

Indigenous-Themed Sports Team Names and Logos in Parks, Forestry & Recreation Facilities

Presentation by Kevin Carr, Interim Director,
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Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, August 10th, 2021.



Background

- The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has requested that all municipalities engage with Indigenous communities regarding the use of Indigenous-themed logos and team names in their facilities.

Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PFR) Response

- PFR followed up with both Toronto teams that the OHRC identified as being of concern:
 1. High Park Braves are now the Toronto High Park Little League
 2. Willowdale Blackhawks are transitioning permanently to the Willowdale Hawks
- As of July 2021, there are no Indigenous-themed images or names being used by non-Indigenous user groups in PFR sports facilities

Proposed Next Steps- Immediate

- Update PFR's permit application to include the following statement and educate staff on its use, as part of ongoing Indigenous cultural competency training at the City of Toronto:

Draft clause: To promote a positive and inclusive experience in City of Toronto facilities and to protect the dignity and well-being of Indigenous communities, the City of Toronto prohibits the display of any Indigenous-themed images or names by non-Indigenous user groups, and discourages the display of Indigenous-themed names or images on team uniforms and personal belongings by non-Indigenous users.

- PFR, in consultation with the City of Toronto's Indigenous Affairs Office, will work to ensure facilities are free of banners or displays that do not comply with the spirit and intent of this clause.
- PFR will continue to work with the City's Indigenous Affairs office and respond to any complaints or concerns regarding use of Indigenous-themed images or names by non-Indigenous user groups in PFR facilities.

Proposed Next Steps- longer term

The City of Toronto enact an overarching policy on the use of Indigenous names and images in the forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan.