

From: Sam S
Sent: Sat 3/23/2019 10:09 AM
To: Clerks Richmondhill
Cc: Dave Barrow; Joe DiPaola; Carmine Perrelli; Godwin Chan; Karen Cilevitz; David West; Castro Liu; Tom Muench; Greg Beres
Subject: Yes to Land Acknowledgment

Dear Richmond Hill Council,

I am resident of Richmond Hill and I have lived in the York Region area for 19 years. Richmond Hill is a community that I have chosen to make home with my family and to raise my daughter. I am not Indigenous but as a community member I think it is critical to speak out against the opposition towards the land acknowledgment motion by some council members.

I am in support of the motion of land acknowledgement. I was concerned to learn that this motion was deferred and did not receive unanimous support from all council members. I was extremely concerned at the comments expressed by deputy mayor Joe DiPaola.

I think the comments expressed by deputy mayor Joe Dipaola citing "too much emphasis on one fraction of our society" and "treading down a course of political correctness" emphasizes the need for further education about this topic and the importance of ongoing consultation with the Indigenous community. I think it is important to draw the distinction between the Indigenous people and all other settlers to Canada. By acknowledging this fact and history I see this as a step towards building a positive community for all which promotes learning, respect, reconciliation and demonstrates true character.

My hope is that council will support the motion of land acknowledgement, will engage in further training of town staff and council members on the subject of Indigenous history and present day challenges. I hope council will act as leaders so as a community we can continue to grow and embody values and beliefs we all can be proud of today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Sam Sinopoli