



Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin

Policy Name: Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement

SECTION 1 – TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

- 1.1 *The Municipality of Central Elgin acknowledges that it is located on the land of the McKee Treaty that was signed by the Wyandot and by Anishinaabe Nations, including ancestors of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. It is also the traditional territory of the, Haudenosaunee, Attiwonderonk (Neutral) and Mississauga Nation. These First Nations continue to provide ongoing stewardship of the land and waters in the Municipality of Central Elgin*
- 1.2 Pronunciation:
- *Haudenosaunee* - hoed-eno-show-nee
 - *Attiwonderonk* – At-ti-wan-da·-ronk

SECTION 2 - BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The federal government's [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\)](#) report of December 2015 contained 94 calls to action to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous Peoples. It contains the government's commitment to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on recognition, rights, respect, co-operation and partnership. The TRC report spurred organizations, businesses and provincial and municipal governments across the country to parallel the federal government's commitment through a variety of initiatives that speak directly to their immediate communities.
- 2.2 To inform its members, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) provided a resource document titled *Guidance on Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statements*. It indicates that traditional land acknowledgement statements are increasingly being used in Canada by governments, schools, post-secondary institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other civil institutions as a practice of reconciliation to recognize the traditional or treaty territories of Indigenous Peoples.
- 2.3 The [Haudenosaunee](#) are identified as having historical association to usage or occupancy of the lands where the Municipality of Central Elgin is now situated. Traditional lands include parts of Ontario east to Montreal, west to Manitoulin Island and Sault Ste. Marie; and the northeastern United States from west of New York and Washington west

to the Mississippi River, and south to roughly the northern border of Tennessee. The [Mississauga Nation](#) consists of 6 communities; Mississauga of the New Credit, Mississaugas of Alderville, Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Mississauga First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and Hiawatha First Nation.

- 2.4 Treaties are defined by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada as solemn agreements that set out long-standing promises, mutual obligations and benefits for both parties. [The McKee Purchase](#) (Treaty No. 2 or the McKee Purchase) includes the lands now comprising the Municipality of Central Elgin. The Treaty is the southernmost Upper Canada treaty. The territory described in the written treaty includes Point Pelee – Canada’s southernmost point. Current communities in the area also include Windsor, Chatham-Kent and part of London.

SECTION 3 - WHAT IS A TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT?

- 3.1 A traditional land acknowledgement statement starts with the land: it’s about acknowledging the land we reside on and honouring the relationship between the land and the people living and thriving here long before settlers arrived. It offers an opportunity to pay respect to ancestral and traditional territories; be mindful of our collective role as stewards of the land; and build awareness of present-day Indigenous culture in our community.

SECTION 4 - USE OF THE TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

- 4.1 In order to recognize the traditional lands associated with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Attiwonderonk (Neutral) Confederacy and the Mississauga Nation:
- The Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement may be printed, spoken, projected, or posted.
 - The Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement shall be added to the municipal website.
 - The Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement shall be stated at the start of the inaugural meeting of Council each term of Council;
 - The Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement shall be printed on all regular meeting of Council agenda’s.
 - At the discretion of the Mayor or designate, the Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement may be spoken.
 - The Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement may be used by the Mayor or designate at civic celebrations and other official events, as deemed appropriate, that are either hosted and/or supported by the Municipality.

SECTION 5 - ADMINISTRATION

- 5.1 For a territorial acknowledgment to be meaningful, it is important that it is delivered with a sense of purpose and authenticity.
- 5.2 The Municipality recognizes that various terms may be preferred over others, and that preferred terms can change over time. The Municipality’s practice will be to honour Indigenous Peoples in the community with the terms they wish to be identified.
- 5.3 Much effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this statement is accurate. It is understood that this is a living document that will continue to evolve over time as an ongoing work in progress. Any inaccuracies may be reported to the Municipality of Central Elgin.