

From: Kathryn Humphrey
Sent: Fri 3/22/2019 10:26 AM
To: Clerks Richmondhill
Subject: Re: Territorial Acknowledgement

Dear Members of Richmond Hill Town Council,

I was pleased to be informed that the Council is considering opening meetings with a Territorial Acknowledgement, and would like to encourage you to go forward with that plan.

After hundreds of years of attitudes, policies, and broken treaties that have caused a loss of land, loss of livelihood, loss of language, loss of culture; physical, emotional and sexual abuse; substandard housing, infrastructure, education and health services, to First Nations; Canada has taken initial steps to reconcile with them and to find a way forward that is just. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission put forward 94 Calls to Action on completing its hearings. Many of these apply to municipal governments.

A Territorial and Treaty Acknowledgement that is based on learning about the first people of the Richmond Hill area and the treaties they may have made with the settlers is a good step to take as engaged citizens of Richmond Hill, Ontario, and Canada. It leads toward just relations that are the basis of a peaceful, prosperous society. It demonstrates to the young people of the community that we can always learn, and take action based on that learning to better our communities.

Thank you for your engagement in making Richmond Hill a healthy, vibrant community. I urge you to take the steps of learning that will lead to a meaningful Territorial Acknowledgement for the Council.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Humphrey

Kathryn Humphrey
Class Teacher
Toronto Waldorf School