

Parry Island Cottagers Association's (PICA's) Statement Against Indigenous Racism

The Parry Island Cottagers Association recognizes that First Nations are the original people of this land, and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized, respected, and protected. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, need to acknowledge the truth in order to work towards reconciliation with the Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) people.

We recognize that we are staying on land that the Anishnawbe people of this area have lived on since time immemorial, and that we are privileged to be lessees on this beautiful and sacred land.

Racism is defined as:

“prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.”

We do not and will not tolerate racism or discriminatory racist language in any form.

Our Responsibilities:

To use respectful language. This means keeping current on what language is appropriate to address First Nations people.

- To recognize the diversity of First Nations people.
- To engage in a respectful relationship with Wasauksing First Nation which includes a reciprocity of respect for each other's ways of knowing and doing.
- To learn about the long-term intergenerational effects of colonization, and the loss of lands wrongfully taken, on the lives of all Indigenous people, but especially the members of the Wasauksing First Nation. This includes, but is not limited to: treaties that have not been honoured; children who were forcibly removed from their homes to attend at residential schools (up until 1996) and infants and children that are still today experiencing forcible separation from their parents, families, homes and communities; and the unfair sharing of resources and revenues the effects of which include long term mental and physical health issues, lack of proper housing, clean drinking water and utilities, poverty and social dislocation.

As PICA, we recognize that although progress has been made in recent years, systemic and structural discrimination and oppressive policies continue in the present day.

Calls to Action:

- PICA's Board of Directors will commit to continuous learning and pursue a better understanding of steps to effectively reconcile with the Wasauksing First Nation community and will actively encourage PICA members to do the same.
- PICA calls upon our members and guests to participate. It is through our collective action, education, and advocacy that we can create a community that stands firm against Indigenous racism. We encourage open dialogue, feedback, suggestions, reflections, and action.

This statement is a living document intended to evolve as we grow in our understanding.