

From: pauline sok yin hwang
Sent: Fri 3/22/2019 10:29 AM
To: Dave Barrow; Joe DiPaola; Carmine Perrelli; Godwin Chan; Karen Cilevitz; David West; Castro Liu; Tom Muench; Greg Beros
Subject: Re: Mon Mar 25 Committee of the Whole, Land Acknowledgement motion

As the child of immigrants to this beautiful land, I feel so grateful for the generous welcome that the indigenous peoples have shown to immigrants over the centuries. My family has benefitted so much from joining this land of rich resources, peace, cooperation and diversity. Unfortunately, my indigenous brothers and sisters have often been denied the resources, peace, and land of their ancestors, leading to great intergenerational harm that I have witnessed as a health provider.

Having grown up in this local area, although I went to an excellent school, I did not learn about the true history of colonial-indigenous relations that form the foundation of our country. I have recently read through the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Report with several of my friends and colleagues in the health professions. It was shocking, moving and highly impressive in its historical research. I hope that all Councillors will make the time to read the report in its entirety, if you have not already.

The TRC report shows clearly how indigenous people and communities have been deeply hurt, torn apart, and abused over our community's history, especially through the history of residential schools. Not knowing this history has led to the continuation of not only harmful stereotypes (which I myself have witnessed many times), but of systemic practices in our governments and institutions, that perpetuate the trauma and marginalization faced by our indigenous friends and neighbours.

While the weight of history is incredibly daunting, and it often seems impossible to correct these historic wrongs, the TRC Report strongly encourages all people, all groups, all organizations to take whatever steps we possibly can toward reconciliation. None of us can erase the past, but we can do whatever is in our power to acknowledge, make amendments and move forward with love and care.

Young people like myself want to create a society of honesty, justice and a healing of the relationships we have with each other, and with the land. This land acknowledgement is the very least we could do to move the Richmond Hill community in this direction. I implore Councillors to support this motion.

Sincerely,

Pauline Hwang
Richmond Hill resident