

## Memorandum

June 27, 2022

**MEMO TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**COPY TO:** Executive Leadership Team

**FROM:** Darlene Joslin, Interim City Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Information Requested as part of deferral of Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli - Land Acknowledgement – to July 6, 2022**

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At the June 22, 2022 Council meeting, Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli brought forward a member motion proposing a land acknowledgement for Richmond Hill. At the meeting, Council voted to defer consideration of this motion to the following Council meeting:

“That consideration of Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli - Land Acknowledgement be deferred to the Council meeting on July 6, 2022 to permit staff to provide Council with information on Indigenous Consultant including by not limited to the agreement with the consultant.”

In November 2021, Council directed staff to “have further consultations with the Indigenous Community on wording for the Land Acknowledgement” and “report back to Council on a revised Land Acknowledgement at a future Council Meeting.”

Given the sensitivity of settler-Indigenous relations and the lack of Indigenous expertise on staff, the City sought to hire an Indigenous consultant to facilitate this consultation and develop the text that would put the City in the best position to achieve agreement on an appropriate Land Acknowledgement. The process of developing the land acknowledgement in consultation with Indigenous communities is important for making it meaningful, building “buy-in” and for establishing the basis of ongoing relationships. Hiring a qualified consultant ensures our engagement with these communities is thorough and complete.

Staff reached out to a number of vendors to try to find the expertise for this project. Given the prominence of the discussion of settler-indigenous relations in the public consciousness, some were unable to assist us due to capacity. However, Shared Path Consultation Initiative provided a proposal for engagement that met the requirements of the scope of work the City set out and a purchase agreement was finalized on June 13, 2022.

Shared Path indicated that while they would be able to assist the City, they would not have the capacity to do consultation earlier than the fall of 2022. Given the City’s challenge in finding a consultant for this work, staff were amenable to this timeline.

The scope of work for Shared Path is fourfold:

1. Confirm the parties with which the City should be consulting with on a land acknowledgement from Indigenous Communities.
2. Design and execute consultation with the Indigenous Communities identified to gather input for a Richmond Hill Land Acknowledgement.
3. Develop the text of a Richmond Hill Land Acknowledgement (based on the consultation), and provide this in writing to be included in a staff report to Council seeking Council adoption and implementation of the Land Acknowledgement.
4. Presentation to the City's Executive Leadership Team and Council on the process and text of the Land Acknowledgement. These presentations may be done virtually.

Shared Path facilitates and supports Indigenous and local governments, institutions, and organizations to navigate the challenges of an emerging reconciliation landscape through research, education, and relationship-building opportunities, and resources. The team that will be working on the Richmond Hill land acknowledgment project has extensive experience working with municipalities. Ron Williamson, Shared Path's Board Vice-President who will be providing advice on this project, was the director of the York Region Archaeological Management Plan (AMP), Richmond Hill AMP, same for Durham, Caledon, London, Brantford, Simcoe and 20 others. David Stinson, the project co-lead, has lead educational sessions with Simcoe County, Caledon, and Alderville and was part of the team that undertook consultation for York Region. Carolyn King, Chair and co-founder of the Shared Path, former Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Order of Canada recipient, has worked with various municipalities to deliver educational sessions and for her other project, the Moccasin Identifier.

Funding to hire Shared Path Consultation Initiative to facilitate the development of Richmond Hill's land acknowledgement, valued at \$18,495 exclusive of taxes, can be sourced from the City Manager's 2022 Council-approved Operating Budget.

The City's standard purchase order terms and conditions were used as the purchase agreement. Should Council not wish staff to proceed with the consultant process, the terms allow the City to cancel the agreement for any reason and pay only for work proceeded to date. Unless Council directs otherwise, staff will be arranging a start-up meeting in July to confirm the next steps.

**Submitted by:**



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Darlene Joslin  
Interim City Manager