

Department: Administration**Policy Code:** A09-COU**Approval Date:****Approved by:** Council**Next Review:****Revision Date:**

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the use of the Township's Land Acknowledgement statement.

Scope

This policy applies to the Township's use of the Land Acknowledgement statement at various Township events as outlined in this policy. The statement may be delivered verbally, digitally or in other formats depending on the nature of the event.

Definitions

Anishnaabeg [ah-nish-nah-bek] - the word used for Odawa, Ojibwe and porrawatomi nations in Anishnaabemowin. It does not perfectly translate but means The Good People, The People, and The Original People.

First Nations – the original inhabitants of Canada; the people and communities that were located in Canada prior to colonization.

Haudenosaunee – [ho-deen-noh-SHAW-nee] or “people of the longhouse,” commonly referred to as Iroquois or Six Nations, are members of a confederacy of Aboriginal nations known as the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Indigenous – a globally accepted term referring to the original inhabitants of the territory, in Canada it is inclusive of all First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

Lake Simcoe Purchase - Treaty 16, or the Lake Simcoe Purchase, was signed in 1815 at Kempenfelt Bay by representatives of the Crown and certain Anishinaabe peoples. The territory described in the written Treaty covers approximately 100,000 hectares. The Penetanguishene Road, which extended from Lake Simcoe to Georgian Bay, is contained in this treaty.

Métis [may-tee] - group of descendants of First Nations people and Europeans from the Historic Northwest of Canada. The Metis have a rich and specific culture and language from other Indigenous groups in Canada.

Nottawasaga Purchase - Treaty 18 was signed on Oct 17, 1818, by representatives of the Crown and certain Anishinaabe peoples. It is also known as the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty and was the first of three treaties signed between October and November of 1818.

Odawa [oh-dah-wah] – the Middle Brother of the Three Fires Confederacy, the Keepers of the trade. The name Odawa is said to come from the Ojibwe word dawew, meaning to sell or trade and used in reference to their position in the confederacy. Origins of the word Ottawa.

Ojibwe [oh-jib-weh] – (also known as the Chippewa) the Eldest Brother of the Three Fires Confederacy, the Keepers of the Faith.

Pottawatomi [pot-a-wah-tom-ee] – the Youngest Brother of the Three Fires Confederacy, the Keepers of the Fire, which comes from Boodewaadamii [boh-deh-wah-deh-me] the Ojibew word for “They keep the fire going”.

Reconciliation – the process of “establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples of this country”.

The James Collins Purchase - The John Collins’ Purchase was entered into between representatives of the Crown and certain Anishinaabe peoples. It concerned lands extending from the northwestern end of Lake Simcoe to Matchedash Bay.

This early Upper Canada treaty was conducted during an expedition of Captain William Crawford and surveyor John Collins, along the Toronto Carrying Place from the Humber River to Lake Simcoe.

The Three Fires Confederacy – also known as the Council of the Three Fires or the United Nations of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi. A longstanding allegiance between the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi dating back to approximately 790 AD.

Williams Treaties First Nations – The Williams Treaties First Nations are the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake Hiawatha, Scugog Island. These seven First Nations are signatories to various 18th and 19th century treaties that covered lands in different parts of south central Ontario. In 1923, the Chippewas and Mississaugas signed the Williams Treaties.

Policy/Procedure

Policy Statement

The Township of Springwater understands the need to recognize and embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action report. Land acknowledgements are a part of moving forward on a path to reconciliation and are an opportunity to educate the public on the significance of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their territories and recognize the history and presence of Indigenous Peoples on the lands that make up the Township of Springwater.

Short Form Land Acknowledgment

A short form land acknowledgment statement will be read by the Mayor or designate at the beginning of all municipal functions and events. These include Regular Council, Committee meetings, Board meetings, public meetings, and workshops. The short form land acknowledgement reads as follows:

The Township of Springwater acknowledges that the land on which we gather today is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek (a-nish-i-na-beck) Nation, which includes the Ojibwe (o-jib-way), Odawa (o-dah-wa), and Pottawatomi (pot-a-wa-tom-ee) Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy, the Ouendat (WENdatt) and the Haudenosaunee (ho-deen-noh-SHAW-nee). The Township of Springwater is dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and is committed to coming together to learn, heal and create future prosperity, respect and understanding in our community.

The Land Acknowledgement will be read before the signing of the National Anthem to honour the Traditional Peoples as being here prior to the creation of the Country.

Long Form Land Acknowledgment

A long form land acknowledgement statement will be read by the Mayor or designate at special events as deemed appropriate. These events could include, flag raisings and opening ceremonies at Township hosted community events or festivals.

The long form land acknowledgement will be read by the Clerk at the beginning of each Inaugural meeting of Council.

The long form land acknowledgement will be framed and hung in the front lobby of the Township's Administration Centre as well as posted on the Township's website. The long form land acknowledgement reads as follows:

The Township of Springwater acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of these lands we are located on today.

We acknowledge that the Township of Springwater is located within the boundaries of the Williams Treaty, Lake Simcoe Purchase, The James Collins Purchase and the Nottawasaga Purchase and acknowledges the Anishinaabek (a-nish-i-na-beck) Nation, which includes the Ojibwe (o-jib-way), Odawa (o-dah-wa), and Pottawatomi (pot-a-wa-tom-ee) Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy, the Ouendat (WENdatt) and the Haudenosaunee (ho-deen-noh-SHAW-nee) people. We especially acknowledge the Chippewa's of Beausoleil First Nation, Rama First Nation and Georgian Island who were the last stewards of the lands in and around Springwater. The Township of Springwater also recognizes that it is the home to many citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario and to a large and diverse community of Indigenous peoples.

The Township of Springwater is dedicated to honouring our Indigenous history and culture and is committed to coming together to learn, heal and create future prosperity, respect and understanding in our community. We recognize the contributions made by Canada's First Nations and their historic connection to these lands.

Responsibility

The Clerk, or designate, is responsible for administering this policy and conducting a review of the policy and land acknowledgment statement as required.

Authority

By signing below, the official representative validates that the policy has been approved by the appropriate Approval Authority (Council, Senior Management, Department Director).

Approval Authority Official Representative:	Mayor	Resolution or By-law #:
Signature:		
Date signed:		