

AGENDA INFORMATION

☒ Regular Meeting

Date: Monday, February 22, 2021

☐ Other:

Date: _____

Dept.
Manager

GM/
Director

CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 9, 2021

File:

AUTHOR: Councillor Jim Hanson

SUBJECT: Indigenous Land Acknowledgements

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT staff report back to Council on options for introducing the protocol of conducting Indigenous land acknowledgements during Council proceedings;

AND THAT in developing an acknowledgement for Council consideration, staff are directed to consult with the appropriate First Nations whose territories would be included in such an acknowledgement.

REASON FOR REPORT:

On December 7, 2020 the District of North Vancouver Council passed motions to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and to support implementation of the municipal-specific Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.

Council has also stated that it is committed to working with the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to determine what reconciliation means in our community.

These events and directions provide the opportunity for Council to begin discussions on related matters, including exploring options for the introduction of a protocol for conducting Indigenous land acknowledgements during Council proceedings and other significant corporate events.

SUMMARY:

Recognizing traditional territory is now a customary practice in Canada. This practice is done to acknowledge that Indigenous peoples have called this land home since time immemorial, before the arrival of newcomers.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report included a number of actions specific to and encompassing of local government, with recognizing traditional territory often seen as a first step in demonstrating a willingness to learn the truth about our shared past.

SUBJECT: Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

February 9, 2021

Page 2

Given Council's direction, introducing such a protocol during Council proceedings and other significant corporate events is therefore an appropriate next step toward advancing these Calls to Action. However, in order to ensure these actions are meaningful, the development of a territorial acknowledgement should be done in consultation with the First Nation(s) whose territory will be acknowledged.

BACKGROUND:

The following table provides examples of territorial acknowledgements in use by municipalities on the North Shore, as well as municipal agencies. While staff will consult with the appropriate First Nations in development of such an acknowledgement, staff may also reach out to partners and agencies as part of this process.

Municipality	Acknowledgement
District of West Vancouver	<i>1. West Vancouver is on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish People, in particular, the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam First Nations.</i> <i>2. We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Musqueam Nation. We recognize and respect them as nations in this territory, as well as their historic connection to the lands and waters around us since time immemorial.</i>
City of North Vancouver	<i>...recognize that today's event is taking place on the unceded and traditional territory of the Squamish, Tsleil-waututh, and Musqueam peoples. The City of North Vancouver. The Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Councils are key government partners for us and I look forward to collaborating more and more with them over the coming years.</i>
MONOVA	<i>MONOVA respectfully acknowledges that we live and work on the unceded territory of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) Nations. We are grateful to the Coast Salish people for the opportunity to engage, strengthen and inspire our community on this land.</i>
North Shore School District	<i>The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.</i>
North Vancouver Chamber	<i>Written with gratitude on unceded traditional territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.</i>
CUPE 389	<i>I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which CUPE 389 office is headquartered on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the</i>

SUBJECT: Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

February 9, 2021

Page 3

	<i>Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Nation. We value the opportunity to learn, live and share educational experiences on this traditional territory.</i>
Family Services of the North Shore	<i>Family Services of the North Shore is located on the unceded and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.</i>

Conclusion:

Recognizing traditional territory is often seen as a first step in demonstrating a willingness to learn the truth about our shared past, and, is therefore an appropriate next step for the DNV to take toward advancing the municipal-specific Calls to Action included in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report. However, developing such an acknowledgement must be done in consultation and collaboration with the nations whose territories may be included in the acknowledgement. When an acknowledgement has been crafted in consultation with the respective nations, it may be communicated and shared in a number of ways, and protocols for its use provided to both Council and staff.

Options:

- 1) That the motions, as presented, be supported.
- 2) That the motions, as presented, are not supported.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Hanson
Councillor

REVIEWED WITH:		
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ Clerk's Office
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Communications
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ Finance
☐ Utilities	_____	☐ Fire Services
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ ITS
☐ Parks	_____	☐ Solicitor
☐ Environment	_____	☐ GIS
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Real Estate
☐ Human Resources	_____	☐ Bylaw Services
☐ Review and Compliance	_____	☐ Planning
		External Agencies:
		☐ Library Board
		☐ NS Health
		☐ RCMP
		☐ NVRC
		☐ Museum & Arch.
		☐ Other: