

# Community Engagement Report for Waltes App Development

## **I. Introduction**

The development of the Waltes app is a significant endeavor aimed at capturing the essence of a traditional Indigenous game in a digital platform. Collaborations with community members, local experts, and elders have ensured that the app resonates with the cultural authenticity and history of the game. This document outlines the detailed engagement process and future plans.

## **II. Engagement with Experts and Elders**

### **a. Consultation with Jalisa Charles:**

Jalisa Charles played an instrumental role in understanding the rules of Waltes. Her extensive knowledge helped the development team settle on a version that was both clear and authentic to local variations of the game. This collaboration ensured that the app would faithfully represent the tradition, providing a rich and engaging experience for users.

### **b. Collaboration with Jocelyn Marshal:**

Through detailed conversations with Jocelyn Marshal, the development team gained profound insights into the actual story behind Waltes, including its spiritual significance. Jocelyn's contributions enabled the team to plan to incorporate animations and storytelling that reflect the game's historical connections, bringing a deeper cultural context to the app experience.

### **c. Involvement of Elders like Terry Denny:**

The consultation with elders such as Terry Denny provided invaluable information about the Waltes bowl's construction, shape, and spiritual value. Their wisdom ensured that the app went beyond being a mere game and encapsulated the spiritual values inherent in the tradition, providing users with a sense of connection to Indigenous culture.

### **III. Development of the Waltes App within the Ulnooweg Education Centre (UEC)**

The Waltes app, a culturally significant project, has been conceived and developed within the Ulnooweg Education Centre. This creation reflects our ongoing commitment to education, empowerment, and the celebration of Indigenous culture. We recognize the profound importance of the Waltes game within Mi'kmaw culture and have taken careful steps to translate this rich tradition into a digital platform accessible to new generations.

#### **a. Understanding the Game and Its Cultural Significance:**

Through a comprehensive study and collaboration with community members, we have been able to decode the intricate rules of the Waltes game and uncover the spiritual value behind the Waltes bowl. This deep understanding has guided the design and function of the app, allowing us to capture the essence of the game and provide a truly authentic experience to users.

#### **b. Community Engagement:**

Our engagement with the community has been pivotal in understanding the multifaceted aspects of the game. Conversations with experts like Jalisa Charles and Jocelyn Marshal, and guidance from elders like Terry Denny, have been instrumental. These engagements have not only shaped the rules and the functionality of the app but also enriched it with cultural and historical depth.

#### **c. Integrating Story and Animation:**

We have embraced the rich history and mythology associated with the Waltes bowl, creatively integrating them into the app through innovative animations and captivating storytelling. This narrative approach ensures a more immersive and resonant experience for users, connecting them to the deeper cultural significance of the game.

## **IV. Future Plans and Feature Updates**

### **a. Continued Community Feedback**

After launch, we will continue to engage with the community, collecting more feedback as part of an iterative improvement process. This ongoing dialogue ensures that the Waltes app reflects the evolving understanding and appreciation of the game.

### **b. Multiplayer Capabilities**

The introduction of multiplayer capabilities will allow users to compete and cooperate, enhancing the social aspect of the game and fostering community connections.

### **c. Online Scoreboard and Game Styles**

New features such as an online scoreboard will introduce competitive elements, and various game styles will provide fresh and exciting experiences for players, maintaining engagement and interest.

### **d. Embracing Modern Technology**

In line with our commitment to innovation and education, we will explore additional features like augmented reality (AR) integration, adaptive learning modules, and cultural education segments. These enhancements will ensure that the Waltes app remains not only an entertainment platform but an educational resource that connects users to the rich cultural heritage of the game.