



GOVERNANCE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Title Land Acknowledgment Statement Update

Meeting Date June 27, 2024

Submitted By Councillor Crowson, Chair, Governance Standing Policy Committee

Recommendation from Governance Standing Policy Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council:

1. rescind the June 10, 2019 Resolution, in its entirety, adopted by City Council, as follows:
*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council adopt the Acknowledgement Statement (see Attachment 2); and
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Acknowledgement Statement be read at the beginning of all meetings of City Council;*
2. approve the updated Land Acknowledgement statement, as provided in Attachment 1; and
3. direct administration to update all City of Lethbridge online content and materials to reflect the change in the Land Acknowledgement statement, including the Reconciliation Implementation Plan.

Vote:
Absent: 1
In Favour: 3-0

Public Speakers at the Meeting: None

Public Submissions: None

Submitted By Echo Nowak, Indigenous Relations Specialist

Summary

- The Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3 restructured their organization, which caused the Lethbridge local to change its status. Lethbridge Metis Region 3 no longer exists to the area in which the City of Lethbridge is situated.
- With this change in Metis Status within the City of Lethbridge and area, the current Land Acknowledgement Statement needs to be updated to reflect this change.

- The current Land Acknowledgement statement is part of the [Reconciliation Implementation Plan 2017-2027](#), the plan will also need to reflect this update.

Recommendation(s)

That the Governance Standing Policy Committee recommend City Council:

1. Rescind the June 10, 2019 Resolution, in its entirety, adopted by City Council, as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council adopt the Acknowledgement Statement (see Attachment 2); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Acknowledgement Statement be read at the beginning of all meetings of City Council.

2. Approve the updated Land Acknowledgement statement, as provided in Attachment 1; and
3. Direct Administration to update all City of Lethbridge online content and materials to reflect the change in the Land Acknowledgement statement, including the [Reconciliation Implementation Plan](#).

Financial

None

Background and Prior Decisions

- At the City Council meeting of [June 19, 2017](#), Council adopted the [Reconciliation Implementation Plan](#), which included the Land Acknowledgement statement in both its long and short forms on page 3 of the plan.
- At the [June 10, 2019](#) City Council meeting, Council passed a motion to read the Land Acknowledgement statement at the beginning of every Council meeting, and that it also be read at the beginning of all Council committee meetings, including Boards, Commissions and Committees of Council.

WHEREAS City Council approved the Reconciliation Implementation Plan on June 19, 2017; and

WHEREAS City Council did not specifically adopt the Acknowledgement Statement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council adopt the Acknowledgement Statement; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Acknowledgement Statement be read at the beginning of all meetings of City Council.

- During 2023, the Metis Nation of Alberta made changes to its districts and the boundaries, this included the Lethbridge area.
- The previous Lethbridge Metis Region 3 is now considered a not-for-profit organization under the name Lethbridge and Area Metis Association.

Engagement

In March 2024, the Indigenous Relations Office brought forward a new proposed land acknowledgment to the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee (RLAC), after review with various Elders and stakeholders. RLAC approved the proposed land acknowledgment and requested that we bring this request to Council for consideration.

Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

1. That the City of Lethbridge update its current Land Acknowledgement statement to the following:

Proposed: *"The City of Lethbridge acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship to land. The City of Lethbridge offers respect to the Metis and all who have lived on this land and made Lethbridge their home."*

The change of the last sentence (highlighted) in the proposed Land Acknowledgement will reflect on the status of the Metis in our community and be inclusive to all Indigenous living in Lethbridge.

Current: *"The City of Lethbridge acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship to land. **The City of Lethbridge is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.**"*

2. Request Administration to amend the Land Acknowledgement Statement and come back to Council at a later date.

We would not accurately recognize our regions when reading the current Land Acknowledgement Statement; therefore, we would not be taking into consideration the changes implemented by the local Metis leadership.

Attachment(s)

1. Updated Land Acknowledgement Statement
2. Current Land Acknowledgement Statement

Link(s)

1. [City Council Meeting of June 19, 2017](#)
2. [City Council Meeting of June 10, 2019](#)
3. [Reconciliation Implementation Plan](#)

Approvals**Department Director:** Jason Elliott**City Manager:** Lloyd Brierley