

From: Heather

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:03 AM

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Subject: Re 14.1 Member Motion - Land Acknowledgement

In the early hours of National Indigenous Peoples Day, I write to you regarding the Land Acknowledgement motion before you at Wednesday's Council Meeting.

I don't need to remind any of you that the initiative of a land acknowledgement to open Richmond Hill Council meetings is not new. In fact, the idea was brought to council more than 3 years ago early in 2019. And it was on the agenda 3 times in 2021, finally referred back to staff again to consult again with local indigenous groups and report back.

Now we have a suggestion put forth by the indigenous Action Committee (IAC), formed in the fall of 2021, which has become the motion before you.

Some might argue that something is better than nothing and lets just get it over and done already. One might also argue that since it was IAC that objected to the last version, if they are happy with this one , we should be too.

However , I will point out that;

>it is unclear whether this IAC has developed their statement through any process of consultation with the local indigenous groups and peoples represented in Richmond Hill.

> I think it continues to be important to endeavour to hear all voices, which I will remind you was the basis for referring the last land acknowledgement proposal back to staff following the formation and feedback of IAC. However, in my opinion, that shouldn't mean that they become the sole voice on indigenous issues in Richmond Hill (unless they truly have that mandate to represent all indigenous voices)

> this motion preempts & circumvents the consultation presumably underway by staff at the direction of council the last time this topic was before you.

Therefore, I ask that you refer the suggestion put forth by the IAC to staff to include in their consultation and set a date for staff to report back to council before the end of this term.

Regards,

Heather Sirrs