

From: Wong, Jaclyn
Sent: Mon 3/25/2019 12:07 PM
To: Clerks Richmondhill
Cc: Dave Barrow; Joe DiPaola; Carmine Perrelli; Godwin Chan; Karen Cilevitz; David West; Castro Liu; Tom Muench; Greg Beres
Subject: Re: Tonight's Council Meeting - Motion about land acknowledgement

To the Town of Richmond Hill Council,

My name is Jaclyn Wong and I am a teacher with the York Region District School Board, as well as a researcher based in Ontario. I've been a citizen of Richmond Hill for over 20 years and as a Chinese immigrant, I am proud of how much the town has grown. However, it has come to my attention in recent years that there is more history to this town and province we live in - a history that pertains to us because we live on this land. It was appalling for me to learn that we have been living comfortably on this land, which has been violently taken away from Indigenous peoples, leaving them to suffer and die. I have come to fully accept that we are living on stolen land and as part of my personal values in integrity and responsibility, I now understand that acknowledging the land is one of the first steps toward truth and reconciliation. In 2008, then Prime Minister Stephen Harper made a Statement of Apology to former students of residential schools and in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada introduced 94 calls to action. It is time that the Town of Richmond Hill joins this movement in truth, relationship and healing. It is time that the citizens of Richmond Hill begin learning about Indigenous peoples and building relationships with Indigenous communities. It is out of respect and our sense of humanity that we recognize the land we live on. Land acknowledgements is one of the first steps but it is not the last. I believe we need to start somewhere so I support the motion to start council meetings with a land acknowledgement.

Best Regards,
Jaclyn

Jaclyn Wong
Teacher, M.Ed. Candidate
York Region District School Board