



CITY OF ST. THOMAS INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, Attiwonderonk (Neutral) and Mississauga peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We also recognize that this land is now home to the Munsee-Delaware Nation, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and Oneida Nation of the Thames.

This land was settled through Treaty 2, the McKee Purchase Treaty of 1790, and we, as beneficiaries of the treaty recognize our collective responsibilities to the land and water.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Haudenosaunee: Ho-den-no-show-nee

Attiwonderonk: At-ti-wan-da-ronk

Anishinabek: Ah-nish-in-a-bek

BACKGROUND

Inspired by the 94 recommended calls to action contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report, a traditional land acknowledgement statement is a first step toward honouring the original occupants of the current City of St. Thomas.

In 2021, City Council indicated its support for the development of an indigenous land acknowledgement statement. This statement shows recognition and respect for Indigenous peoples and recognizes their presence both in the past and in the present.

USE OF THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Land Acknowledgement statement shall be used in the following ways:

- The statement shall be posted on the City's website.
- The statement shall be read at the start of the inaugural meeting of Council for each term of Council.
- The statement shall be printed on all regular Council meeting agendas.
- The statement may be used by the Mayor or designate at meetings or events hosted by the City, including on Canada Day and during National Indigenous History Month, Indigenous Awareness Week, and other Indigenous days of significance.
- The statement may be printed, spoken, projected or posted.

ADMINISTRATION

For a land acknowledgement to be meaningful, it should be delivered with a sense of purpose and authenticity.

The City recognizes that various terms may be preferred over others, and that preferred terms may change over time.

The City's practice will be to honour Indigenous peoples in the community using the terms with which they wish to be identified. As such, any changes or inaccuracies may be reported to the City of St. Thomas.