**Personal Land and People Acknowledgement**

My name is Paul Grogan (pronouns he/him). I was born in Ireland, and can trace the full details of my ancestry there over four generations, and I know that it goes back much farther. My mother was Clare Thornbury from County Westmeath in rural eastern Ireland, and she trained and worked as a Froebel primary school teacher. Her father and mother were both teachers who became principals of a small school in the village of Clonmellon, County Westmeath. Thornbury is a Cromwellian name suggesting that my maternal line ultimately had at least some English ancestors who became settler colonials in Ireland. My father Raymund was from Glasnevin in Dublin city, and trained as an accountant before becoming joint managing director of a postcard printing company. His father was a clerk in Irish railways, and his mother was a secretary.

I came here to Kingston as a very privileged immigrant with a good job and plenty of financial support in 2003, and have now begun to ‘settle’. I am a settler colonial. And I am here to stay - I have even purchased a grave plot on Opinicon road north of Kingston! I have benefitted greatly from the products of settler colonisation that began in this region of E. Canada in the early 1600s. I am aware that this land was occupied by Indigenous peoples of the Mohawk tribe when the first European colonisers arrived, and believe that they themselves are descendants of earlier Indigenous groups – which if one goes back far enough – descend from peoples who crossed the Bering Strait land strip and entered ‘Turtle Island’ toward the end of the last ice age... and that all humans alive today ultimately descended from a small group of people that emerged from Africa ~60,000 years ago.

I am also aware, and hereby acknowledge, that this land we are on, where I live, was taken by subterfuge from the Mohawks, and that those people and their descendants right up to today, have been treated with profound disrespect, and a brutally self-centered lack of dignity. I hope to play some part - albeit very small - in restoring that dignity.

As an Irishman, I suspect that I am particularly sensitive to colonial and settler issues for three reasons: First, I myself am a recent immigrant here; second, I am from a country that has had a long history of colonial domination by Britain. Finally, as an ecologist I have profound respect for Indigenous perspectives on humanity’s relationship to the rest of nature. Humility, gratitude, and reciprocity pervade their ’way of being’ - we have a lot to learn. Having observed, and even scientifically researched, some of the extraordinarily destructive ways that our western culture has led humanity into the existentially-threatening 21st century, I yearn for a paradigm shift toward more socially and environmentally benign living inspired by Indigenous values and perspectives on life.