Why is a Land Acknowledgement important?
Land acknowledgements are essential in moving forward on a path to reconciliation. Land acknowledgements are influenced by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action in acknowledging the first occupants of this land. Land acknowledgements are also important in educating the broader public on the significance of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their territories.

When do we use a Land Acknowledgement?
Land Acknowledgement’s are normally used at the beginning of events, meetings, lectures and other public events.

City of Hamilton Land Acknowledgment
“The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haundenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.”

How do we use a Land Acknowledgement?
Land Acknowledgements are often done verbally however there is an option on playing a recorded version on the Urban Indigenous Strategy’s webpage. It is crucial that the pronunciation of the nation’s names is correct, if you are having difficulty please refer to the video.

https://youtu.be/BR6nFz2sBkK

Hamilton’s Treaties
The City of Hamilton is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant as well as the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792 which was an agreement between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Crown.

Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant
The Dish with One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

Additional Resources
Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy: www.hamilton.ca/indigenous
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation: www.mcfn.ca
Six Nations of the Grand River: www.sixnations.ca

For more information, contact:
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