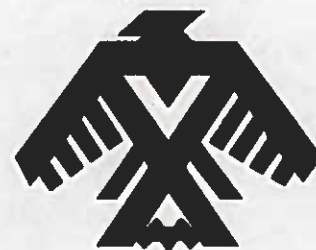




BKEJWANONG TERRITORY

The Council of Three Fires



Walpole Island First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory Anishnaabemowin Declaration

Preamble

The Bkejwanong Anishnaabemowin Declaration affirms our belief in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human being. Walpole Island First Nation is committed to ensure that our Anishnaabe language is paramount to nation building of the Bkejwanong community.

Walpole Island First Nation acknowledges the harm that residential school systems inflicted upon our people through the loss of our first language Anishnaabemowin. As a result of the impacts of residential schools we believe that establishing the foundation of our language will help re-unite our families, build strong community relationships, and provide a means of restoring our cultural values.

Our vision of the Bkejwanong community is where our people will once again speak and think in our language Anishnaabemowin now and on in the future as a fundamental basis of our social and working lives.

Principles


Therefore, we the people of Bkejwanong Territory are committed to build a community that maintains and speaks its Anishnaabe language and to develop, promote, and encourage language initiatives so that our community, our children and our children's children will hear, learn and enjoy speaking our original language and honour our ancestors. We accept this responsibility by embracing the following principles:

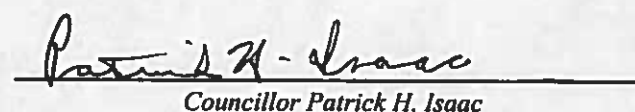
1. **We are committed** to making our community's Anishnaabe language a priority and affirm our unwavering determination and dedication to its use within the Bkejwanong community;
2. **We recognize** Anishnaabe language revitalization is a common and shared responsibility that requires an integrated and balanced approach; and place emphasis on strengthening community cooperation across all sectors of our society and programs;
3. **We acknowledge and fully support** the role of our Elders and fluent language-speaking members in maintaining our dialect of the Anishnaabe language;
4. **We welcome** the efforts of the wide range of people that are assisting to revitalize Anishnaabemowin and increase its use within the Bkejwanong community;
5. **We will promote, nurture, and facilitate** Anishnaabe language programs and initiatives within the Bkejwanong community that benefit all our members by providing the necessary resources to enhance Anishnaabe language services by establishing and maintaining Anishnaabe learning centers;
6. **We actively support** the use of Anishnaabemowin by all Walpole Island employees of our programs;
7. **We fully support** all employees acquiring the necessary language training to learn and use Anishnaabemowin in the workplace;
8. **We are committed** to fostering positive attitudes towards Anishnaabemowin and promote Anishnaabemowin use within the Bkejwanong community as a fundamental and critical component in maintaining and restoring our values and culture;
9. **We reaffirm** the need and urgency for taking a comprehensive and holistic approach to revitalizing Anishnaabemowin that work towards achievable, measurable, and timely targets, where progress is evaluated to ensure we are achieving results;
10. **We are resolved** in our commitment that practical action and the resources needed are put in place to ensure real and measurable result; and
11. Finally, **Anishnaabemowin immersion and fluency will be our long-term goal** - where Anishnaabemowin is our primary language.

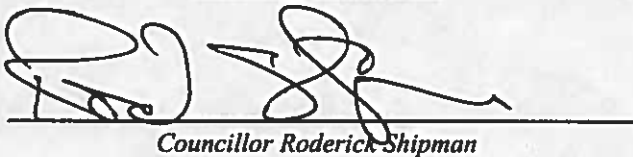
*The Chief and Council of Walpole Island First Nation, Bkejwanong Territory on this day of August 7, 2008
set our signatures to this document, the Bkejwanong Anishnaabemowin Declaration.*

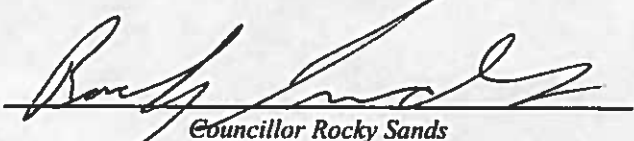

Chief Joseph Gilbert


Councillor Clint Peters


Councillor Ronald Soney

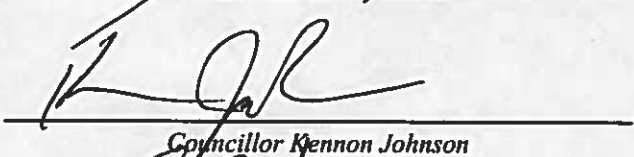

Councillor Patrick H. Isaac

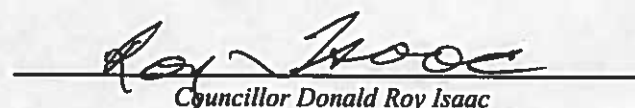

Councillor Roderick Shipman

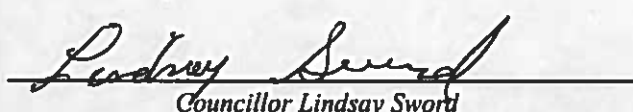

Councillor Rocky Sands

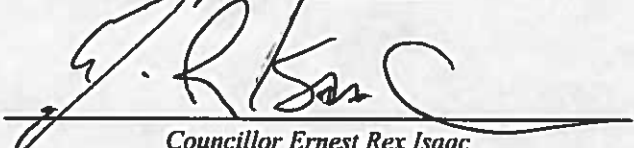

Councillor Virgil Nahdee

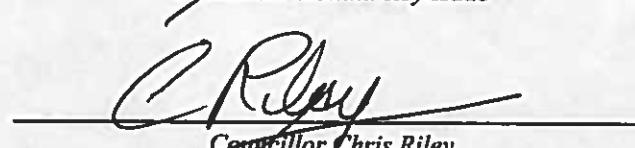

Councillor Roger Williams


Councillor Kennon Johnson


Councillor Donald Roy Isaac


Councillor Lindsay Sword


Councillor Ernest Rex Isaac


Councillor Chris Riley