



Subject: African Heritage Acknowledgement
To: Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: May 30, 2023
Related Motions: C23(162)

Moved to direct staff to investigate a second land acknowledgement regarding African Nova Scotian history and what other municipalities do.

Prepared by: Juliann Cashen
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, CAO

Summary

Staff has been asked to investigate adding language to the current land acknowledgement regarding African Nova Scotian history.

Financial Impact Statement

N/A

Recommendation

That the Corporate & Residential Services Committee provides direction to staff/Council to include a statement representing African Nova Scotian Heritage.

Suggested Motion

If you choose to do this, we recommend the following wording:

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends Council approve the following wording for the Land Acknowledgement as required under the Council Procedural Policy to be as follows:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty people."

Background

The Municipality of East Hants reads an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement at Executive Committee meetings, other Committees of Council, Regular Meetings of Council and all major public events. The decision to include a land acknowledgement at Council meetings was made in 2018 and expanded to the Executive Committee and other Committees of Council and events in 2022.

EXISTING PROVINCIAL & MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES

Municipality	Land Acknowledgement
Halifax Regional Municipality	Indigenous
Town of Lunenburg	Indigenous
Municipality of Cumberland	Indigenous
Cape Breton Regional Municipality	Indigenous
United Way Halifax	Indigenous + African Heritage
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities	Indigenous + African Heritage

Acadia University	Indigenous + African Heritage
Town of Amherst	Indigenous + African Heritage
AMANS	Indigenous + African Heritage
Annapolis County	No African Heritage Acknowledgement

SAMPLE WORDING

We would like to acknowledge the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty people.

Discussion

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Pursuing the African Land Acknowledgement would work towards the goal of enhancing awareness of cultural diversity in East Hants and would align with the Municipality's key strategy - Corporate Excellence.

Alternatives

The alternative is to maintain the status quo and not include the African Nova Scotian Land acknowledgement.