

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



<p>Date: October 22, 2020</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: November 4, 2020</p>

Subject

Reaffirming the City of Mississauga's Relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Recommendation

1. That the report titled "Reaffirming the City of Mississauga's Relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation" dated October 22, 2020 from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That the following two initiatives be approved to reaffirm the City of Mississauga's relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation:
 - a) Permanent installment of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation flag in the City of Mississauga's Council Chambers; and
 - b) That By-law Number 7362 be amended to recognize the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Indigenous origin of the City of Mississauga's name.

Report Highlights

- The City of Mississauga and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have a long-held history and relationship. The City derives its name from the Indigenous peoples who lived along the banks of the Credit River.
- The *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* call for a renewal of the relationship between Treaty peoples.
- The Town of Mississauga paid formal recognition to the Mississauga's of the Credit through an Honorary Grant of the Township, issued in 1968.
- This report recommends amending the existing naming by-law to formally include recognition of the Ojibwe/Anishnaabe origins of the name, as well as formally flying the flag of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation in recognition of the Treaties, which

cover the lands of the City of Mississauga.

Background

The History of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation belong to the larger Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) Nation, a prominent Indigenous Nations in North America.

The ancestors of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have a long and rich history on the lands now known as the City of Mississauga. By the mid-1700s, the Mississaugas occupied most of the land of Southern Ontario. They hunted and fished as a means of sustenance, moving throughout the land seasonally. The Credit River and its banks became especially important to their survival and traditions and became a regular annual gathering place.

After the American Revolution, the British Crown sought to secure land to accommodate the increasing amount of settlers arriving in the area. This resulted in the signing of four treaties between the British Crown and the Mississaugas, including Treaty 13-A in 1805; Treaty 19 in 1818; and Treaties 22 and 23 in 1820. The land from these treaties formed the land upon which the City of Mississauga is currently established. In 1825, in an attempt to secure the survival of the Mississaugas, a village near the Credit River was built by the British Crown. However, the Mississaugas eventually relocated to Hagersville Ontario in 1847, where they continue to reside today.

Today, we recognize that the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have Crown recognized treaties, land use areas and assertions within the boundaries of the City of Mississauga. They continue to have strong ties with their ancestral home along the Credit River and the land upon which the City is built. Their knowledge of the land, traditions, spirit and contributions are integral to the formation of the City of Mississauga today.

Relationship with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

On July 20th, 1968, the Corporation of the Town of Mississauga initiated a “Freedom of the Town Grant” to the Council and Members of the Mississauga of the New Credit Reserve. The document recognized the historical connection, friendly relations and communicated a desire of the Town to develop a bond of affection and regard with the community. Additionally, the grant recognized the name of the Town of Mississauga to have originated from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This document was signed and delivered by the Town of Mississauga to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation at a celebratory picnic at the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Reserve on July 20th, 1968.

In the following years, Mayor Hazel McCallion, of the City of Mississauga, was a signatory to two Friendship treaties that were initiated by third parties. The first was the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation that was signed on September 29th, 1979 and was organized by the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Dufferin-Peel School Board and the Peel Board of Education.

The second was a Friendship Treaty organized by Heritage Mississauga and signed on August 6th, 2005.

The City of Mississauga and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation share a strong mutual interest and agreement in continuing to foster, strengthen and celebrate these efforts. To date, there are various initiatives that both parties work on collaboratively, some of which include:

- Land-use planning and infrastructure projects
- Retaining of Field Liaison Representatives for land-use planning and infrastructure projects
- Educational and social programming with Library and Museums at the City
- Participation of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation in public City and staff events, including Canada Day, Canada's National Indigenous Peoples Day and the staff Leadership Conference
- The establishment of regular contact, staff meetings and visits

How the City of Mississauga received its name

The word Mississauga is derived from the word "Missisakis" in the Anishinaabemowin language, which translates into "many river mouths." This name is believed to have been given to the Mississaugas due to their locations on the mouths of the Trent, Moira, Shannon, Napanee, Kingston, and Gananoque rivers. As previously noted, a group of the Mississauga peoples came to settle along the Credit River and reside in the Credit Indian Mission, one of the first Methodist missions built settlements for Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Although the Mississaugas of the Credit moved to Hagersville in 1847, their name persisted in the area and became associated with the southern reaches of the Credit River.

In 1968, the Toronto Township held a vote for residents to select the new name of their town. The residents chose the name Mississauga due to their familiarity and fondness with the term and their recognition of the history of the Mississaugas on the land. In 1974, the City of Mississauga was incorporated with the same name.

Present Status

The City is in the process of developing and executing a series of initiatives in regards to the Indigenous relations file, including:

- a) Adopting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action that are within the City's capacity to respond to in order to further reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and communities. The Corporate report titled "Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the AMO Declaration on Friendship Centers," from the Commissioner of Community Services, dated October 22, 2020 provides further elaboration on this initiative.
- b) Promoting reconciliation and relationship building with Indigenous communities that have treaties, land use areas or assertions within the boundaries of the City of Mississauga, as identified by the Federal and Provincial Governments.

- c) Operationalizing and streamlining internal processes to improve efficiency in working with Indigenous communities and providing clarity and direction to staff.
- d) Promoting inclusive programming which creates awareness and education of Indigenous cultures and further promotes Indigenous-led programming.

The recommendations in this report are in direct response to a) and b) above and are a tangible and meaningful move towards satisfying TRC Call to Action 45 *iii*.

Comments

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Flag

The City of Mississauga and Council have received requests from Chief Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to permanently raise their nation's flag within Council Chambers in order to recognize the treaties signed between their ancestors and Crown, which allowed for the settlement of Toronto Township. The installment of the flag in Council Chambers would be done through a celebratory ceremony with the presence of the Mayor and Council as well as Chief Stacey Laforme and the Council of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation within National Indigenous Month, June 2021.

The City of Mississauga would join other municipalities within the treaty territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit in flying their flag, including Toronto, Oakville, Caledon, Burlington, Hamilton and others within the treaty territory.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the City is committed to learn, foster relationships, continue on-going and look for future opportunities and partnerships with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. As a further demonstration of this commitment, permanent installment of the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation flag in the City of Mississauga's Council Chambers is recommended through a celebratory ceremony with the presence of the Mayor and Council as well as Chief Stacey Laforme and the Council of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation within National Indigenous Month, June, 2021. The flag installation would be a permanent reminder of the City's shared history with, and recognition of, the Anishinaabe peoples who came to be known as the Mississaugas of the Credit and the origin of the Mississauga name

Recognition of the Name of the City of Mississauga

The 1968 By-law 7362, the Grant of Honourary Grant of the Freedom of the Town of Mississauga to the Council and Members of the Mississaugas of the New Credit Reserve serves as an important document regarding the relationship between settlers and Indigenous communities. The premise of the by-law, as well as the wording within it, has now become problematic and challenging and is not compliant with the Constitution Act (1982) nor the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation tribunal. The by-law does not recognize the treaties signed between the Mississaugas and the Crown nor does it take into account the various provisions, set out in these treaties, which grant the Mississaugas of the Credit rights and freedoms within their treaty territory.

As the Municipal Act 2001, s.o. 2001 subsection 8(1), c. 25 provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority to enable it to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate, it is within the City of Mississauga's capacity and interest to issue a revision of this by-law to further relationship building with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

The proposed revision of the by-law (Appendix 1), seeks to bring the recognition of the City's name forward into a present context and provide proper recognition of our name, and its origins, in keeping with Council Resolution 0207-2020.

Financial Impact

The funds for the permanent installment of the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation flag and the celebration is estimated to cost \$8000.00 and will be secured from the Culture Division's 2021 operating budget.

There is no financial impact for endorsing the proposed By-law to amend By-law Number 7362 to recognize the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Indigenous origin of the City of Mississauga's name.

Conclusion

In the spirit of reconciliation and Council Resolution 0207-2020, the City of Mississauga seeks to reaffirm its relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, recognize the importance of the treaties signed between the Mississaugas and the Crown about the lands which make up the City of Mississauga, and seeks to formally recognize the Anishnaabe origins of the name of the City.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Amendment to By-law 7362- recognizing the origins of the name Mississauga.



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