



**Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Oakville Community Foundation
Announce A Truth & Reconciliation Initiative
“Debwewin”-The Oakville Truth Project**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Oakville, Ont. October 7, 2021 - The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Oakville Community Foundation have launched “**Debwewin**”- the Oakville Truth Project, to further our shared understanding of Oakville’s Indigenous past and support local Truth & Reconciliation.

‘**Debwewin**’ refers to one of the Anishinabek seven grandfathers teaching for “truth.” This project will raise questions about Oakville’s Truth such as: “What happened to the local Treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation?” and “Why did Treaty 22 which includes coverage of Oakville main waterways, Sixteen Mile and Bronte Creek leave the Mississaugas homeless?”

This project brings together leadership of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) to share their knowledge and perspective. “The Mississauga people have long historical roots in Oakville,” said Mississauga Gimma (Chief) Stacey Laforme. “Understanding the local history of the Indigenous people in Oakville from an Anishinaabe perspective is an important first step on the path towards Truth and Reconciliation.”

The Foundation’s Indigenous Cultural Advisor, Mississauga Elder Peter Schuler has graciously agreed to lead the multi-year “**Debwewin**” project. “I believe this project is an important step in educating our community and recognizing Indigenous peoples in Oakville and beyond,” said Elder Peter Schuler. “This community collaboration allows us to create necessary changes and continued learning opportunities.”

“We are honoured to work on this initiative with the Mississaugas and support this important work that will benefit both of our communities, Oakville and the Mississaugas,” stated Bindu Cudjoe, The Foundation’s Board Chair.

This project will bring together Indigenous knowledge keepers, claims experts, historians and researchers to act as an Advisory Council to guide the project. Full details of the Advisory Council will be shared in the coming months.



To support Truth & Reconciliation activities in Oakville please donate here:

<https://www.theocf.org/funds/oakville-truth-reconciliation-fund/>

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Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Mississaugas of the Credit are an Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) First Nation with 2,600 Members, 850 of whom approximately live on the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Reserve near Hagersville, Ontario.

Oakville Community Foundation

The Oakville Community Foundation is a registered charity focused on Building Community Through Philanthropy. The Foundation acts as a vehicle for community members to fulfill their charitable passions and has granted \$52.4 million to charitable organizations since its inception. The Foundation also supports investments of more than \$110 million in assets. We welcome families, businesses and residents into our community and give everyone the opportunity to be a philanthropist. The Foundation is one of the largest members of a national network of more than 190 Canadian community foundations.

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