

# STAFF REPORT

**Department: Clerk's Office**

**Date: September 24, 2024**

**Item: Bylaw No. 3211/24**

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**Recommendation:** Be It Resolved That: Bylaw No. 3211/24, being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 3120/23, The Procedural Bylaw, be adopted.

**Background:** At present, the Town's Procedural Bylaw includes that an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement is to lead each meeting of Council and Committee. Staff is proposing minor changes in the language of the current land acknowledgement to better align its language with land acknowledgements across Ontario and to better demonstrate the reasons this acknowledgement is being made. In addition, it has been noted by the Clerk that the language of the land acknowledgement was not entered into the Procedural Bylaw, as it should be. This amendment will serve to formalize this.

**Analysis:** The new proposed language is as follows:

*We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 and acknowledging that the Town of Espanola is located on the traditional territories of the Whitefish River First Nation, Sagamok Anishnawbek and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. We acknowledge this as part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and to working together for our future generations.*

Land acknowledgements are intended to provide an opportunity for reflection on the significance of where we are standing, the Peoples that we serve and work with, and to act as a reminder of the importance of educating ourselves on the history of colonialism in Canada. It is also important to recognize that we are all Treaty Peoples and all share collective responsibilities to the land that we inhabit. As an extension of the Province of Ontario and Canada, it is important that as a municipality we demonstrate our understanding and respect of these responsibilities and this history as we continue building relationships with First Nations and as we continue serving the many Indigenous residents of our community.



**Existing Policy:** Bylaw 3120/23

**Strategic Goal:** N/A

**Financial Commitment:** N/A

**Budgeted:**    **Yes** ☐    **No** ☐

**Implementation:** Upon Council Recommendation

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**Prepared By:** Joseph Burke

**Department Manager:**

**CAO/Clerk:** Joseph Burke

**Approval of Recommendation:**   **Yes** ☒    **No** ☐

**Comments:**