

JOURNEY TO RECONCILIATION

DRAFT - LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

RESOURCES

Where can you learn more?

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada: Calls to Action

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has identified 94 calls to action. We all can respond to these calls.

http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Other TRC Reports

<https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

[UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\) \(unesco.org\)](http://www.unesco.org/en/indigenous)

The Municipality of Kincardine has made a commitment to develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples and work toward reconciliation. Part of this commitment includes developing awareness and acknowledging the truths of our history and the harms that have been completed against Indigenous peoples. There cannot be reconciliation without understanding and acknowledging the truth.

One step in our journey to reconciliation is to acknowledge the land that the Municipal meeting and/or public event is being held on.

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

A land acknowledgement involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people(s) who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home.

Providing an acknowledgement at the beginning of an event or meeting gives time for reflection and demonstrates recognition of Indigenous lands, treaties and peoples. It involves thinking about what happened in the past and present, and what changes can be in the future in order to further the reconciliation process. A land acknowledgement is a reflection process in which you build mindfulness and intention into whatever event or gathering you are having.

Land acknowledgements mark a small and important step in the process of reconciliation. By making a territorial acknowledgement you are taking part in an act of reconciliation, honouring the land and Indigenous presence which dates back over 10,000 years.



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Indigenous Allyship: An Overview

https://issuu.com/lspirg/docs/allyship_toolkit_inside_pages_10.5x/2

21 Things you may not of known about the Indian Act

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/21-things-you-may-not-have-known-about-the-indian-act->

Read a Book...

By Indigenous Authors recommended by [CBC Books](#) [108 Indigenous writers to read, as recommended by you](#) | [CBC Books](#)

Through the Kincardine & Tiverton Library Branches [Residential Schools Reading List](#)

Purchase a book from an Indigenous business [Goodminds.com](#)

Listen to Music...

By Indigenous Artists on a free space for Canadian Indigenous music creators. Currently curated by Jayli Wolf. [Indigenous | Spotify Playlist](#)

It is important to note that this is only the beginning and is a call to action. It serves a reminder that we are all accountable to work on actions that move us towards reconciliation.

Why are land acknowledgments necessary?

Inspired by the [94 recommended calls to action](#) contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (now known as the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#), or NCTR), land acknowledgments are a [necessary first step](#) towards honouring the original occupants of a place. They also help Canadians recognize and respect Indigenous peoples' inherent kinship beliefs when it comes to the [land](#), especially since those beliefs were restricted for so long.

Land acknowledgments aren't about placing blame, and not all Indigenous peoples agree on their efficacy or even on how they should be done—especially when they are sloppy, done without Indigenous consultation or don't reflect actual Indigenous inclusion and representation within organizations as a whole. Part of the point in making land acknowledgments is to recognize how systemic and institutional systems of power have oppressed Indigenous peoples, and how that oppression has historically influenced the way non-Indigenous people perceive and interact with Indigenous peoples—[all still quite prevalent](#) in today's cultural, social and political climate.

Source: Indigenous writer Selena Mills:

<https://locallove.ca/issues/what-are-land-acknowledgements-and-why-do-they-matter/#.YMpTSqhKiUk>



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Watch Indigenous Cinema....

That was created by an Indigenous Artist or with an Indigenous theme offered through the National Film Board of Canada. [Indigenous cinema at the NFB - Indigenous Cinema - NFB](#)

Look through the Kincardine & Tiverton Library Branches video-streaming service [Indigenous Cinema on Kanopy](#)

Move to Action...

Take action...on a personal, organization and community level.

[Calls to Action English2.pdf \(trc.ca\)](#)

When is a Land Acknowledgment Offered?

An acknowledgement is offered at the opening of meetings, ceremonies, lectures or public events. It is to be offered even if there may be no Indigenous individuals present.

Doing a land acknowledgment at the beginning of a meeting does not mean our work and actions are done. The work we need to do towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is a long-term journey which takes commitment, action and meaningful relationship building.

Who Offers the Land Acknowledgement?

Typically the host of the event – (a non-Indigenous member of the group) will offer the acknowledgement.

The person offering the acknowledgement first introduces themselves and may include family lineage and other connections to the land and people.

How to Prepare for Offering an Acknowledgement

- Find out which groups of First Peoples are connected to the land on which the event is happening so that they can be properly acknowledged for their care of and connection to the land.
- Practice pronouncing the names of the nations that will be acknowledged as a way of respecting those Indigenous groups and their languages.
- Seek input of a community Elder if you have further questions or if you wish to develop a land acknowledgement for your own group or workplace.



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Land acknowledgement

The acknowledgement found on this page is guide not a script. Acknowledgements should be tailored to reflect:

- Your personal experience and learning.
- The connections with the land.
- Your relationship with Indigenous people.

If you do not know how to pronounce the local First Nations name or territory, find out how to pronounce the names and practice before doing the acknowledgement.

Land Acknowledgement Guide

Speaking from the heart about colonialism and your personal path on reconciliation is challenging. A first step is to speak to what you know: your own positionality, your settler background, your relationship (or lack thereof) with Indigenous people in Canada.

We (I) would like to begin this event (name of event) by acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional lands and treaty territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, which includes the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and the Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation whose ancestors were the first to inhabit, care for and live on this land.

We (I) recognize and deeply appreciate the contributions that Indigenous Peoples have made, both in caring for this land and shaping and strengthening this community, our province, and our country.

As a public service organization, we are dedicated to learning and acknowledging Indigenous history and culture and are committed to actions that move us towards a journey of truth, healing and reconciliation with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Historic Saugeen Métis (HSM).



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