



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Request for Change in Oath of Office to Acknowledge Treaty Rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis People

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Councillor Shawna Stolte, Ward 4

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: September 26, 2023

Motion for Council to Consider:

Whereas most municipalities in Ontario have a land acknowledgement in their opening ceremony; and

Whereas a clear reference to the rights of Indigenous people is the aim of advancing Truth and Reconciliation; and

Whereas Call to Action 94 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada called upon the Government of Canada to replace the wording of the Oath of Citizenship to include the recognition of the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples; and

Whereas on June 21, 2021, an Act to amend *The Citizenship Act* received royal assent to include clear reference to the rights of Indigenous peoples aimed at advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action within the broader reconciliation framework; and

Whereas the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada outlines specific calls to action for municipal governments in Canada to act on, including education and collaboration;

Therefore be it resolved that Burlington City Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the following changes be made to the municipal oath of office:

I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including the Constitution, which recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples;

and further that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Parm Gill; Natalie Pierre, MPP Burlington; and Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP Oakville North-Burlington; Halton Region; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Ontario's Big City Mayors; the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Reason:

In recent months, municipalities across the province have been urging the Government of Ontario to revise the oath used to swear in councillors, mayors, and other municipal office holders to add an acknowledgement of the treaty rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.

The City of Burlington is committed to supporting the Calls to Action contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report as they relate to municipalities through our policies, strategies, and initiatives.

Outcome Sought:

A change in the wording of the oath of office that acknowledges the treaty rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(check those that apply)

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Share with Senior Staff

Seconded by Councillor Rory Nisan

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: Approved as per Form

City Manager: Approved