

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2021

Item 17, Report No. 29, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 22, 2021.

17. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the report of the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, dated June 1, 2021:

Recommendations

1. That the existing title “Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement” be amended to “Indigenous Land Acknowledgement”; and
2. That the following statement as the revised Indigenous Land Acknowledgement be adopted:

“We respectfully acknowledge that the City of Vaughan is situated in the Territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. The City of Vaughan is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.”

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 1, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To amend Item 10, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 5, 2017.

Report Highlights

- Rationale for changes to existing Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement
- Amended Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Recommendations

1. That the existing title “Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement” be amended to “Indigenous Land Acknowledgement”; and
2. That the following statement as the revised Indigenous Land Acknowledgement be adopted:

“We respectfully acknowledge that the City of Vaughan is situated in the Territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. The City of Vaughan is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.”

Background

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Inuit and Métis. These are three distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

'First Nations people' include Status and non-Status Indians. There are more than 630 First Nation communities in Canada, which represent more than 50 Nations and 50 Indigenous languages.

Inuit are the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic. The word Inuit means "the people" in the Inuit language of Inuktitut. The singular of Inuit is Inuk.

The Métis people emerged as a distinct Indigenous people and nation in the historic Northwest during the late 18th century. The historic Métis Nation Homeland encompasses the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and extends into contiguous parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the northern United States.

Land Acknowledgement

Land acknowledgement statements are used in Canada by governments, schools, post-secondary institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other civil institutions as a practice of reconciliation aimed at recognizing the traditional or treaty territories of Indigenous peoples. Land acknowledgement statements are avenues for recognizing what is known of past Indigenous usage and occupancy of land. The statements are typically made at the introduction of meetings, gatherings, events, or presentations.

Treaties

According to the Government of Ontario, treaties are legally binding agreements that set out the rights, responsibilities and relationships of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments. They form the basis of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Although many treaties were signed more than a century ago, treaty commitments are just as valid today as they were then.

First Nations were the original occupants of this land we call Ontario. The British Crown (government) and First Nations negotiated and signed treaties with the intent of delivering mutual benefits. First Nations signed as independent, self-governing nations.

Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and other agreements.

Treaty rights:

- are the specific rights embodied in the treaties that were entered into with the British government, and later Canada
- often address the creation of reserves for the exclusive use of First Nations, and their rights to hunt, fish and trap on provincial Crown lands
- are protected by subsection 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982

Source Reference:

Government of Ontario, Treaties, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>

Government of Canada, Indigenous Peoples and Communities, <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013785/1529102490303>

Métis National Council, <https://www2.metisnation.ca/about/>

City of Vaughan Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement

The existing “Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement” is part of the recognition of National Aboriginal Day (now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day) submitted to Council as item 10, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 5, 2017. The statement is read at the beginning of the Council meeting, beginning on June 27, 2017, acknowledging traditional Indigenous territories. The existing Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement is as follows:

“We respectfully acknowledge that we are situated on Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis Nation. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.”

The City has been made aware that Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation has made formal changes to their name from Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and have requested that changes be reflected in City business. Furthermore, the City has been made aware of some errors in the existing “Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement.”

Previous Reports/Authority

Item 10, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole

Analysis and Options

In collaboration with Darin P. Wybenga of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Coordinator, the following changes are necessary

to address existing inaccuracies within the existing Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement:

1. Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation are the only treaty holders in the City of Vaughan.
2. Refer to 'Toronto Purchase Treaty 13' to reflect the name of the specific treaty.
3. Remove reference to Williams Treaty First Nations. Chief R. Stacey Laforme of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation confirms that Williams Treaty Boundary does not extend to any portion of the City of Vaughan.
4. Remove reference to "Anishinaabeg." Anishinaabe refers to a group of culturally related Indigenous peoples residing in Canada and the United States of America.
5. The Huron-Wendat and Six Nations of the Grand River, who identify as Haudenosaunee, have traditional territories in Vaughan.
6. Métis Nation and people do not hold traditional land rights; however, the City will honour and recognize Métis people as residents using the land.

Financial Impact

N/A

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A

Conclusion

Adopting the following collaboratively developed Land Acknowledgements is a small yet significant way to show respect and acknowledge the presence of Indigenous peoples past and present:

"We respectfully acknowledge that the City of Vaughan is situated in the Territory and Treaty 13 lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee. The City of Vaughan is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people today. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory."

For more information, please contact: Zincia Francis, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Ext. 8159

Attachments

1. Extract from Council Meeting Minutes Of June 5, 2017
2. Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Treaty Map
3. E-mail, Councillor Erma Ferrell of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, May 7, 2021
4. E-mail, Councillor Erma Ferrell of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, May 10, 2021
5. Treaties in Ontario
6. Treaties in Ontario by the Numbers

Prepared by

Zincia Francis, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Ext. 8159

Approved by



Michael Coroneos,
Deputy City Manager, Chief Financial
Officer & Treasurer

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum, City Manager

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2017

Item 10, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 5, 2017.

10

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY
ABORIGINAL TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk and the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, dated May 23, 2017:

Recommendation

The City Clerk and the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, recommend:

1. That Council, as part of the recognition of National Aboriginal Day, offer a statement at the beginning of the Council meeting of June 27, 2017, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, that acknowledges Vaughan's traditional Aboriginal territories; and
2. That Council include this territorial acknowledgement as a standing item to be read at the beginning of subsequent Council meetings, until such a time as the City's Procedural By-Law is amended to formally include the acknowledgement.

Contribution to Sustainability

By acknowledging the Aboriginal peoples who lived on the territories now known as the City of Vaughan, this report supports Objective 4.1 of *Green Directions Vaughan*: "To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage."

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

Notice of the offering of a territorial acknowledgement, along with a copy of the statement, will be available in materials related to the City's celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

Purpose

This report responds to a recommendation approved by Council on April 19, 2017 [Item 14, Report No. 13 of the Committee of the Whole], to provide a draft statement of recognition and thanks to the appropriate Aboriginal groups to be read at the Council meeting of June 27, 2017, in recognition of National Aboriginal Day, and address considerations for developing a statement of recognition that could be used on an ongoing basis at future Council meetings.

Background - Analysis and Options

Since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report in 2015, many public institutions across Canada have made commitments to reconciliation based on a mutually respectful relationship with Aboriginal peoples. In the spirit of reconciliation, many municipal governments across Canada have adopted territorial acknowledgments to precede Council meetings and other gatherings.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2017

Item 10, CW Report No. 21 – Page 2

Territorial acknowledgments honour the relationship between the lands on which settler communities now live and the many generations of Aboriginal communities that lived on those lands before settlers arrived. Territorial acknowledgments also recognize and pay respect to the present-day Aboriginal groups whose ancestors lived on the lands. Where appropriate, territorial acknowledgments may refer to specific treaties, land transfers, or historical agreements.

According to the Aboriginal history expert consulted by staff, the lands on which are now known as the City of Vaughan are the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in particular, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis Nation.

The recommended statement of acknowledgement, developed by staff in consultation with the Aboriginal history expert consulted by staff, is set out in Attachment 1.

In order for the statement to be formally included in the Order of Business for subsequent Council meetings, an amendment to the City's Procedural By-Law would be required. Staff anticipate reporting later in the year with proposed updates to the Procedural By-law arising out of proposed amendments to the *Municipal Act*, and the territorial acknowledgement can be included as a formal amendment to the Procedural By-law at that time. In the interim, it is recommended that the territorial acknowledgment be included as a standing item to be read at the beginning of Council meetings.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report supports the priority to "Support and promote arts, culture, heritage, and sports in the community," as identified in the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018).

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Territorial acknowledgments demonstrate a commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. As June 21 is National Aboriginal Day, the closest Council meeting of June 27, 2017 would be an appropriate time for Council to make its first Aboriginal territorial acknowledgment. It is recommended that Council use the statement provided in this support, which was drafted by staff in consultation with an Aboriginal history consultant.

Attachment

1. Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement

Report prepared by:

Angela Palermo, Recreation Manager, Community Development and Planning, ext. 8139
Gareth Savage, Municipal Management Intern, ext. 8974

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY
ABORIGINAL TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Recommendation

The City Clerk and the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, recommend:

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Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

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Purpose

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Since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report in 2015, many public institutions across Canada have made commitments to reconciliation based on a mutually respectful relationship with Aboriginal peoples. In the spirit of reconciliation, many municipal governments across Canada have adopted territorial acknowledgments to precede Council meetings and other gatherings.

Territorial acknowledgments honour the relationship between the lands on which settler communities now live and the many generations of Aboriginal communities that lived on those lands before settlers arrived. Territorial acknowledgments also recognize and pay respect to the present-day Aboriginal groups whose ancestors lived on the lands. Where appropriate, territorial acknowledgments may refer to specific treaties, land transfers, or historical agreements.

According to the Aboriginal history expert consulted by staff, the lands on which are now known as the City of Vaughan are the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in particular, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis Nation.

The recommended statement of acknowledgement, developed by staff in consultation with the Aboriginal history expert consulted by staff, is set out in Attachment 1.

In order for the statement to be formally included in the Order of Business for subsequent Council meetings, an amendment to the City's Procedural By-Law would be required. Staff anticipate reporting later in the year with proposed updates to the Procedural By-law arising out of proposed amendments to the *Municipal Act*, and the territorial acknowledgement can be included as a formal amendment to the Procedural By-law at that time. In the interim, it is recommended that the territorial acknowledgement be included as a standing item to be read at the beginning of Council meetings.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report supports the priority to "Support and promote arts, culture, heritage, and sports in the community," as identified in the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018).

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Territorial acknowledgments demonstrate a commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. As June 21 is National Aboriginal Day, the closest Council meeting of June 27, 2017 would be an appropriate time for Council to make its first Aboriginal territorial acknowledgment. It is recommended that Council use the statement provided in this support, which was drafted by staff in consultation with an Aboriginal history consultant.

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Angela Palermo, Recreation Manager, Community Development and Planning, ext. 8139
Gareth Savage, Municipal Management Intern, ext. 8974

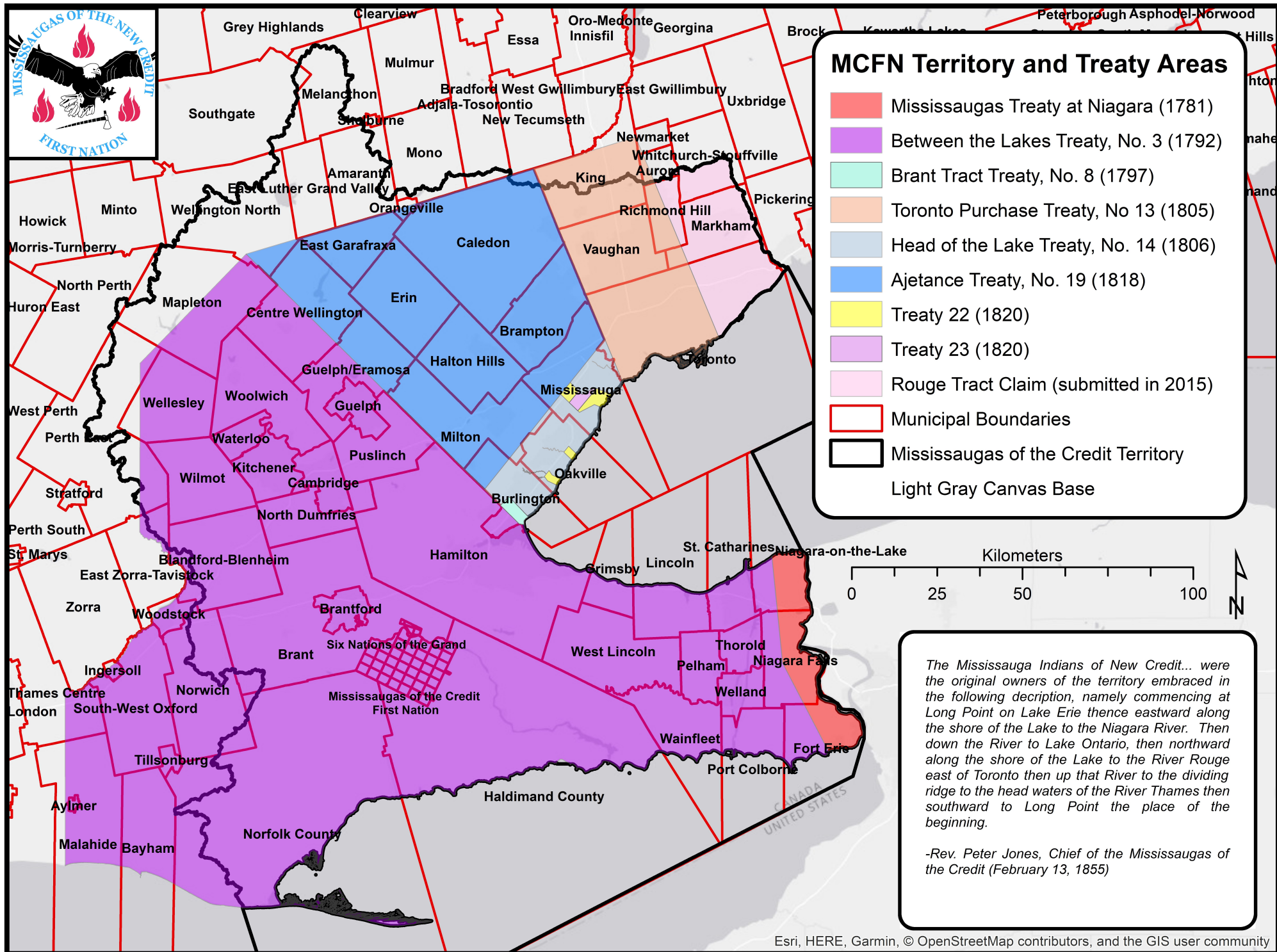
Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. McEwan
City Clerk

Mary Reali
Deputy City Manager, Community Services

Aboriginal Territorial Acknowledgement

“We respectfully acknowledge that we are situated on Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis Nation. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.”



Francis, Zincia

From: Councillor, Erma Ferrell <ErmaF@mncfn.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Francis, Zincia; Tersigni, Mirella
Cc: Caitlin LaForme; Darin Wybenga; Mark LaForme; ward laforme jr.
[REDACTED]
Subject: [External] City of Vaughan

Good morning:

This past weekend Chief R. Stacey Laforme (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), contacted Chief Emily Whetung, from the Mississaugas of Curve Lake First Nation. Chief Laforme asked Chief Whetung about the boundaries of the Williams Treaty and does the Treaty extend to any part of the City of Vaughan.

Chief Whetung has shared with Chief Laforme, the Williams Treaty Boundary does not extend to any portion of the City of Vaughan.

If you require any further clarification on our Treaty area boundaries, please let me know.

Thank you.
Erma

Councillor Erma Ferrell
Lead for Pillar 5: Cultural Awareness, Communications and Outreach



Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
2789 Mississauga Road, RR#6 Hagersville, ON, N0A1H0
Web: www.mncfn.ca
Facebook: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
Ph: 905-768-1133 Cell: 905-869-5760
Fax: 905-768-1225

Francis, Zincia

From: Councillor, Erma Ferrell <ErmaF@mncfn.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Francis, Zincia; Mark LaForme; Tersigni, Mirella
Subject: [External] RE: Meeting minutes

Good morning:

Our Chief & Council confirmed what both Darin & Mark explained to you last week; our Treaty covers all of the City of Vaughn.

Please note I did not provide your names in the discussion with Chief & Council.

Also, our Chief will be following up on the issue of other claiming part of the City of Vaughn belonging to another First Nation.

I hope this helps you with your land acknowledgement. If you require a copy of the Council Motion, just email me and I will forward it to you for your records.

Have a good day.

Erma Ferrell

Councillor Erma Ferrell

Lead for Pillar 5: Cultural Awareness, Communications and Outreach



Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

2789 Mississauga Road, RR#6 Hagersville, ON, N0A1H0

Web: www.mncfn.ca

Facebook: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Ph: 905-768-1133 Cell: 905-869-5760

Fax: 905-768-1225

From: Francis, Zincia <Zincia.Francis@vaughan.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Mark LaForme <Mark.LaForme@mncfn.ca>; Tersigni, Mirella <Mirella.Tersigni@vaughan.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Erma Ferrell <ErmaF@mncfn.ca>
Subject: RE: Meeting minutes

Hello Councillor Erma and Mark,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Mirella and me yesterday. Thank you also for the guidance and the resources that you have provided. I am working on the meeting minutes and will send them to you early next week. Have a wonderful weekend.

Zincia Francis
Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Cell: 416-459-6908 | zincia.francis@vaughan.ca

From: Mark LaForme <Mark.LaForme@mncfn.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Francis, Zincia <Zincia.Francis@vaughan.ca>; Tersigni, Mirella <Mirella.Tersigni@vaughan.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Erma Ferrell <ErmaF@mncfn.ca>
Subject: [External] Meeting minutes

Hello again,

Attached are the meeting referenced during our discussion today.

If you have any questions, please feel to contact me directly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark LaForme
Director, Department of Consultation and Accommodation (DOCA)
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
4065 Hwy. 6, Hagersville, ON N0A 1H0
905-768-4260



<http://mncfn.ca/doca>

Google Maps: <https://www.google.ca/maps/place/MNCFN-DOCA/@42.9718566,-80.0429177,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xd52b4642633e9aa2!8m2!3d42.9718566!4d-80.0429177>

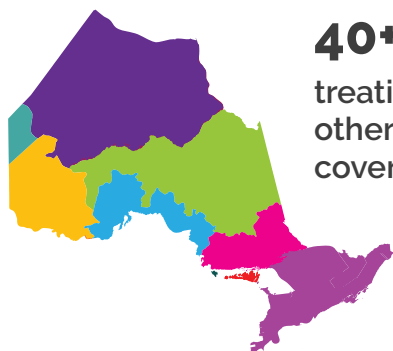
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TREATIES IN ONTARIO

BY THE NUMBERS

ONTARIO



40+
treaties and
other agreements
cover Ontario



92%
of people live in
the Upper Canada
treaties area

500K+
people live in the
six treaty areas of
Northern Ontario

POPULATION



374,395
was the population
of Indigenous
people in 2016



3.7M
people live in
the Toronto
Purchase area



130+
First Nations
and Métis
communities

SIGNED TREATIES

Treaties were signed in Ontario before and after Confederation.
These treaties include:



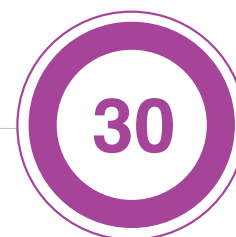
**Numbered
Treaties**
(1870-1930)



**Robinson
Treaties**
(1850)



**Williams
Treaties**
(1923)



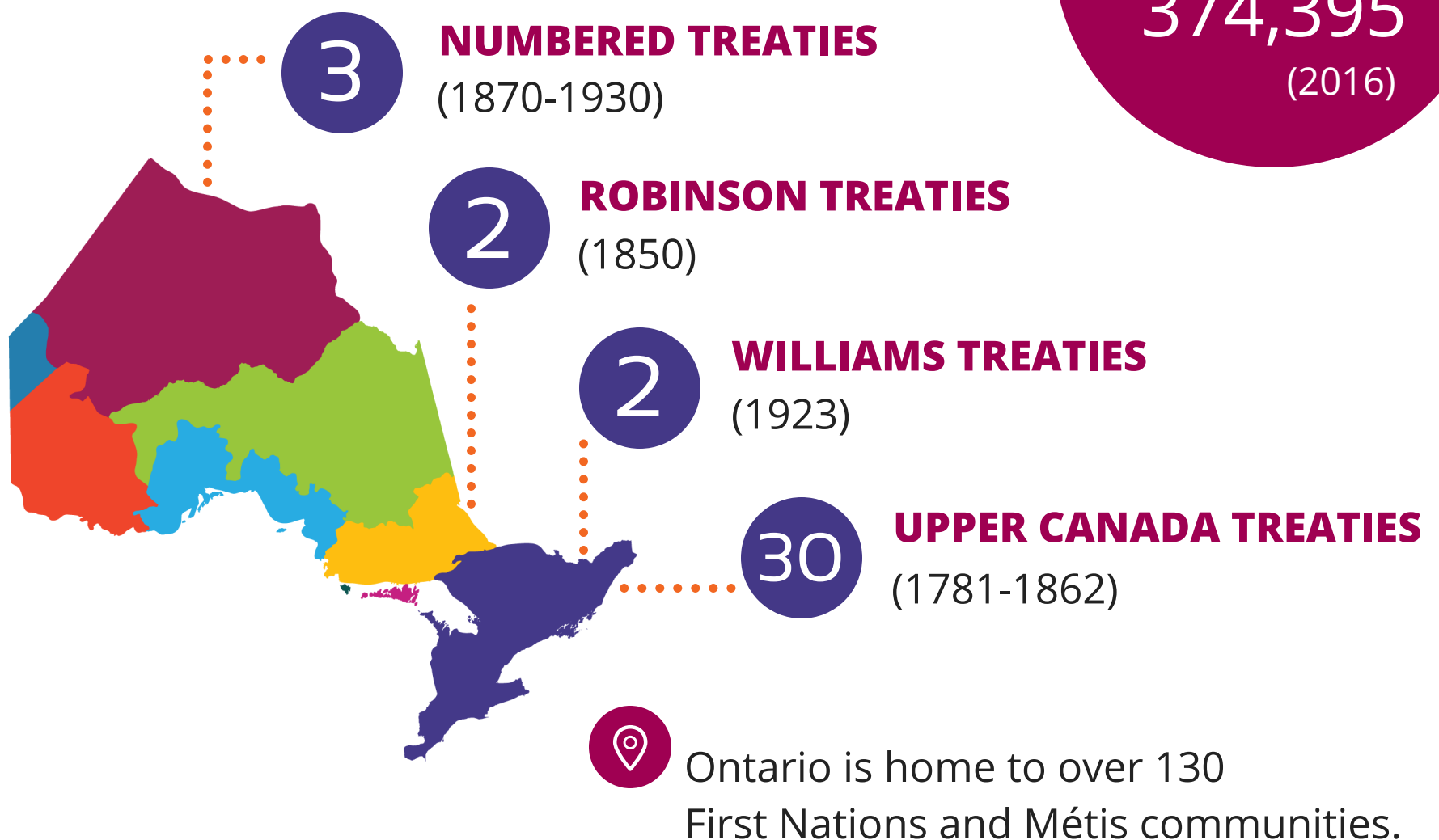
**Upper Canada
Treaties**
(1781-1862)

TREATIES IN ONTARIO

Ontario is covered by more than 40 treaties, purchases, and land surrenders.

Treaties were signed in Ontario before and after Confederation. These treaties include:

Indigenous
population in
Ontario
374,395
(2016)



ABOUT
92 PERCENT
of people in Ontario
live in the Upper
Canada treaties area
(2011).

OVER
HALF A MILLION
people live in
the six treaty
areas in Northern
Ontario.

ABOUT
3.7 MILLION
people live in
the area covered by
the Toronto
Purchase.

Ontario is committed to revitalizing the treaty relationship.
Learn more at ontario.ca/treaties