

Council Policy No.:	CP2022-008
Council Policy Name:	First Nations Land Acknowledgment
Date Approved by Council:	June 15, 2021
Date revision approved by Council:	June 21, 2022
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Forms	

Policy Statement and Rationale:

Context: Why a Land Acknowledgment?

Each First Nation is a separate, sovereign, one-tier government (unlike the Canadian government, which is broken into federal and provincial governmental entities, and municipal governments, being created by provincial statute). The First Nations each contracted with the British Government that would enable the British (and later, the Canadian) government, to share the land on the same basis that each of the First Nations shared the land with each other. This was ownership in common.

These contracts, or treaties, were known as Treaty 20 & the “Williams Treaties”.

The Williams Treaty First Nations commenced litigation against the Canadian federal government and the parties settled the litigation in 2018. The federal government paid the Williams Treaty First Nations financial compensation, as well as recognized the First Nations rights to hunt, fish and harvest from provincial and federal lands and waters within this area.

Purpose of a Land Acknowledgment

Reconciliation.

Policy:

Form of Acknowledgment

The following is an example of a land acknowledgment that may be used by the City, which may be amended from time to time in consultations with the First Nations:

“The City of Kawartha Lakes respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Mississauga lands and the traditional territory covered by the Williams Treaties.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions of Métis and other Indigenous peoples in shaping and strengthening this community.”

When, How and by Whom the Acknowledgment will be Made

A land acknowledgment will be made at each of the following events and in each of the following ways by the City:

1. By Council:
 - a. At the initial swearing-in ceremony for each new 4-year term of Council; and
 - b. Annually, at the meeting of Council immediately preceding National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21).
2. Planning Advisory Committee:
 - a. At the initial swearing-in ceremony for each new 4-year term of Planning Advisory Committee; and
 - b. Annually, at the meeting of Committee immediately preceding National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21).
3. At events or ceremonies about or in conjunction with First Nations and/or where Elders are present.

In substantive response to that call to action, City Staff, all Members of Council, and all members of the Planning Advisory Committee will be required to take training on the history of Indigenous persons in Canada, and as more fully set out above.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of Changes	Requested By
0.1	June 15, 2021	Initial Release	
0.2	June 21, 2022	Inclusive of consultation	