

	THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON POLICY MANUAL			
	Subject:	Land Acknowledgement Policy	Section L15	Policy 01
	Effective Date:	June 2, 2021	Approved By: County Council	
	Revision Date:	October 18, 2023		

PURPOSE

This document sets out The Corporation of the County of Lambton's policy for the acknowledgement of the contributions and history of the First Nations on whose historical and traditional lands Lambton County is now situate.

DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, the following terms have the following meaning:

- (a) **"County Council"** means the body of elected Council members whom together form the elected council of the County.
- (b) **"Deputy Warden"** means the individual elected by County Council to the position of Deputy Warden.
- (c) **"First Nations"** means the first inhabitants of Canada and, locally, means the Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Walpole Island First Nation (Bkejwanong Territory) and Kettle and Stony Point First Nation (Chippewas (Anishnaabeg) of Kettle and Stony Point).
- (d) **"First Nations Peoples"** means the First Nations' members and their ancestors including, without limitation, their Chippewa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi and Odawa antecedents.
- (e) **"Inaugural Meeting"** means the first meeting of County Council held pursuant to s. 230 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- (f) **"Warden"** means the head of County Council.

POLICY

1. **Policy Statement**

The Corporation of the County of Lambton acknowledges, with respect, the history, culture, and spirituality of the First Nations and First Nations Peoples on whose

traditional lands the County of Lambton is now situated, with whom all share harmoniously, in peace and in friendship, and with whom we have an obligation to protect the environment for this and future generations.

2. Traditional Lands Acknowledgement

(a) In furtherance of the statement set out above, The Corporation of the County of Lambton hereby adopts the traditional lands acknowledgment attached hereto as Appendix "A" (hereinafter, the "Acknowledgment").

3. Use/Posting of Acknowledgement

(a) It is hereby authorized that the Acknowledgement be included, posted and/or read aloud as follows:

- a. posted on the County's public website, www.lambtononline.com;
- b. posted on the County's affiliate sub sites, including www.lambtonmuseums.ca, www.lclibrary.ca, www.jnaag.ca, and others as appropriate;
- c. included in the County's Strategic Plan, including any amended versions of the plan as updated from time to time, and other relevant strategic planning documents associated with County services;
- d. posted publicly, at a conspicuous location and the entrance of the following County buildings where the Acknowledgement is likely to come to the attention of members of the public:
 - i. County Administration Building;
 - ii. Lambton Public Health headquarters;
 - iii. Lambton Heritage Museum
 - iv. Lambton County Archives
 - v. Oil Museum of Canada
 - vi. Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery
 - vii. Lambton Shared Services Centre
 - viii. Lambton County Library locations
- e. read aloud by the Clerk, at the Inaugural Meeting of County Council and such other meetings of County Council where the Warden and Deputy Warden are elected/appointed; and
- f. read aloud by the Warden or his/her designated representative of County Council at the introduction of ceremonies, meetings, gatherings, events, or presentations, as appropriate.

4. Interpretation

(a) This Policy shall be interpreted and enforced in a manner consistent with the objective of the Policy set out in the subject-heading **Policy Statement** above and, specifically, in a manner that advocates for a respectful, constructive acknowledgement of the history of First Nations and First Nations Peoples on the lands within Lambton County.

5. Scope of Policy

(a) This document sets out County Council's policy on the subject-matter hereof. This Policy is not intended and does not serve to amend any other policy. In the event of any inconsistency between this Policy and any other policy of The Corporation of the County of Lambton, the policy that directly addresses the subject matter under consideration shall govern.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy shall come into force on June 2, 2021.

POLICY REVIEW

County Council shall review this Policy once per Term of Council.

POLICY HISTORY

REVISION	DATE	PREPARED BY
Policy Created	June 2, 2021	Legal Services/Clerk's Dept. and Cultural Services Division
Policy reviewed and the preamble in Appendix "A" revised.	October 18, 2023	Legal Services/Clerk's Dept. and Cultural Services Division

Appendix “A”

Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands Preamble:

We acknowledge that the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg, inhabited these lands at the time of the signing of the treaties with the Crown. Lambton County was part of the Huron Tract, which was negotiated under Treaty #29 in 1827, and also includes lands associated with Sombra Township, negotiated under Treaty #7 in 1796, and the Long Woods Tract negotiated under Treaty #21 in 1819. We also acknowledge the earlier Indigenous people who travelled these lands in the time of the Wampum treaties.

We acknowledge that we are all treaty people, with our own set of rights and responsibilities. Treaties are a foundational part of our society, and the settlement of Lambton County within a treaty area was made possible through the treaty process. The existence of treaties is proof that the first settlers of what is now Canada acknowledged First Nations as sovereign people and negotiated Nation to Nation. By understanding the colonial history of Canada we can renew our relationships with each other and move towards meaningful reconciliation.

Further, it is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Today, we are part of this same land that sustains all life, and it is the sacred responsibility of all people to ensure that the environment remains protected. Finally, we acknowledge that the inherent languages of the Anishinaabeg preclude any English/French meaning.

Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands:

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Language Pronunciations:

Anishinaabeg (ah-nish-i-nah-beg)

Chippewa (chip-uh-wah)

Odawa (o-dah-wah)

Potawatomi (pot-uh-wah-tuh-mee)