



LONDON MUSLIM MOSQUE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 June 2021

Social and Racial Equity Committee

London Muslim Mosque

Statement in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island

The London Muslim Mosque would like to express our sincere apologies to the Indigenous peoples of Canada for our delay in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, published in 2015. By allowing five years to pass without acting on these Calls to Action, we have neglected our responsibilities to the Indigenous peoples on whose land we have settled, and with whom we must stand in solidarity. We recognize and apologize for the harm that we have caused to the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island by failing to be informed of their struggles and heed their calls for solidarity even as we benefit from their dispossession and the violence that they have faced.

London, Ontario stands on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, Attawandaron, and Huron-Wendat peoples. The London Muslim Mosque, itself, was built on colonized land, and as settlers, our presence on this land is predicated on the ethnic cleansing and colonial violence that occurred against Indigenous peoples. We have a responsibility to be informed about the struggles of Indigenous communities across Canada, and to take action in solidarity with these struggles.

As a faith institution, we recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples to practice their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We repudiate any and all concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, including the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius. We recognize that the land on which Canada was founded was not "empty" upon its discovery, nor do settlers have any right to exercise sovereignty over Indigenous lands. The pain that these myths have caused is insurmountable and speak again to the interconnectedness of settler-colonial violence everywhere, including Canada, Australia, the United States, Palestine, the territories dubbed "Overseas France" where European colonialism pervades today, and more. We must stand in solidarity with global struggles for justice, and listen and respond to the voices of Indigenous peoples as they express what support they require from allies.

The London Muslim Mosque promises to undergo a process of ensuring that our institution, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will issue a statement as to how we will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by October 31st, 2021, to ensure that we



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undergo due diligence during this process with thorough investigations into London Muslim Mosque policies, programs, and practices, as well as engage in dialogue with our local Indigenous communities to ensure that we are taking necessary steps to stand in genuine solidarity at a local level.

We encourage everyone to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report and Calls to Action and to consider how you can implement these Calls to Action in your own organizations.

View our statement in solidarity with Tkemlúps te Secwépemc in the wake of discovering a mass grave at Kamloops Residential School here.

In solidarity,

London Muslim Mosque