



Staff Report

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Report To: General Government Committee

Date of Meeting: October 15, 2019 **Report Number:** CSD-010-19

Submitted By: George Acorn, Acting Director of Community Services

Reviewed By: Andrew C. Allison, CAO **Resolution#:**

File Number: **By-law Number:**

Report Subject: Addendum to CSD-007-19 Land Acknowledgement Statement

Recommendations:

1. That Report CSD-010-19 be received;
2. That Council approve the proposed Land Acknowledgement Statement to be read aloud by the Mayor or designate at the start of public regular and special meetings of Council and its Standing Committees held in the Municipality of Clarington, at civic celebrations, and other official events that are hosted by the Municipality;
3. That Council approve the draft By-law (Attachment 1 to Report CSD-010-19) to amend By-law 2015-029, the Procedural By-law, in order to incorporate a Land Acknowledgement Statement at the meetings;
4. That staff be directed to develop a training plan, in collaboration with the Diversity Advisory Committee and representatives of our local Indigenous community, to provide Indigenous cultural awareness for Members of Council and staff; and
5. That all interested parties listed in Report CSD-010-19 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Report Overview

This Report provides Council a revised Land Acknowledgement Statement for their consideration. Following a Report and presentation at the June 17 General Government Committee meeting, the need to engage further was identified, which resulted in a referral back to staff.

1. Background

- 1.1. Clarington's Diversity Advisory Committee received a request through the Municipality's CAO's office to review and provide a recommendation to Council on the use of a Land Acknowledgement Statement. Council considered report [CSD-007-19 Land Acknowledgement Statement](#) at the June 17, 2019 General Government Committee Meeting.
- 1.2. Mr. Dave Mowat, representing the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation as Consultation, Lands and Membership Supervisor, provided a presentation to Council at this meeting to provide some history and background on the matter.
- 1.3. While the proposed Land Acknowledgement Statement contained within report CSD-007-19 had been reviewed by Mr. Mowat as a representative of our local Indigenous community, it was discussed through his presentation that further consultation with the other identified communities should take place. As a result, Council approved Resolution #GG-390-19:

"That Report [CSD-007-19 Land Acknowledgement Statement](#), be referred to staff to Report back to the General Government Committee meeting of September 23, 2019."
- 1.4. Staff worked with Mr. Mowat throughout the summer recess to confirm the statement. Prior to the September 23 General Government Committee meeting, Mr. Mowat advised that the consultation, while underway, was not yet complete. Staff requested an extension to report back to the October 15 General Government Committee meeting.
- 1.5. Subsequently, Mr. Mowat advised staff that he had a revised statement that more accurately reflects the lands included in the recent Williams Treaties settlement and the land on which Clarington is found.

2. Proposal

- 2.1. It is proposed that the following revised Land Acknowledgement Statement be approved to read:

“The Municipality of Clarington is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas and Chippewas of the Anishinabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contributions to the area now known as the Municipality of Clarington.”

3. Implementation

- 3.1. Staff suggests that the Land Acknowledgement Statement follow the “Moment of Reflection” at Council meetings and follow the “Call to Order” at Standing Committee meetings. As such, staff are proposing the amended By-law 2015-029 (Attachment 1), the Procedural By-law, in order to incorporate a Land Acknowledgement Statement at the meetings.
- 3.2. Staff, in consultation with our local Indigenous community and the Diversity Advisory Committee, recommend that the Acknowledgement be read aloud by the Mayor or designate at the start of public meetings of Council and its Standing Committees, at civic celebrations, and other official events that are hosted by the Municipality. Examples of these special events include:
- Clarington For the Love of Art Mayor’s Gala
 - Clarington Celebrates Canada Day
 - Clarington Mayor’s Golf Classic (reception)
 - Clarington Sports Hall of Fame (reception)
 - Facility, Parks, Trails or Municipal Buildings sod turnings, grand openings
- 3.3. In an effort to raise awareness and provide an understanding of the history of Indigenous Peoples of Canada, staff, in conjunction with the Diversity Advisory Committee, will seek out learning opportunities for Mayor, Council and staff who may be in a position to read this Acknowledgement to ensure that these words are not being offered without understanding of their meaning.
- 3.4. Any costs associated with developing additional training plans would be incorporated in a budget submission for consideration in 2020.

4. Concurrence

- 4.1. Not applicable.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. It is respectfully recommended that Council consider the revised Land Acknowledgement Statement as prepared by Mr. Dave Mowat, as it is respectful and historically accurate in the recognition of lands covered by the Williams Treaties, which includes the Municipality of Clarington.

Staff Contact: George Acorn, Acting Director of Community Services, 905-623-3379 ext. 2502 or gacorn@clarington.net.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Draft By-law to amend the Procedural By-law 2015-029

Interested Parties:

There are no interested parties to be notified of Council's decision.