



INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION

MAY 2023

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

- Reconciliation is the process of developing a respectful relationship between Indigenous and settler (i.e. non-Indigenous) people across Canada. It's about working together to overcome the devastating effects of colonization.
- It is important to acknowledge harmful policies and practices (e.g. residential schools, loss of lands, inequitable access to essential services, prohibition of cultural traditions and languages, etc.) and define positive ways to move forward together.

OUR ROLE AS THE TOWN OF CALEDON

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action
- 43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and **municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation**
- 47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to **repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands**, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.
- 57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and **municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations.** This will require skillsbased training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism

MCFN TREATY LANDS – TREATY 19, AJETANCE PURCHASE

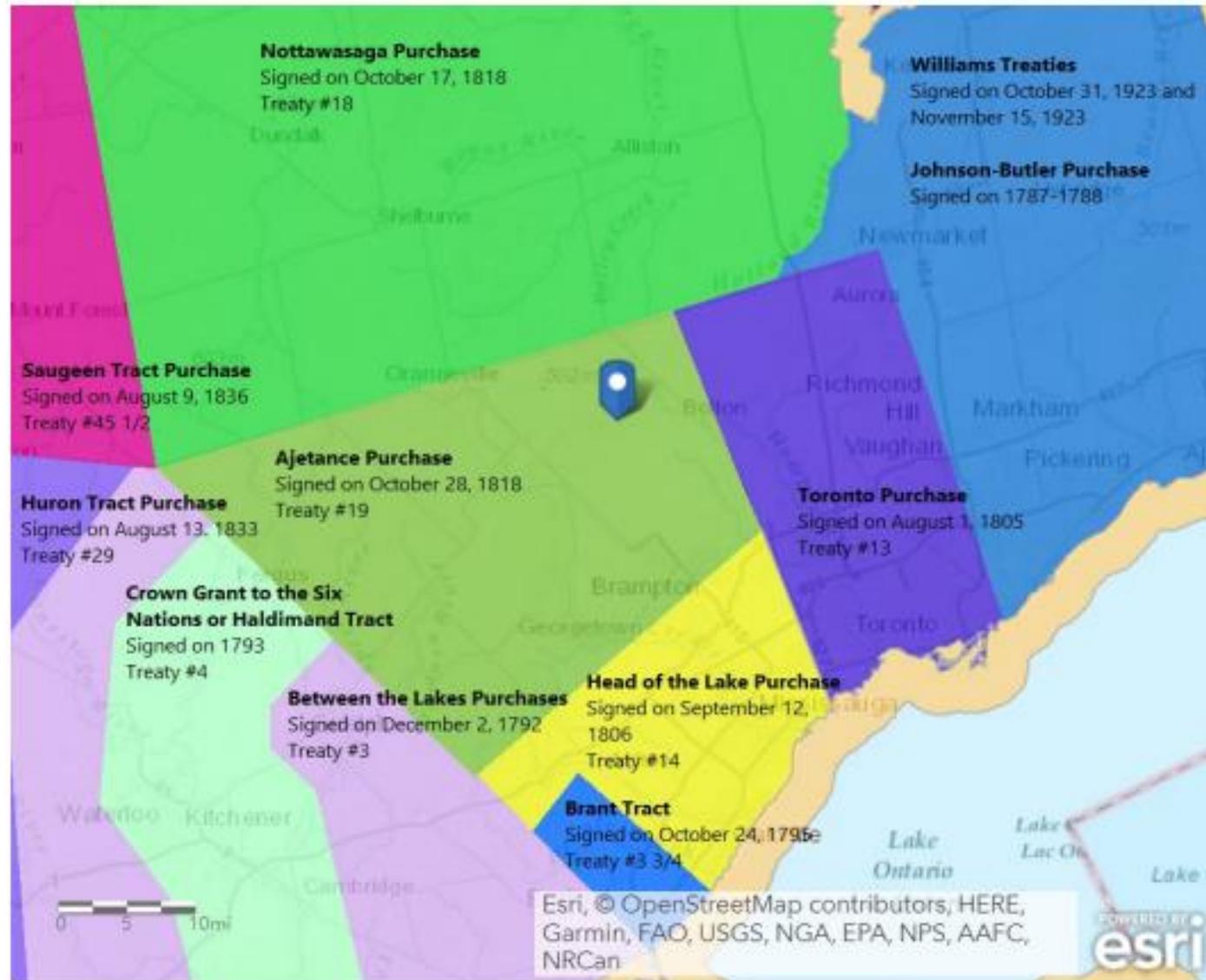
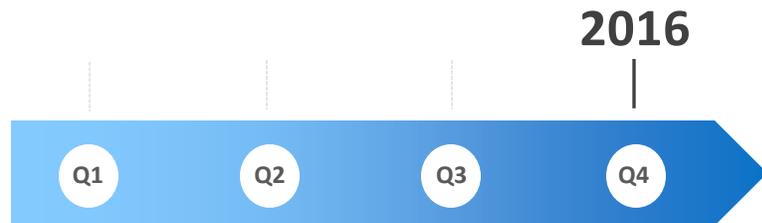


Figure 1-1: Treaty Lands Surrounding the Town of Caledon (Ministry of Indigenous Affairs 2022)



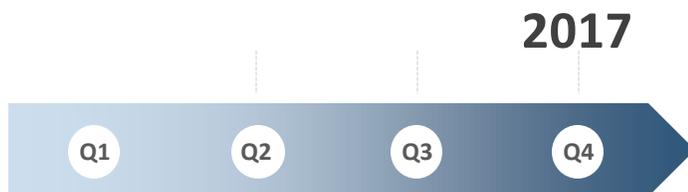
2016

- Late 2016 Caledon Resident and Local Historian, Heather Broadbent reached out to former Mayor's Office to understand how the Town would recognize the 200th Anniversary of the Ajentance Treaty taking place in 2018



2017

- Former Mayor and Council reached out to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations (MCFN) Chief Stacey Laforme and asked for a meeting to discuss renewing the relationship between the Town and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations
- 2017 former Mayor and Council attended two-day program hosted by the MCFN at the band office in Hagersville to further discuss how we partner and work together
- During Treaties Recognition Week, the Town of Caledon drafted the Territorial Acknowledgement as a statement to be used at the beginning of official events



2018

- The Town's participation in the Regional Diversity Roundtable (RDR) focused on building the DEI Leadership Program led to conversation with MCFN to refine the previous Territorial Acknowledgment
- A memo to the Council Committee agenda leads to the first Land Acknowledgement

2018 CONTINUED

- March 2018 At the request of the former Mayor and Council, the Town commissioned an artist from MCFN to create a Wampum Belt that would symbolize the 200th Anniversary and a recommitment to working together
- June 2018 former Mayor Thompson presented Chief Stacey Laforme with the Wampum Belt at the Caledon Day Celebration



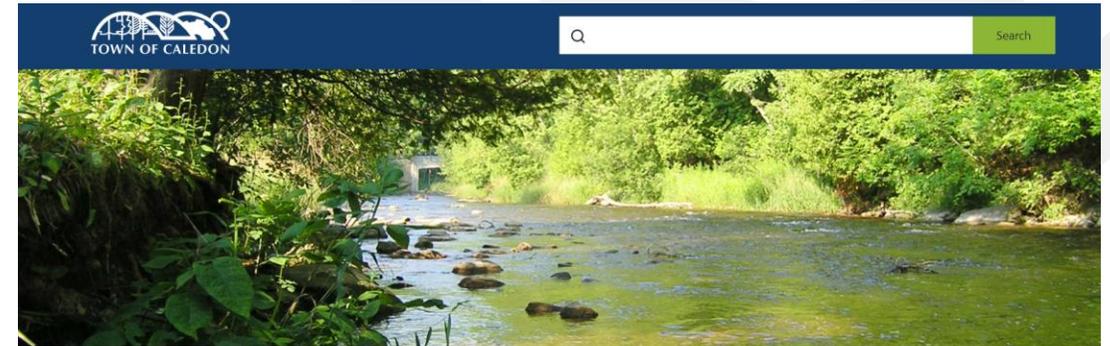
2021

- 2021 First Council to Council meeting between the Town of Caledon and MCFN Council
- Town Staff in Planning begin the process of drafting the Indigenous Engagement Protocol with a consultant and MCFN. This became a living document aimed at guiding meaningful engagement at the Town and with other Nations



2022

- Council approved the Indigenous Engagement Protocol (IEP), a guiding principle for consultation at the Town
- As a result of the IEP, the Indigenous Engagement Working Group representing various departments is formed
- An internal and external webpage was launched to share updates with Staff and the Community on how the Town is advancing reconciliation
- An education session was provided by MCFN Traditional Knowledge Keeper on understanding the history of Indigenous Peoples in Peel



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Indigenous Reconciliation

The Town acknowledges that it is situated on lands that are home to many Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). The Town realizes the need and value of understanding more about the rich history of this land and its Indigenous Peoples, which will help the Town be better neighbours and partners.

This land is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and part of the traditional Territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee Peoples, and the Anishnabek of the Williams Treaties.

Culture

Recreation + Leisure +

Animal Services +

Garbage, Recycling, Water + Environment +



2022 CONTINUED



- Visual Land Acknowledgements are posted in Town facilities
- Partnering with a local, Indigenous Bolton Resident, orange shirts were purchased and made available for staff for Orange Shirt Day
- A Relationship Agreement was drafted together with MCFN identifying areas of mutual concern and interest and a commitment to a shared understanding and ongoing conversations
- MOU signed October 2022

MOU IN ACTION

- Bill 23 – Joint Statement
- Project Meetings
- Opportunities to streamline administrative processes
- Partnering with City of Mississauga on Indigenous Perspectives Event
- Library Programs
- Website review by MCFN Traditional Knowledge Keeper

Town of Caledon and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Iss...

Posted on Monday, April 10, 2023

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The Town of Caledon and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) share concerns about *Bill 23: More Homes Built Faster Act* and its impacts.

This bill proposes changes that will severely impact environmental protection and heritage preservation. The Province has [amended the Greenbelt Plan](#) and [re-designated lands in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan](#), anticipating future development of at least 50,000 new homes on the affected lands. These changes may impact key natural features in the Greenbelt, affect farmland and ecosystems and set a precedent that environmentally protected lands can be opened for development. Changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* impact the ability of municipalities to protect their cultural heritage resources, eroding their identity and sense of place.

In addition to these concerns is the lack of consultation with Indigenous communities, specifically MCFN, who have deep relationships with these lands. Bill 23 removes the provincial government's duty to consult with and accommodate Indigenous Peoples, impacting MCFN's Treaty rights, obligations and land claims.

At the January 2023 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference, Mayor Groves raised these issues and advocated on behalf of the Town and MCFN to The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Together, the Town of Caledon and MCFN expect that the Province provide opportunities for consultation. "The Province must consult and collaborate with the Mississaugas of the Credit, other Indigenous communities and Ontario municipalities," said Chief R. Stacey LaForme of the MCFN. "The government has obligations to the people and our mother the earth."

2023

- Staff and Council attended the MCFN Historical Gathering in February
- Toolkit for Staff on regulatory engagement
- Training for Staff
- Library series on Reconciliation for the Public
- Woodland Cultural Centre – Training Opportunity for Staff
- Staff to continue to advance IEP
- Education panels on the History of the Mississaugas of the Credit in Community Facilities



FUTURE OF RECONCILIATION AT THE TOWN OF CALEDON



- Understand Indigenous Rights and Treaty Rights
- More education opportunities
- Indigenous cultural competency training
- Indigenous public art
- Policies and procedures
- Advancing the IEP with other Indigenous Nations
- Support Indigenous Placemaking with CVC on the Credit Valley Trail
- Signage to acknowledge the land in which Caledon resides in

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

- Listen to Indigenous Perspectives across all disciplines and act on what we hear
- Ensure we are actively seeking opportunities to advance reconciliation through action
- Council and Staff partnerships on Indigenous projects and initiatives
- Read the Indigenous Engagement Protocol