

Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church 1817-2019

10066 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario, CANADA

Minister: The Rev. Duncan James Jeffrey M.A., M.Div.

18th March 2019

Town of Richmond Hill

Council and Committee meetings, agendas and minutes

225 East Beaver Creek,

Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3P4

To the Council Meeting of March 25th, 2019

Please note our strong support for Cllr. David West's motion to begin council meetings with an acknowledgement of the land. This is common practice across Canada in the courts of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Although it may seem to some to be merely symbolic, I have been assured by Indigenous leaders that such acknowledgements are deeply appreciated. This is one small way that our town can begin to conform with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We urge our council to support this motion as a sign of our willingness as a community to become involved with the Reconciliation Process. Our church has twice hosted the Blanket Exercise, a meaningful symbolic re-enactment of the impact of colonization upon the First Nations of Canada. I would respectfully urge our Mayor and Councillors to participate in this activity as one step along the road to reconciliation.

Please be assured that Mayor Barrow and Richmond Hill Council remain in our prayers for all you do to benefit the people of our town.

Yours truly,

Duncan James Jeffrey (minister)