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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN CELEBRATES NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY **Museum receives greetings from Grand Chief**

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – On June 21 the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day by recognizing culture, heritage and contributions of Indigenous Peoples in our community and beyond. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre received greetings from Grand Chief Sioui of the Huron-Wendat Nation in celebration of the day:

“On behalf of the Huron-Wendat Nation, and as Grand Chief, I am pleased to mark this day of celebration of Indigenous peoples. Today, with all the pride of the Wendat people, we honour our contribution to the world and our priceless and precious cultural, historical and heritage wealth. Today and throughout the year, I encourage everyone to promote a better knowledge of each other and a better understanding of our history, because if we want to give full meaning to reconciliation among all those who share the same territory, we must promote opportunities for sharing and meeting, and what better place than the Stouffville Museum, in the heart of the Huron-Wendat Nation's ancestral lands, to make this gesture that promotes the well-being and a better life together. I wish you an excellent day, in peace and friendship. Önenh!”

Whitchurch-Stouffville has rich historical connections with the Huron-Wendat Nation. The Town is committed to sharing the history of the Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site, which was home to a remarkable 16th century Ancestral Huron-Wendat community uncovered in southeast Stouffville between 2003-2005. As explained by the Huron-Wendat Nation, this archaeological site corroborates Huron-Wendat knowledge and culture in terms of its ultimate origins and deepest cultural identity.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre currently hosts *Archaeology Alive! The Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site in Whitchurch-Stouffville* which features artifacts from

the site. Due to closures related to COVID-19 the exhibit is currently unavailable, however it has been extended until August 2021 and a virtual version is under development. Museum Curator Krista Rauchenstein says “The Museum is excited to soon be showcasing a virtual exhibit that will feature a small offering of what can be seen on site. Our aim is to provide you with some information and a glimpse at a selection of artifacts currently on exhibit”.

This virtual offering will be available on our new economic development website L4A.ca in the coming weeks.

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