

**Frequently Asked Questions About the Proposed Mural
Indigenous Solidarity Working Group
October 21, 2020**

Introduction:

The Indigenous Solidarity Working Group/ISWG has brought forward a proposal to the parish about having a mural painted by an Indigenous artist. The mural would be mounted on the cement section of the wall along Avenue Road.

The ISWG's section on The Redeemer's web site includes: 1) **The Proposal for the mural.** This is a comprehensive document that includes a theological rationale for the mural; highlights of the Anglican Church of Canada's commitment to truth and reconciliation concerning the church's role in residential schools and other forms of colonization; introduction to the artist (Joseph Sagaj) who would design and paint the mural; overview of the technical side of the mural; projected cost; timeline; 2) **Concept Brief** which includes where the mural will be mounted and reports from the two consultations to date with members of The Redeemer and one consultation with members of the Indigenous community in the Toronto area; 3) An invitation to members of The Redeemer to send in their questions and/or comments about the mural to iswg@theredeemer.ca or Survey Monkey.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. The City of Toronto is accumulating a large deficit due to covid-19. What happens if for budgetary reasons, the City cancels the mural program? **Answer: Then the mural will not happen.**

2. How has the Indigenous community in Toronto been consulted about the mural? **Answer: Joseph Sagaj is Anishnawbe, a member of the Neskantaga First Nation and of the Sturgeon Clan. He would not agree to do this mural if he had any concerns. Earlier in July, the ISWG held a consultation with several Indigenous people in the Toronto area. None of them expressed concerns about the mural - all of them shared some very creative ideas about what the mural might look like. Other Indigenous people who had been invited and sent their regrets, expressed support for the proposal.**

3. The proposal for the mural is that it be mounted on the cement section (parging) of the wall along Avenue Road – about 3 feet high from the sidewalk to below the stone work. Why can't it be higher so that it might be more visible? **Answer: Church of The Redeemer is designated a heritage building. Nothing can be painted or mounted on the stone work.**

4. The mural may be graffiti tagged or damaged. The Church proper may also be graffiti tagged because of the presence of the mural. **Answer: The Indigenous Solidarity Working Group cannot offer an absolute guarantee that the mural will not attract graffiti tagging or that because of the presence of the mural, the church proper will not attract tagging. Joseph Sagaj, the artist who will paint the mural (if approved by the parish and if the Committee at**

City Hall which funds murals, approves the proposal) has said that to the best of his knowledge, murals painted by Indigenous artists in Toronto, have not suffered graffiti tagging. And to the best of our knowledge, there was some tagging on one of the walls a few years ago which was removed. There are cleaning solutions available to remove graffiti tagging. Should one of the panels be damaged, it can be repaired separately or reprinted.

The proposed budget to the Committee at City Hall which funds murals will include annual care and maintenance for the mural.

5. Over the course of time, there will be rain, sleet, snow, mud. The mural will get dirty. Won't this cause damage? **Answer: There will be a protective coating on the mural. It can be washed and cleaned.**

6. What if there is construction on the sidewalk along Avenue Road? **Answer: The City has a responsibility to protect the integrity of the church and this would include the mural. If necessary, it would be possible to remove the panels until the sidewalk construction is completed.**