



Office of the Premier
Premier Kathleen Wynne
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

August 22, 2017

SENT BY EMAIL: kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org; premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Kathleen Wynne,

Re: Allandale Station lands burial site; OCIP seven point resolution plan

Although I have yet to hear directly from the Ministers involved, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport ("MTCS") recently spoke to the press through an MTCS spokesperson.

The press reported the site will be designated as an Aboriginal Peoples burial ground, a burial ground or an irregular burial site which are terms used in the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act. There is little, if any, doubt the site contains the remains of Indigenous people and in time the Registrar will designate the site as an Aboriginal Peoples burial ground.

Despite the preponderance of evidence of human remains the City of Barrie chose to restart the process by hiring another Archaeologist. In our view, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, which does not involve fieldwork, was unnecessary and only serves to delay the process or obfuscate the truth.

Since the Archaeologist was engaged by the City of Barrie there is an appearance of a lack of independence. Given the City's mismanagement of the site they should have taken extra steps to avoid a potential conflict. Instead we will get a report bought and paid for by the City.

The Archaeologist chose to engage the Huron Wendat of Wendake ("HWN") (near Quebec City) and the Chippewas of Rama ("Rama") to the exclusion of all others.

The decision on which Indigenous communities to engage is left to the Archaeologist. The MTCS reviews Archaeological Assessments, which includes a review of the section documenting the Aboriginal engagement, submitted by the Archaeologist. If the Archaeologist missed engaging a community the MTCS is not likely to order them to redo the engagement.

Section 2.2 of the MTCS publication entitled "Engaging Aboriginal communities in Archaeology" requires Archaeologists to consider which Indigenous communities to engage. The consideration should include any communities with a potential interest:

"Aboriginal communities with potential interest may also include:

- communities that have expressed interest in the development project to your client;
- communities known to have an interest in archaeology in the region in which you are working."

We have clearly stated our interests to the City of Barrie and it was restated by the Press. By ignoring our interests the Archaeologist is already not compliant with the standards and guidelines. The Province must order the Archaeologist to include OCIP in the Archaeological work without further delay.

To the best of our knowledge a land claim has not been made by either the HWN or Rama and their participation is based on asserted rights or interests. We have no issue with these communities being engaged but by limiting the engagement to these two communities the City of Barrie is denying the rights and interests of other Indigenous people including:

- a. The estimated 300 descendants of Huron/Wendat/Wyandot that are members of the Haudenosaune (Six Nations) community.

- b. Descendants of Huron/Wendat/Wyandot who live off reserve and are not members of the HWN or Rama or any other Status Indian band.
- c. Haudenosaune (Six Nations) who used Simcoe County as a hunting ground between the time of dispersal of the Wendat/Wynadot in 1649 and start of the the use of the territory by the Chippewas.
- d. Mixed blood descendants of the historic Indigenous people (who are not members of Metis Nation Ontario) and Europeans, who we refer to as the First Metis, who have an ancestral connection to the land.
- e. Algonquins who had a close historical cultural relationship with the Wendat/Wyandot.

Ignoring the asserted rights and interests of other Indigenous people is not acceptable. It is not consistent with the reconciliation objectives of the Ontario government and nothing good can happen. Should the Ontario government proceed with a public enquiry we expect these people to be involved.

The HWN are not suitable representatives for other Indigenous people. The HWN have stated publicly they speak for themselves and no one else.

Rama is a Status Indian Band and represents the interests of their members, and perhaps the members of the Williams Treaty First Nations, but do not represent other Indigenous people.

Both the HWN and Rama represent a minority of Indigenous people. Statistics Canada report only 27% of Indigenous people live on reserves.

Many of the identified Indigenous people are members, or are eligible to be members, of OCIP. For this reason OCIP should be engaged in the process.

We demand the following:

1. The Ontario government, and more specifically the MTCS, should order the Archaeologist to include OCIP in the Aboriginal engagement.
2. Any information provided to the HWN or Rama to date, and in future, should be provided to OCIP.

3. The Ontario government should order the City of Barrie to include OCIP on any matter involving this site including any communications with the HWN and/or Rama.
4. The Ontario government should require the Archaeologist to include OCIP as monitors of the Archaeology field work.
5. Anything else that may affect the actual or asserted rights of OCIP members should be provided.

Since it is virtually certain the site is an Aboriginal burial ground it is time to start a transition process for the use of the land and train station.

Since bone fragments were found in the walls of the train station, and human remains may exist in the ground, even after the Archaeologist completes their work, due to the likelihood of not locating deeply buried human remains (since a substantial amount of top soil was added to the surface and test pitting will not be deep enough to locate the remains), the site will never be cleared of Indigenous human remains.

The choice for the City of Barrie is to push ahead with development plans or look for alternatives. Should the City proceed the dark cloud of unresolved Indigenous issues remain and it will cast a shadow on the site.

If the City decides not to proceed other solutions must be considered. The bright side is there may be a solution that can help reconcile the issue.

The site could be converted to a permanent Indigenous cultural centre that benefits Indigenous people and the local community. Some of the benefits to the public and Indigenous people include:

- The Province demonstrates its commitment to reconciliation.
- Additional jobs in the construction sector related to the construction of a new train station.
- A resource of Indigenous history for the people of Ontario.
- Healing of passed wrongs on this site.
- Increased knowledge of Indigenous history and culture for the local people.

- Additional tourism spending as people visit the Centre on a year round basis.
- Increased sense of pride and knowledge of Indigenous people in their culture and history.
- Permanent increase in employment on a year round basis for local Indigenous people.
- Permanent Increase in local employment and small business that supply and support the Centre.

We have a seven point proposal for transition of the land and building as follows:

1. Indefinite cessation of all development activity by the City of Barrie (excluding completion of the Archaeological Assessments).
2. Include OCIP in Archaeological consultations and related human remains site disposition agreement.
3. Surrender of Allandale lands (excluding train station) to Keith Doxsee, Area 7 OCIP Governor in trust with the understanding the lands will be used for the benefit of off reserve Indigenous people, while respecting the Indigenous people buried on the site. Space would be a mixed use space with emphasis on Indigenous culture and spiritualism and include public participation.
4. Surrender of train station in trust for OCIP subject to the following:
 - a. Continued use of the station by Metrolinx until a new station can be created under a predetermined and fixed timetable to be determined.
 - b. A plan to convert the station, with sufficient funding by the Ontario government, the City of Barrie, Metrolinx, the MTCS and other government agencies, to convert the space to a multi use Indigenous cultural centre which would include:
 - i. Permanent memorial to the Indigenous people buried on the site.
 - ii. Permanent memorial to the legacy of Residential Schools.

- iii. Indigenous museum, library and information centre.
 - iv. Conference room, lecture rooms and office space.
 - v. Space and support for teaching and learning about Indigenous languages and culture.
 - vi. Marketplace for Indigenous Arts and other products.
 - vii. Restaurant, kitchen or café.
 - viii. Space for organizations with interests in common with Indigenous culture.
 - ix. Some restricted space for Indigenous people for private ceremonies and practices.
 - x. Other uses as determined by the Board of Governors.
- c. The creation of new train station funded by the Ontario government and the City of Barrie.
 - d. Create a public relations and communications plan about Indigenous history and culture in Simcoe County. Oversight will be done by OCIP and Indigenous participation will be inclusive. Public information will be disseminated in the train station.
 - e. MetroLinx continues to operate the station as in the past, and be financially responsible for all costs, until the transition is complete.
- 5. Sufficient funding to implement the plans and support the continued operation of the site indefinitely.
 - 6. A public apology from the Ontario government, the City of Barrie and any identified Parties involved in past wrongs.
 - 7. A site disposition agreement that includes funding for reinterment of human remains in accordance with the wishes of the impacted communities.

It's not too late to reconcile with Indigenous people but this can only happen with the will and support of the Ontario and local governments.

Can we count on your help and support?

Yours Very Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Doxsee', written in a cursive style.

Governor Area 7 Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal Peoples

Phone: 905-330-8928. Email: keith.doxsee@me.com

c.c. Chief Brad Maggrah, OCIP roads@drytel.net

Ms. Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron- Bruce, PC Party Critic for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org

Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Official Opposition
patrick.brown@pc.ola.org

Mr. Jeff Lehman, Mayor for the City of Barrie officeofthemayor@barrie.ca