

AHDI Committee Meeting

November 18, 2024



C1.

Communication

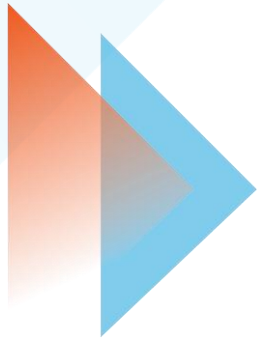
Anti-Hate, Diversity and Inclusion

Advisory Committee – November 18, 2024

Item No. 1

Agenda

1. Personalized Land Acknowledgements
 - i. Why do this?
 - ii. How to draft your own



Personalized Land Acknowledgement

- ▶ The delivery of a land acknowledgement by non-Indigenous individuals is meant to be a personalized and meaningful practice. ([Land Acknowledgement Guide](#))
- ▶ Beyond reading a simple statement, it should serve as an opportunity to reflect on the history of the land, and one's own relationship to it ([ReconciliAction | Land Acknowledgements](#)).
- ▶ Of course, it's important to:
 - Acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who have historically cared for and occupied the land
 - Name the specific Indigenous communities connected to the specific land (e.g. City of Vaughan)
 - Recognize the ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples today
 - Reflect personally on one's own relationship to the land and how settler colonialism has shaped their experience and access to land
 - Take responsibility for how we might engage in decolonizing practices, both individually and collectively.

An Example

“As an immigrant, I recognize that my journey is built upon the sacrifices of my parents, who sought a better life for me. Their courage and determination inspire me daily. However, I am also deeply aware that this opportunity comes at a cost, rooted in the historical sacrifices and mistreatment of Indigenous communities.

I want to express my profound gratitude for the chance to work, learn, and grow on these lands. The City of Vaughan is situated in the Territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Huron-Wendat, and Haudenosaunee. I acknowledge the resilience and strength of the Indigenous peoples who have cared for this land for generations. Their stories, struggles, and enduring spirit are vital to the fabric of this place. In honoring their legacy, I commit to being an ally and advocate, striving to uplift Indigenous and marginalized voices and contribute to a more just and equitable future for all.”

-Rouya Botlani

Discussion

- ▶ As a committee, is this an activity we want to collectively engage in in 2025?
- ▶ Would folks be interested in opening meetings with their own personalized land acknowledgements?
- ▶ Questions, thoughts, feedback?



Thank you!

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