
PATHWAYS TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN BROCK TOWNSHIP

NOVEMBER 22, 2021



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Raised in Beaverton with ongoing maternal ties to the community
- I am non-Indigenous, but I have learned from and worked with/in support of Indigenous Peoples for 10 years
- Currently manage a large national research network to support Indigenous conservation leadership
- As a non-Indigenous person, it is my responsibility to speak up and advocate for change



STORYTELLING AT THE BEAVERTON PIER

MYTHS & IMPACTS

Myths

- Indigeneity is antithetical to modernity
- Indigenous Peoples no longer exist
- Reinforces doctrine of discovery and terra nullius

Impacts

- Dehumanizing and “othering”
- Continues to position Indigenous Peoples at the margins
- Erases Indigenous Peoples from our collective history
- Absolves our collective responsibility to co-create a just and equitable future



PATHWAYS FORWARD

1. Remove the mural and the sign and explain to the Township why these steps have been taken (immediately)
2. Conduct an audit of other interpretive materials and art projects
3. Fundraise to replace the mural and the sign and ensure there is appropriate budget (including honoraria)
4. Reach out to the Williams Treaty Nations to discuss potential of collaboration. Review engagement protocols in advance and follow them
5. Approach these discussions with an open heart and open mind

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Consider creating an action plan to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action that are directed at municipalities
2. Start with Call to Action #57 – training for political staff and township staff
3. Learn about the Williams Treaty – what are the obligations of the township? How can the people of Brock Township come to understand their responsibilities as “treaty people”?
4. Seek to create genuine, reciprocal, respectful relations with Williams Treaty Nations
5. Be prepared to make mistakes and learn from them