



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Kerri Ann O'Rourke; Presented by Dwayne Evans, CAO/Clerk
DATE: 17/09/2018
SUBJECT: Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements
ATTACHMENTS: None

RECOMMENDATION:

OPTION ONE:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receive the report entitled "Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements", dated September 17, 2018 for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to develop a North Huron Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement and Protocol;

AND FURTHER THAT the Reeve or designate, participate in the initial meeting with local Indigenous communities to obtain feedback on a Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement which would be presented to Council for consideration.

OPTION TWO:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron receive the report entitled "Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements, dated September 17, 2018 for information purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 19, 2018 Regular Meeting of Council, the following resolution was passed:

M134/18

MOVED BY: B. Vodden

SECONDED BY: T. Seip

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby directs staff to investigate and report back regarding appropriate Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements. CARRIED

The resolution was adopted based on the AMO Policy Update entitled "Guidance on Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements" (dated March 15, 2018) being presented as part of the Consent Agenda. This report outlines some tips for creating a municipal Land Acknowledgement Protocol; provides background information on North Huron's Indigenous history; provides sample protocols and statements for Council's consideration; and outlines next steps.

DISCUSSION

AMO's "Guidance on Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements" provides tips for creating a municipal Land Acknowledgement Protocol. The following is a short list of the tips:

- Research history of the land (including treaties, active land claims and indigenous histories). Histories may be complex and/or contradictory depending on the source.
- Engage and work with local First Nations, Metis, Indigenous organizations. Use advice from these groups to help develop a protocol.
- Once statements/protocols are developed, they may be viewed as political. Some may critique the statement. It may be useful to consider all input as the statement/protocol should be considered a living document, but it is important to remember that you will not please everyone.
- Items for consideration:
 - Implement a trial period and provide opportunity for feedback,
 - Determine which meetings and events the municipality will use the statement,
 - Extending an invitation to Indigenous elders and leaders to participate in the introduction of protocols at civic celebrations or official events.

Researching North Huron Indigenous History

What is now Huron County, includes parts of the traditional territories of multiple Anishinaabe communities. The Huron County Museum website, in a summer 2017 blog post (by student Liz Duern) provides the following:

Treaty 29: The Huron Tract (1827)

The Huron Tract Treaty was signed by eighteen Anishinaabek chiefs in 1827 in Amherstburg; the area included most of what is now known as Huron County, and parts of Perth & Middlesex. This treaty ceded 99% of the communities' remaining lands to the British Crown, and designated four reserves: one along the south of St. Clair Township, one at Sarnia, and two on Lake Huron (Kettle and Stony Point).

Treaty 45 ½: The Saugeen Treaty (1836)

Treaty 45 ½, signed on August 9, 1836, dealt with part of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation's traditional territory. The British promised the Saugeen Ojibway Nation that they would protect the Indigenous peoples who resided on the Saugeen Peninsula and that the Saugeen Peninsula would be protected for their use. Not long after this, the British claimed that the Saugeen Peninsula could not be protected against settlers unless another treaty was negotiated. This treaty was Treaty 72, which ceded about 500,000 acres of the Saugeen Peninsula to the British Crown.



Source: Province of Ontario https://files.ontario.ca/treaties_map_english.

Examples of Statements/Protocols

- “The Blyth Festival wishes to express gratitude to the Anishinaabe, the Odawa and the Potawatomi for their stewardship of this land and for sharing its bounty with us through Treaty 29.” Blyth Theatre
- “As we gather, we are reminded that Guelph is situated on treaty land that is steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people today. As a City, we have a responsibility for the stewardship of the land on which we live and work. Today we acknowledge the Mississaugas of the [New] Credit First Nation on whose traditional territory we are meeting.” City of Guelph
- “[Insert name of city/town] is located on traditional territory of Indigenous peoples dating back countless generations. I want to show my respect for their contributions and recognize the role of treating making in what is now Ontario. Hundreds of years after the first treaties were signed, they are still relevant today.” Province of Ontario – High Level Statement

Blyth Theatre Statement/Protocol Development Experience

Blyth Theatre staff provided the following tips and information about their experience in developing a Statement:

- Staff spoke with several different groups to establish the history of the land on which the Blyth Memorial Hall is located;
- Discovered that this territory was often traversed and passed through rather than lived on year-round;
- During the process of developing the play *Ipperwash* in 2017, Gil Garratt, Artistic Director, was able to develop an appropriate statement with the assistance from elders at Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation;
- It is possible that North Huron spans over two traditional territories: Kettle and Stoney Point and Saugeen First Nation (to be researched);
- Approaching First Nation leaders: Contact the people of Kettle and Stoney Point **and** Saugeen First Nation. When attending the initial meeting with the leaders or representatives, bring some ceremonial tobacco as an offering.

- If Council decides to proceed with the development of a statement, Blyth Theatre staff have offered to assist North Huron with this process.

Next Steps

1. Contact the people of Kettle and Stoney Point and Saugeen First Nation to research the history of land on which the Township of North Huron is location. Invite the leaders (or other representatives) of these First Nations to assist North Huron with the development of a Statement/Protocol. Arrange for a first meeting between the leaders of the First Nations communities and Township of North Huron representatives.

Because leaders of First Nations communities are equated to the leaders of municipalities (i.e., senior staff and Councillors), it is recommended Council appoint a member of Council to meet with the First Nations leaders and work with staff to develop a draft Statement/Protocol.

Advise all Huron County municipalities that the Township of North Huron is initiating this research and extend an invitation to participate.

2. In consultation with the First Nations leaders, develop a Statement/Protocol for the Township of North Huron and present a draft to Council for consideration. The draft would include a protocol regarding the use of the Statement at municipal events and meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff time would be required to undertake research, develop a draft statement, meet with First Nation communities and report back to Council.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Given the research to be completed and contacts to be made with local First Nations communities, it is likely the 2019-2022 Reeve or designate would attend the initial meetings.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Pursing a North Huron Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement and Protocol supports Strategic Plan:

Goal 5.5 A Community that Values Arts, Heritage and Culture.



Kerri Ann O'Rourke



Dwayne Evans, CAO/Clerk