

Revised

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

Presentation by Kevin Carr, Interim Director,
Client & Business Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
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 on 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 new name: 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 all 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 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.