



Staff Report CL2021-022

Title of Report: CL2021-022-First Nations Land Acknowledgement
Department: Clerks
Branch: Legislative and Council Services
Council Date: August 4, 2021

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CL2021-022 as information; and
That Council provide feedback to staff and considerations to implement a First Nations Land Acknowledgement for the Township of Southgate.

Background:

Land or territorial acknowledgements have emerged in several municipalities following the publication of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission report in 2015. A land acknowledgement recognizes First Nations Peoples on whose traditional territories we work and live. These acknowledgements demonstrate the recognition and respect for Indigenous peoples, both in the past and the present and the contributions they have made to our communities and nation.

These statements are most often read at the beginning of Council meetings, municipal events and celebrations with others being read on an occasional basis only in order to continue for them to be meaningful and relevant. Several municipalities within the province have implemented land acknowledgement statements. While there is no standard wording for these statements or consistent practice, the overarching need is for the acknowledgement to be genuine, with a commitment to acknowledge and educate people on the complex history of Indigenous people.

Staff Comments

Staff are looking for feedback and direction from Council to implement a First Nations Land Acknowledgement. If supported, staff suggest that a policy be put in place to determine what meetings and events/celebrations the Land Acknowledgement is included in. Staff have completed preliminary research and offer the below acknowledgement as an example of possible wording:

"The Township of Southgate is situated within the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek and the Six Nations of the Grand River. We acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous Peoples with whom we share the land with today."

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to the Township as a result of this report.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council receive Staff Report CL2021-022 as information and provide feedback to staff and considerations to implement a First Nations Land Acknowledgement for the Township of Southgate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Lindsey Green, Clerk

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dave Milliner, CAO

Attachments: None