



Image: Turtle Island by Roy Thomas

Wellington County Municipalities Land Acknowledgement Project

Town of Minto
Council Presentation
August 8, 2023

Land Acknowledgment Project

“Reconciliation must become a way of life. It will take many years to repair damaged trust and relationships in Aboriginal communities and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Reconciliation not only requires apologies, reparations, the relearning of Canada’s national history, and public commemoration, but also needs real social, political, and economic change. Ongoing public education and dialogue are essential to reconciliation. Governments, churches, educational institutions, and Canadians from all walks of life are responsible for taking action on reconciliation in concrete ways, working collaboratively with Aboriginal peoples. Reconciliation begins with each and every one of us.”

**Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada, p.185**



Land Acknowledgment Project

ASI was retained by the Chief Administrative Officers of six of the local municipalities in Wellington County to assist in the development of Indigenous land acknowledgments:

- Township of Centre Wellington
- Township of Guelph/Eramosa
- Township of Mapleton
- Town of Minto
- Township of Puslinch
- Township of Wellington North



Land Acknowledgment Project

Indigenous Engagement



Critical Review

Background &
Historical Research

Drafting of Land
Acknowledgements

Final Reporting and
Presentation to
Council

WE ARE
HERE

Working Group

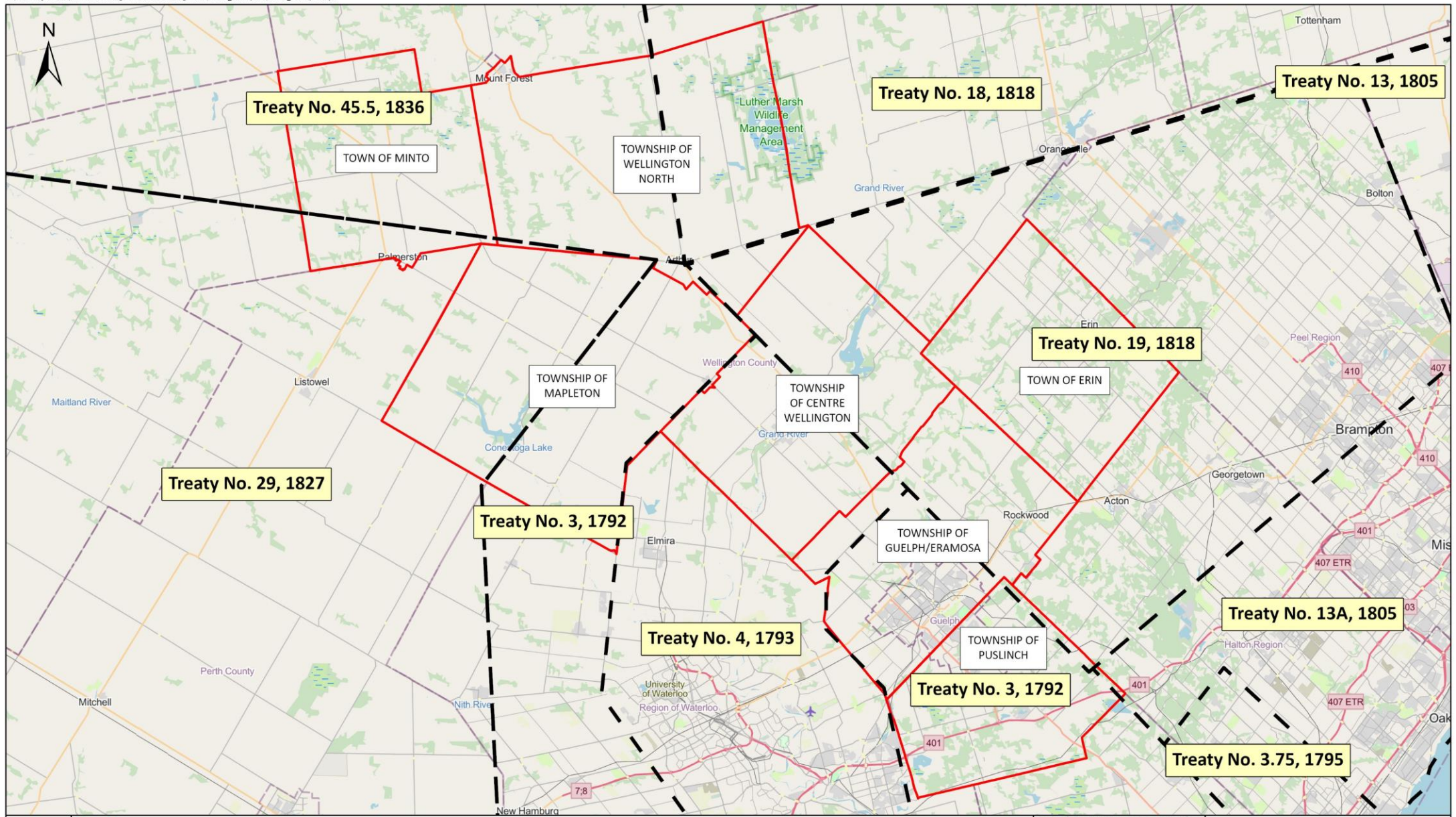
Land Acknowledgements: A Critical Review

Land acknowledgments
“should not be an
attempt to appease
non-Indigenous guilt”.
– Anishinaabe Author
Lyn Gehl

Land acknowledgments must be:

- Historically accurate and acknowledge the appropriate Indigenous nations;
- Truthful concerning the wrongs committed against Indigenous people in the past and into the present;
- Not a culmination of a municipality’s attempt at reconciliation, but a starting point.

Land acknowledgements must contribute to a feeling of inclusivity and should not be the source of further alienation. They should not exacerbate any potential tensions that might exist between existing nations.



 WELLINGTON MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
 TREATY BOUNDARY

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
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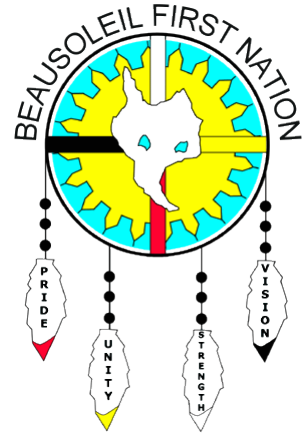
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Indigenous Engagement



AAMIJWNAANG
FIRST NATION



Chippewas of Georgina Island



HAUDENOSAUNEE
CONFEDERACY



Métis Nation
of Ontario 



Information Booklet: Best Practices



Wisdom of the Universe by Christi Belcourt

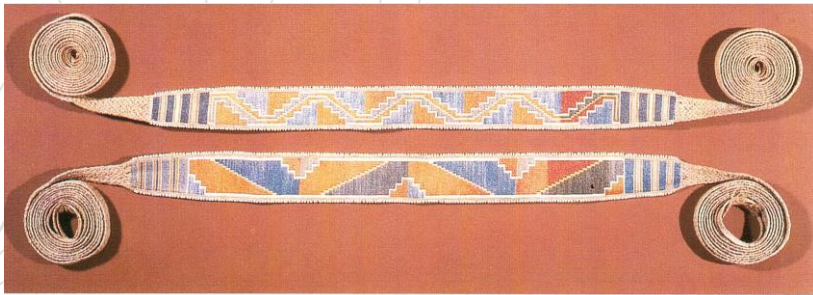


Image from: *Patterns of Power: The Jasper Grant Collection and Great Lakes Art of the Early Nineteenth Century*
by Ruth Phillips

Key considerations when giving land acknowledgements:

- Needs to come from a non-Indigenous source and should be given by the chair of a meeting or an official presiding over an event
- Should be a simple sign of respect
- Correct pronunciation of names is important, practice correct pronunciation and use audio clip if necessary
- Use for significant events
- Avoid rote recital, give thought and meaning to the words

Information Booklet: FAQs

What is the purpose of a land acknowledgement?

When should a land acknowledgement be given?

Who should be giving the land acknowledgement?

How do I make a land acknowledgement meaningful?

What is the difference between traditional territory and treaty lands? What are Treaty Rights?

What is Turtle Island?

Photo by Martin Cooper



Land Acknowledgement

Town of Minto

The lands we know today as the Town of Minto have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We acknowledge that we are on the treaty lands and traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee.

With increasing encroachment by non-Indigenous settlers in the Town of Minto, the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee could not continue their traditional lifestyle and settled in their villages on Lake Huron and in the Grand River Valley. These nations uphold their Treaty Rights within our jurisdiction.

Today, the Town of Minto remains home to Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to have the opportunity to share and respect Mother Earth and are committed to building constructive and cooperative relationships with Indigenous nations.

