

From: Joel Clements
Date: 2019-02-12 2:27 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Gloria Collier
Cc: Joe DiPaola
Subject: Land Acknowledgment

I would like it to be a matter of public record that I, in the spirit of reconciliation, support the motion to introduce a land acknowledgment at the beginning of Town of Richmond Hill council meetings.

This gesture is purely related to reconciliation, and not acknowledging Indigenous culture above any others in our community. To say so is to misrepresent the findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

These acknowledgments are not unusual, in fact I would argue that the Town of Richmond Hill is behind other municipalities in the adoption of this practice. The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) provides guidance in this regard, which lends credence to the frequency of use.

We live within the traditional territories of Treaty 13, and as such I believe it is correct to acknowledge this fact.

Sincerely,
Joel Clements