultural values, Anishinabek language and history and protects a legacy of healthy ecosystems for future generations, with an understanding that growth cannot be infinite with finite resources.

Central to this vision are the values we share as a community: living in balance with the natural world, working together cooperatively and peacefully, taking personal and collective responsibility for the well-being of the people, and celebrating the special spirit and energy of this unique part of Algonquin territory.

We embark on a spirit of reconciliation with Settler communities and honour cooperatively working together on this land called Algonquin territory.

BACKGROUND

In the 2023 the Municipal Council of North Grenville mandated the Indigenous Advisory Circle as a committee of Council, as part of a Truth and Reconciliation initiative, to create a foundation for the community to build respectful relationships with, and create a more inclusive representation of, Indigenous Peoples within the Municipality of North Grenville.

The IAC has been meeting since 2023, and there have been many requests from various sectors in the community seeking Indigenous perspectives on community projects and initiatives. In response to these requests the IAC has determined to develop an Indigenous perspective on community development to inform other community groups on what Indigenous Peoples envision for the future of the Municipality of North Grenville.

The vision statement is intended to play three roles in the community:

- To inspire and motivate actions that lead to the realization of the community's sectoral visions, and the protection and preservation of the local environment and rural lifestyle
- To provide a tool that groups and individuals can use to confirm that a particular economic or social initiative fits with what the community wants for itself. The visions are not intended as a limiting factor or enforcement mechanism for new initiatives, but rather to help guide the ongoing work of choosing the wisest directions for the Municipality.

- To inspire respect for the culture, customs, traditions, language and worldviews of the Anishinabek Nation

This Vision for the Municipality of North Grenville is based in hope for the future, and relies on the enthusiasm, commitment, and involvement of residents themselves. Making the Vision a reality will require the community to work together — as individuals, families and neighbours, visitors, local organizations, and governing bodies — one step at a time.

OVERARCHING COMMUNITY GOALS for VISION

Recognizing Indigenous Territory and Living Sustainably

The Municipality of North Grenville understands and appreciates that we live on the territories of the Algonquin Nation, who centred themselves in ecosystems understanding the inter-connectedness of all things. This worldview commanded people to govern themselves with respect for each other and for the lands they lived in.

Because living in balance with nature is essential, we commit to:

- Mitigating climate change impacts
- Improving transportation systems
- Supporting Renewable energy
- Practicing Sustainable building practices
- Recycling
- Water conservation
- Strengthening Community
- Protecting Biodiversity
- Maintaining wildlife corridors
- Enhancing ecosystems
- Restoration of degraded lands
- Composting organic waste safely for use in agriculture
- Protecting trees, watersheds, and wetlands
- Protection of medicinal plant species
- Seasonal acknowledgement of the ancestral spirits of this land

We pool resources, share skills, and work co-operatively to build a healthy diverse community that has:

- Mutual respect
- Respect for and Inclusion of Diversity
- Respect for Diversity of Abilities
- Food security
- Adequate housing
- A thriving education system
- Healthcare available for everyone.
- Consideration for Accessibility in all spaces
- A Thriving Economy built on living wages
- Supporting life transitions for adolescents, Elders and multigenerational connections
- Supporting the transitions of birth and death with a more holistic approach

We diversify the economy by building on community strengths such as:

- The arts
- Sustainable agriculture
- Diverse healing arts
- Engaged conscientious tourism
- Living in harmony with nature.
- Maintaining Local Control

We empower the community to establish local mechanisms for:

- Dealing with conflict
- Protecting the environment
- Providing essential services
- Creating peace and security
- Meeting the needs of all our citizens
- Support locally-based employment
- Community values

We acknowledge – but do not try to impose on others – the core values that guide our personal lives and community decisions.

We value:

- Connecting with the natural world and treading lightly within it
- Diversity of People
- Biodiversity, and resilient ecosystems
- The spirit and energy of this unique place and its people
- Simplicity, self-sufficiency, and sustainability
- Working through our disagreements in a respectful manner
- The strong sense of belonging and safety that comes from living in this community
- Our connections with the rest of the world
- Local control over decisions that affect our community and our environment
- Working co-operatively to create an inclusive and healthy community
- Creativity and innovation
- Reconciliation with Indigenous people and acknowledging their connection to these lands
- Science-based responses to technological changes
- Addressing the climate crisis through enhanced understanding and effective responses.
- Application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- A complete, walkable, and circular community

SECTORAL VISIONS

1. Agriculture and Forestry

Community residents encourage local food self-sufficiency, organic horticulture, permaculture, aquaculture, and creating value-added agricultural products. Local agricultural products are effectively marketed both for use inside and outside the community.

The community uses a large percentage of available land for agriculture and facilities for food production are available for community use.

Visitors come to the Municipality to learn about best practices in forest management and participate in our thriving agricultural sector.

2. Arts

The community of North Grenville is known for its thriving arts community. All the arts are part of our daily lives, and we cherish the contributions that artists, performers, and crafts people make to our community.

Art is also one of the mainstays of the economy, with both residents and visitors buying local arts and crafts and enjoying the many learning opportunities provided around the arts. Through mutual support and collective initiatives, local artists work together to improve their skills and livelihoods.

Local artists and Indigenous artists collaborate.

3. Building Practices

Buildings and developments will be conceived with an understanding that we are land stewards, and with a view to protecting the natural world and existing ecosystems for the future benefit of generations to come. We will honour the history of the land by mapping archeological evidence of the Algonquin peoples' presence to inform the protection of sacred sites and spaces.

Buildings in North Grenville are known for their beautiful and creative design and their environmental sensitivity. Energy-efficient buildings with a light ecological footprint are the norm. Recycled and innovative materials are used where possible.

New buildings and renovations are done in a manner that is sensitive to the unique North Grenville aesthetic and in harmony with the natural environment. This style embraces affordability, accessibility.

Building methods and materials incorporate a "zero-waste" philosophy and alternative energy practices. The community works to promote recycling and re-use of building materials. Buildings and landscaping integrate energy conservation methods and water catchment, storage, and waste treatment techniques.

Consider best practices from Indigenous communities.

4. Community Enterprises and Infrastructure

Co-operative and community-run ventures are flourishing because the community believes that collective initiatives can be effective ways to meet the community's needs, maintain local control, and create a healthy economy. In order to live the simple, low-impact lifestyle we desire, we have developed many effective ways for pooling and sharing our resources, talents, and

energy. Mutual effort and respect enable us to achieve our goals of self-reliance and self-determination.

Local government bodies and community organizations play an active role in initiating and sustaining a variety of ventures for the common well-being, from land acquisition to construction of facilities and the establishment of communal ventures. We take inspiration from the many shining examples of our community spirit in action, particularly in the community buildings and services.

Many of our needs are met locally in centrally-clustered service areas, which encourages the shared use of resources such as parking lots, energy, and equipment. These central areas also provide opportunities for people to gather, participate in the arts and cultural activities, shop, and visit.

The community should be complete and walkable.

5. Education

North Grenville is known as a centre for learning. People of all ages have plentiful opportunities to develop their full potential. Education focuses on community assets such as healing practices, agriculture, the arts, music, natural history, conservation, Indigenous history and teachings and environmental stewardship.

The community has created a lifelong learning infrastructure that is responsive to local needs, accessible, flexible, well-funded, and sustainable. Learners and teachers from around the world are welcome and important participants.

There is a high level of local involvement in all aspects of the educational system. The education system emphasizes inter-generational mentoring, global awareness and connection, developing life skills, creativity, and environmental awareness.

The community values its Community Schools, Preschools, and Forest schools, agriculture, horticulture, and works to ensure their continued viability. People are offered a choice of excellent high schools in English, French and Anishnabemowin. Education promotes academic, social, creative, environmental, stewardship, and economic development. High speed internet provides more advanced learning opportunities and training.

6. Environmental Stewardship

We are living in balance and harmony with the Earth. Many of us chose to live here because of the healthy rural environment and we cherish our intimate connection with the natural world. We understand the natural limits of this fragile ecosystem and strive to reduce our ecological footprint by living lightly on the land.

We take an active role in educating ourselves and our visitors on environmental issues and are known for our environmental sustainability. Our “reduce, reuse, recycle” program has integrated the “zero waste” ethic into our daily lives. We practice Environmental Stewardship everyday.

All forms of human activity are designed to have a minimal impact on the environment. Land use planning emphasizes resource conservation. We take a strong stand on protecting our water resources, defending native species from invasion, avoiding the use of harmful chemicals, and maintaining a GMO- and nuclear-free zone. Effective mechanisms are in place to conserve

our supply of clean fresh water for everyone in the community for generations to come. Safe, innovative systems for processing sewage are widely used and authorized.

We are a centre of learning for conservation, environmental stewardship, land restoration, living lightly, and innovation.

7. Governance, Peace-making, and Conflict Resolution

Community members value and actively participate in a model of autonomous governance, with referrals for expert opinions and guidance. This structure is responsive to the community, encourages and facilitates egalitarian participation, and is based on the principles of consensus building and cooperative conflict resolution.

This kind of governance structure will:

- Based in principles of non-violent communication
- Be reflective of our diverse population
- Retain local taxes to meet local needs, wherever possible
- Be aware of the affordability of property taxes
- Have in place clear conflict resolution mechanisms to resolve community disagreements on policy, neighbourhood, political, and land-use issues
- Maximize local decision-making on local issues
- Cooperate with neighbouring communities, other agencies and resources
- Look for efficiencies in service delivery
- Facilitate inclusive, informed, and widespread participation in decision-making, including free, prior, and informed consent
- Encourage community groups to meet regularly to create a network/forum for discussion, celebration, referrals, and decision-making
- Support of elected officials and committee chairs, with acknowledgement of their leadership role.
- Create a safe, understanding, and trusting community that is respectful of its core values, which include personal responsibility, informed decision making, respectful communication, and a variety of local mechanisms for resolving conflict.

8. Health and Wellness

North Grenville is a place where people come to heal and to be healed. The community defines health as inclusive of physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and spiritual well-being, and not merely the absence of disease. Individuals are supported in their effort to become self-actualized, integrated beings. Spirituality is recognized as a vital aspect of health and all sacred paths and health choices are respected and supported. People take personal responsibility to maintain their own health and have access to many options for preventive care and healing.

To assure lifelong well-being, we have high-quality, community-based health care. There is a community-run holistic health care centre that embraces conventional and integrative health practices. We reach out to health experts and networks in the wider world and invite people to visit our excellent healing facilities. There is a traditional Anishinabek healing lodge.

The community values its local health services such as doctors, nurse, and clinic staff; First Responders team; dentists; home support services; Health Care Societies; and diverse alternative wellness practitioners.

The community acknowledges the importance of preventative measures to protect health and prioritizes education about preventative measures to protect human health.

The community works to educate about and enhance all the determinants of good health, such as safety; affordable housing; healthy food and clean water; social interconnectedness; economic well-being; support for children, families, and seniors; and easy access to all levels of health care. We have an integrated support system for people with addiction and mental health issues. More informal and peer-to-peer support groups.

9. Housing

A range of secure, truly affordable, and accessible housing options is available. Streamlined land use regulations and bylaws allow a broad range of housing options, from ownership to rental, from large rural lots to clustered housing. There are areas with mixed-use zoning, multi-generational housing, and community facilities and services. Landlords and tenants are responsible to, and respectful of, each other and the environment. Housing is designed to promote connectedness in the community.

Housing is energy efficient, ecologically sound, and well maintained, with an adequate water supply augmented by rainwater harvesting and an environmentally friendly wastewater system.

10. Recreation

North Grenville residents enjoy being physical and having fun, and have created many interesting opportunities to gather together, celebrate, and stay healthy in mind and body. There is a lively cross-generational cultural scene with activities that are an ongoing part of community life.

Local waterways and local parks provide opportunities for outdoor activities including family or community picnics. Children and teens have plenty of space and opportunity for creative and recreational activities. Facilities for recreation and entertainment fit with local values, are small in scale, and reflect a rural lifestyle.

There is an annual Pow Wow held to celebrate Indigenous peoples and facilitate gathering, socializing, and Indigenous food and craft markets.

11. Social support

Diversity is a cornerstone of a healthy community. North Grenville thinks of itself as a large multi-generational family—we take care of each other like an extended family would and take responsibility for meeting the needs of our community members. Strong neighbourhoods provide a place where people know and support each other, share resources, and form a close social network. Families, singles, youth, and seniors are all vital parts of our diverse community, and a balance of representation from all these groups has been achieved.

Activities, services, and support are available for everyone so that they are able to have a safe and enjoyable life. Youth are a vital part of the community and have opportunities for education, recreation, and employment. We have excellent infrastructure in place to allow our elders to

remain in the community until the end of their days. This includes health care, housing, and other support services.

There are many opportunities for close connection among all members of the community from the very young to the very elderly. Effective relationship and communication skills are a vital part of maintaining a healthy community. Services and support mechanisms are in place to address the needs of people who are in crisis.

North Grenville is home to a centralized Indigenous Friendship Centre where all residents can participate in Anishinabek teachings, language development and social activities.

12. Tourism

Tourism is an important part of North Grenville's diverse and thriving economy. Tourism is actively planned and managed for the benefit of residents, visitors, and the community itself. We foster low-impact, "intentional" tourism and have a manageable, comfortable number of visitors each year.

We prefer the concept of a "visitor" rather than a "tourist". A visitor is someone who comes to the community in the same manner in which they would visit a friend – respectfully and lovingly – and we welcome them accordingly. We have found ways to inform visitors and summer residents about the lifestyles, values, and ecology of North Grenville so that tourism is a positive experience for both residents and visitors.

The ideal visitor would:

- come here to respect and celebrate Anishinabek culture
- come here because they appreciate and share our interests and values
- walk, bike, or use public transportation
- purchase local goods, food, and services
- walk lightly on the land (including water use and disposal)
- contribute time and energy for the benefit of the people and participate in the community

We have incorporated some of the ideas from the "Slow Cities" movement such as preserving and celebrating our traditions and lifestyles and encouraging our visitors to participate in them. We work at what we love, and people come to learn about what we have to offer. Visitor accommodation is accessible for people of all income levels. The community feels energized and stimulated by visitors and welcomes the excitement and fun provided by interaction with new people and new ideas. Visitors leave feeling revitalized in body, mind and spirit.

13. Transportation and Green Energy

We are no longer participate in the global petroleum economy.

There is strong support and encouragement for the development and use of renewable energy systems that promote local energy self-sufficiency and are environmentally sensitive. There are active research and development projects taking place on renewable energy sources.

We are forerunners in the use of renewable energy sources for transportation. We use environmentally friendly fuels to power our vehicles and have significantly reduced our use of individual motorized vehicles.

We have a low-cost, convenient, community transportation system, such as buses and a train to get around. The ferry system to the city of Ottawa is affordable and provides convenient service. There is a strong infrastructure, making it easy for visitors and residents to choose to travel by foot, or by bike. We encourage ride sharing and the use of community transit. We have lessened the need to travel because many of our needs are met locally in a centrally clustered service area.