

## Territorial Acknowledgment

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**Reference:** *Truth & Reconciliation: Calls to Action*, 2015.

**Cross-reference:** GOV-002-036 Flag and Lighting Protocol

### Policy Statement

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Strathcona County honours the past, present and future First Peoples of this land. We acknowledge that this land has embraced and nourished the Cree, Métis, Blackfoot, amongst many others, for generations. We recognize Strathcona County is within Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region Two and Four.

Strathcona County has an inherent responsibility to foster healthier relationships with Indigenous Partners. We will strive to respond to the Calls to Action as outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Strathcona County is close in proximity to Enoch Cree Nation (maskêkosihk), Ermineskin Cree Nation (neyaskweyahk), Louis Bull Tribe (kisipatinahk), Michel First Nation, Montana First Nation (akamihk), Papaschase First Nation, Samson Cree Nation (nipisikopahk), and Saddle Lake Cree Nation (onihcikiskwapiwinihk).

Furthermore, the geographic boundaries of Strathcona County includes parts of Regions Two and Four of the Métis Nation of Alberta, and are near the Elizabeth Métis Settlement, Fishing Lake Métis Settlement, Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, and Kikino Métis Settlement.

We recognize the importance of allying with First Peoples and taking steps to foster a healthier relationship. As such, we will demonstrate *manacitôwin*, the Cree word meaning respect for each other.

### Purpose

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The purpose of this Policy is to authentically honour Indigenous Partners by actively promoting education and a more precise representation of Indigenous Peoples. We seek to recognize the travesty from the past to dismantle any current forms of oppression. Through this policy, we can shift our culture to be *Canada's most livable community* for Indigenous Peoples.

Strathcona County can help lead the way in Indigenous reciprocity for municipalities in Canada. By implementing this policy and inviting First Nations to meet with Council we can foster a robust relationship with Indigenous Partners now and for seven generations

ahead. By using this decision making framework, we will demonstrate longevity with both our intentions and outcomes as was the design of the original Treaties.

## Definitions

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1. **First Peoples** are the original inhabitants of this territory who have an interconnected relationship with the land.
2. **Indigenous Partners** are Indigenous Nations, organizations, and people with whom Strathcona County will collaborate.
3. **Treaty Six** recognizes a shared agreement between Indigenous Peoples and settlers to cooperate on this land.
4. **Confederacy of Treaty Six** is the political body that represents and advocates for Indigenous Nations within Treaty Six.
5. **Métis Nation of Alberta** is the political organization representing the interests of the Métis people in Alberta.
6. **Métis Settlement General Council** represents the Métis Settlements in Alberta that are closely tied to the land.
7. **Civic Event** means government related events which are for the benefit of the public, such as, special government assemblies, County-sponsored sports events, educational or training sessions, and major public events, such as those taking place for National Indigenous History Month, Indigenous Peoples' Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Remembrance Day, Canada Day, and New Year's Eve.
8. **We** and **our** when used in this Policy refer to, and create obligations on, the municipal corporation of Strathcona County and its elected officials, employees, and contractors, and this Policy is intended to provide guidance for every person who resides in or is working in or visiting Strathcona County.

## Guidelines

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1. We will begin each Council and Priorities Committee meeting with an acknowledgement of the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of First Peoples on which Strathcona County is located, in a manner similar to that found in Schedule A.
2. We will invite Chiefs and Representatives from the Confederacy of Treaty Six, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Metis Settlements General Council to Strathcona County Council and Priorities Committee meetings and other vital gatherings.
3. We will include an acknowledgement of the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of Indigenous Peoples on which Strathcona County is located, in a manner similar to that found in Schedule A, at Civic Events within Strathcona County, regardless of whether an elected official is present.
4. Following each municipal election, the Strathcona County Council orientation will include relationship building with Indigenous partners, sharing success stories of Indigenous Peoples in the County, and specific obstacles that Indigenous Peoples face.

5. At the beginning of each municipal term, Strathcona County Council will take part in a ceremony to begin the term in a way that honours Indigenous Peoples, such as a Pipe Ceremony, Smudge, or other ceremony to assist in building relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
6. We will recognize the importance of the relationships, and relationship-building, with First Peoples in documentation by taking steps such as capitalizing the words *Indigenous Peoples* along with other vital words.
7. This Policy is intended to be a living document and will be reviewed at least once every calendar year, guided by the corresponding procedure.

## **Policy Record**

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**Date of Approval by Council:** June 15, 2021

**Resolution No:** 2021/177

**Next Review Date:** June 15, 2022

**Policy No:** GOV-001-004

**Last Review Date:** June 15, 2021

**Replaces:** GOV-001-036

**Lead Role:** Council

**Administrative Review:** Governance Advisory Committee

## **Schedule A**

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Today, I acknowledge that Strathcona County is located on Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region Two and Four. Strathcona County honours the First Peoples of this land. We recognize that we stand upon land that carries the footsteps of Cree, Métis, and Blackfoot amongst many other Nations, who have been here for thousands of years. Therefore, Strathcona County has an inherent responsibility to foster healthier relationships with First Peoples and further the Calls to Action as outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.