

From: noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca
To: [Clerks Office](#)
Subject: New Response Completed for Council Delegation Request Form
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 1:31:58 PM

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Hello,

Please note the following response to Council Delegation Request Form has been submitted at Friday March 15th 2024 1:31 PM with reference number 2024-03-15-003.

- **Organization's Name (if applicable)**
Indigenous Solidarity & Awareness Network of Oxford County
- **Name and Title of Primary Contact / Main Presenter**
Patricia Marshal-DeSutter- Direcotr and Founder of ISAN- Oxford
- **Street Address**
[REDACTED]
- **Daytime Contact Number**
[REDACTED]
- **Email address**
[REDACTED]
- **Date you wish to present to Council**
4/24/2024 (per email 4/4/24)
- **How would you like to attend the Council meeting?**
In-person
- **Use the space below to clearly outline the purpose for your presentation to council. Provide a brief outline of your subject matter including your suggested outcome**
wishing to update county council about isan happenings of this year and to ask Oxford County Councils support for ISAN-Oxford in working with local municipalities and county to designate accessible locations for Indigenous cultural practice - ie sacred fire, sweat lodge, sunrise ceremony, moon ceremony etc.

Indigenous people of Oxford County currently must leave community to engage in cultural practice and ceremony, taking with them their families, money, and community investment.

In fact, Indigenous people are one of the only groups who can not practice their belief systems locally. Christians have church, Muslims have mosque, our Jewish relations have synagogue, our Buddhist have temple etc. however, there is nowhere for Indigenous people to gather and practice their spiritual teachings. in a day and age where we are looking for ways to acknowledge this country's true history and find a path to reconciliation it seems that the promotion of language and cultural practice would be truly meaningful ways to accomplish this.

In order to be able to say we truly have a safe and well Oxford, which all municipalities already endorse, that is working towards the number one goal of belonging, then ensuring we are creating equity where we can for Indigenous people is a crucial and imperative part of the puzzle, this means finding ways to empower Indigenous identity. Creating a way to have legal local access to Indigenous cultural practice is a major step towards honoring that goal as well as the commitments made in Oxford County's strategic plan regarding Indigenous relations and reconciliation.

This would also support the pillar that the Ingersoll DEI committee has chosen to focus on from the Inclusive Municipalities Coalition 3. Promoting the respect, knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Indigenous and racialized communities in the cultural fabric of the municipality.

Cultural practice and Ceremony are directly tied to and essential to Indigenous well being. Participating in Ceremony is considered self care, showing up for yourself and your ancestors. Therefore, the lack of access to ceremony locally is perpetuating Indigenous disconnection, colonization of Indigenous belief systems and disempowering our Indigenous relations from sharing their ways of knowing.

my ask is the formal endorsement and support of establishing Indigenous places of cultural practice within Oxford County. We hope that Oxford County and individual Municipalities can work with us and local fire departments to ensure this is done in a timely, safe and ethical manner.

the Ontario human rights code protects many factors of identity, including creed which Indigenous cultural practice falls under. we wish to lean on a human rights and reconciliation-based approach to establish holistic healing within the community of oxford county. ISAN will be working with Willow Feather Conversations and Atlosa Family Healing Centre to establish these cultural resources.

- **Will you be providing any electronic information (i.e. a presentation) beyond your summary above?**

Yes

- **Have you appeared before council to discuss the same topic in the past?**

No

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