

# Name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge

*Sharing Places, Sharing Spaces*

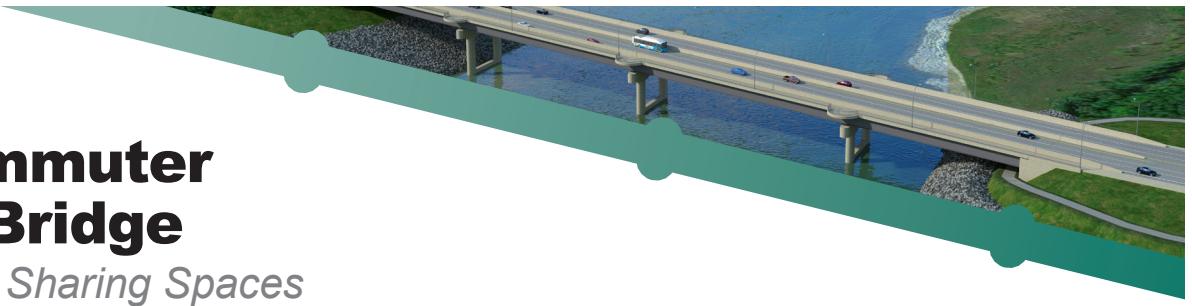
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**GRAHAM**  
**GRAHAM**  
COMMUTER PARTNERS

 **City of  
Saskatoon**

 **Reconciliation  
SASKATOON**



# Name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge

## Sharing Places, Sharing Spaces

The Saskatoon City Council, on June 22, 2015, unanimously committed that the City adopt and implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) relevant calls to action as well as work with community groups to promote reconciliation in our province.

Responding to Call to Action #79: 'Participate in a strategy to commemorate Aboriginal peoples' history and contributions to Canada', the City undertook a community-driven naming process for the North Commuter Parkway (NCP) Bridge.

Naming the NCP Bridge provided an opportunity to unite the community and province in an act of reconciliation and educate the community on Aboriginal history and culture, particularly in and around Saskatoon.

The 'Share Your Voice' campaign engaged Saskatoon and area citizens, including Métis and First Nation Elders, Indian residential school and 'Sixties Scoop' survivors, by asking them to share their ideas for bridge names at in-person engagement events or an online form. Over 400 ideas were brought forward by the community, which were narrowed down to a shortlist of four names: Louis Riel, Chief Mistawasis, Wîcîhitowin, and Waniskâ.

The process focused on engaging with youth and getting them actively involved in learning about the past and how it relates to our community today. Working with the school divisions, a number of learning resources were created that can be used now and into the future, including four educational vignettes, school lesson plans and tool kits.

As a result of the naming process, a number of names have been referred to the Naming Advisory Committee for consideration of addition to the master names list for use in naming future civic infrastructure.

Throughout the journey, it was important that Métis and First Nation Elders guided the cultural protocol for the naming project in all aspects, including the blessing of the land which took place in May 2017.

### WHAT WAS THE CRITERIA FOR NAMING THE NCP BRIDGE?

Nominations were required to meet one or more of the below guidelines:

- Acknowledge an **Aboriginal historical event or figure**, or
- Represent the **spirit of community, coming together, or connection**.

### HOW WAS THE NAME OF THE NCP BRIDGE CHOSEN?

- Names were gathered from the community, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents, through an open call for nominations.
- Elders and Survivors reflected and deliberated on the list of names in order to assist the Naming Steering Committee in determining a shortlist of four names.
- A series of vignettes was promoted to the community to learn more about the significance of the names and invite the public to provide input online or in-person.
- Community feedback was considered by the Bridge Naming Steering Committee before the final recommendation is made to City Council for final approval.

### WHO IS ON THE NCP BRIDGE NAMING STEERING COMMITTEE?

The community-led NCP Bridge Naming Steering Committee comprised of: Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, and City of Saskatoon.

➢ To find out more, visit [saskatoon.ca/nametheNCP](http://saskatoon.ca/nametheNCP)

## TIMELINE

- ✓ **August 2017**  
Call for bridge name nominations
- ✓ **September 2017**  
Bridge names gathered from the community through online, social media and in-person engagement
- ✓ **November 2017**  
The Steering Committee, in consultation with Elders and Survivors, selects 4 shortlisted names
- ✓ **February 2018**  
'Share Your Voice' campaign launched featuring 4 educational vignettes on each of the shortlisted names
- ✓ **March 2018**  
Gather community feedback via online and in-person engagement opportunities
- ✓ **June 2018**  
Final recommendation by steering committee to City Council

### BRIDGE NAME SHORTLIST

1. Chief Mistawasis
2. Louis Riel
3. Waniskâ
4. Wîcîhitowin

To view educational vignettes of each shortlisted name, visit [saskatoon.ca/nametheNCP](http://saskatoon.ca/nametheNCP)