

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent

Corporate Services

Municipal Governance

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Judy Smith, Director, Municipal Governance/Clerk
Date: September 22, 2020
Subject: Land Acknowledgement

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The following Land Acknowledgement be read before Council meetings:

“We acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Anishnaabeg Nation. This spot where we gather is the traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe. We also recognize that this land is now home to the Delaware Nation. This land was settled through the McKee Purchase Treaty of 1790 and we, as beneficiaries of the treaty, must recognize our responsibilities including our collective responsibilities to the land and water.”

Background

On September 23, 2019, Council passed the following motion:

“That staff report back with recommendations for a land acknowledgement to be read before municipal events.”

Comments

Land acknowledgements are a historically accurate way to recognize the traditional First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit territories of a place. They commemorate Indigenous peoples’ principal kinship to the land and the fact that we have not and cannot be erased from her, our collective first mother.

Inspired by the 94 recommended calls to action contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (now known as the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, or NCTR), land acknowledgements are a necessary first step toward honouring the original occupants of a place. They also help Canadians recognize and respect Indigenous peoples’ inherent kinship beliefs when it comes to the land, especially since those beliefs were restricted for so long.

Administration reviewed a number of land acknowledgement statements in the drafting of this report and has made a recommendation that is specific to Chatham-Kent. If Council wishes a more general acknowledgement, the following is used by the Community Leader's Cabinet. *"The Chatham-Kent Community Leaders' Cabinet respects the rich and vibrant culture of our indigenous people. We acknowledge our community resides on traditional territory and value their homelands."*

Chief Duckworth of the Caldwell First Nation, Chief Miskokomon of the Walpole Island First Nation, Chief Stonefish of the Delaware Nation and Donna Grayer, President Metis Nation were contacted to ensure the land acknowledgement being recommended represents all lands in Chatham-Kent. At this time no response has been received for or against the acknowledgment.

This recommended land acknowledgement is the same as the one used by the Chatham-Kent Public Health Board.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity:
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community:
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- Environmental Sustainability:
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

No other departments were consulted.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at this time.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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