



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Bruce County's Land Acknowledgement & Protocol

From: Aaron Stauch, Director Government Relations

Date: June 5, 2025

Report Number: GR-2025-012

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

This report presents Bruce County's land acknowledgement protocol, making progress on Pathway 3.1.3: *Develop an appropriate, respectful, and accessible Bruce County Land Acknowledgement and associated policy guiding usage* of our Saugeen Anishnaabek Reconciliation Pathway and Action Plan.

Background/Analysis:

In the Summer of 2024, at a Special joint meeting of County Council with Council members from both the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Saugeen First Nation, and Bruce County, County Council endorsed the [Saugeen Anishnaabek Reconciliation Pathway and Action Plan](#). This Pathway and Action Plan made a specific commitment around land acknowledgements as outlined in:

- *Goal 3: Honour Saugeen Anishnaabek Relationships with the Land, Waters, and Animals*
 - *Commitment 3.1: Honour and respect Saugeen Anishnaabek profoundly spiritual relationships with lands, waters, and animals (i.e., "all relations") as well as ancestral and contemporary use and occupancy of lands and waters.*
 - *Pathway 3.1.3: Develop an appropriate, respectful, and accessible Bruce County Land Acknowledgement and associated policy guiding usage.*

As we take a distinction-based approach in acknowledging the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as knowledge keepers in their traditional territory, and recognizing our unique government to government relationship with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation; Bruce County has taken a deliberate approach to reconciliation, one guided by principles of truth, respect, recognition, responsibility, and collaborative relationships. We have waited to adopt a land

acknowledgement until we could do so with integrity, and in alignment with our commitments outlined above, and in the Pathway and Action Plan

The attached document outlines Bruce County's land acknowledgment and guidance for usage that align with the commitments outlined above.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT Considerations.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre was consulted in the development of this document.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

NA

Report Author:

Aaron Stauch, Director Government Relations.

Departmental Approval:

Aaron Stauch, Director Government Relations.

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Bruce County's land acknowledgment and guidance