

The Corporation of the Township of North Huron

By-law No. 46-2021

A by-law to adopt an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy for the Corporation of the Township of North Huron .

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The Corporation of the Township of North Huron

By-law No. 46-2021

Being a By-law to adopt an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy for the Corporation of the Township of North Huron

WHEREAS Section 5 (3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended provides that municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of North Huron deems it desirable to adopt an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of North Huron ENACTS as follows:

1. That the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy attached hereto as "Schedule A" is hereby adopted and shall form part of this by-law.
2. That this by-law shall come into force and takes effect on the day of the final passing thereof.

Read a first and second time this 7th day of June, 2021.

Read a third time and passed this 7th day of June, 2021.

Bernie Bailey, Reeve

CORPORATE SEAL

Carson Lamb, Clerk

The Township of North Huron Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of the Township of North Huron Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy is to help North Huron staff, Councillors, volunteers and Committee members to understand the meaning behind and usage of the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

The main goal of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement is to recognize and acknowledge the traditional land that the Township of North Huron operates on. For thousands of years prior to our settlement, Anishinabewaki, Odawa and Mississauga Peoples gathered on this land and for that we are grateful for the contributions that they have made to our communities and nation both in the past and the present.

Indigenous people typically give thanks, appreciation and respect for all of creation at the start of gatherings, ceremonies and events. Adopting an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement showcases the Township's respect, recognition and appreciation of Indigenous peoples, practices and ways of knowing. When a land acknowledgement statement is being given, it is the opportunity for North Huron staff and partners to reflect, be present and pause to consider the impact and change in their work.

Outcomes from Using this Document and Land Acknowledgement

With the implementation of the North Huron Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement, North Huron staff and partners will:

- Gain a better understanding of those whose land we operate on.
- Understand the importance of honouring and giving respect to First Nations Peoples, here with us today and their ancestors.
- Have a greater understanding of the phrase “We are all Treaty people”.
- Reflect on their relationship to these lands.
- Have a better sense of ways and practices to create good relationships and connections with various Indigenous communities.

Pronunciation Guide

- **Anishinabewaki:** Awe-Nish-Nah-Be-Waki
- **Odawa:** Ow-Daa-Wuh
- **Mississauga:** Mi-Suh-Saa-Guh

Land Acknowledgement Statements for North Huron

The following two statements have been developed in consultation with local Indigenous community representatives. Both statements have been approved and are acceptable for use by the Township of North Huron.

- “We [!] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Odawa and Mississauga Peoples.”
- “The Township of North Huron would like to begin by acknowledging that we are situated on Treaty 29 and Treaty 45 ½ territory and the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Odawa and Mississauga Peoples. For this, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.”

Use of the Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Township of North Huron’s Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement is encouraged to be used in the following circumstances:

- Council and Committee Meetings
 - Including all Regular and Special Council Meetings
- Corporate Documents
 - Including but not limited to the North Huron Strategic Plan, Annual Budget, Official Plan or Official Plan Amendments and others as directed by the Chief Administrative Officer in consultation with the Reeve and the Clerk
- North Huron Special Events
 - Including but not limited to the opening of new buildings/facilities, dedication ceremonies related to North Huron assets, etc.
 - Other special events as directed by the Reeve in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Clerk

Importance of Land Acknowledgements

Land acknowledgement is a way for people to be aware of the Indigenous presence and land rights in everyday life. Often land acknowledgement statements are introduced at the beginning of ceremonies, lectures, or any public event. It can be a subtle way to recognize the history of colonization and a need for change in settler colonial societies.

It is important that Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statements remain a meaningful practice and do not lose their sense of sincerity.