



Land Acknowledgement Template

Why is a Land Acknowledgement important?

- Land acknowledgements are an honest and historically accurate way to recognize the traditional First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit territories of a place. They can be presented verbally or visually: think signage, short theatre presentations or simple spoken-word greetings. 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. ([reference](#))
- Inspired by the [94 recommended calls to action](#) contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, land acknowledgements are a necessary first step toward honouring the original occupants of a place.
- Land acknowledgements must be meaningful, it's not something you do "because you have to." Doing prior research and education is essential in drafting a meaningful script.

How to write a Land Acknowledgement:

- First, do some research to familiarize yourself with the territory you are located on.
- Learn about the communities that occupied the land. Reach out to ensure proper pronunciation of their names.
- Verify if the land is covered by a treaty or if it is an unceded territory. Do some research to understand the difference, and acknowledge the reality of what this means.
 - Treaty: Indigenous treaties in Canada are constitutionally recognized agreements between the Crown and Indigenous peoples. Most of these agreements describe exchanges where Indigenous nations agree to share some of their interests in their ancestral lands in return for various payments and promises. (reference: [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#))
 - Unceded: Unceded means that First Nations people never ceded or legally signed away their lands to the Crown or to Canada. A traditional territory is the geographic area identified by a First Nation as the land they and/or their ancestors traditionally occupied and used. ([reference](#))
- Check your own biases and privilege in respect to land acknowledgement. How do you feel when you hear one? What thoughts go through your mind at that moment?
- Once you have a good understanding of the land you are meeting upon, adapt the below template.

Helpful resources to find or create your Land Acknowledgement:

- [First Nations Interactive Map](#)
- [CAUT Guide to Acknowledge Traditional Territory](#)
- [Native-Land.ca](#)
- Multiple cities in Canada offer Land Acknowledgement resources directly on their website



Template - General Introduction:

We respect and acknowledge the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada as the Keepers of the Territory upon which we are all meeting today.

Location Specific Acknowledgement:

If there is a treaty in place between the Crown and Indigenous peoples:

Before we begin, we would like to acknowledge the land we are gathering on today as the traditional territory of many nations, including _____ and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We also acknowledge that _____ is covered by Treaty _____ with the _____.

If the territory is unceded:

Before we begin, we would like to acknowledge the land we are gathering on today as the traditional unceded territory of many nations, including _____ and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people.

Example:

Land Acknowledgement for Scarborough

The land I am standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. I also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Pronunciation:

Anishnabeg: (ah-nish-naw-bek)

Haudenosaunee: (hoodt-en-oh-show-nee)

Métis: (may-tee)

Other considerations:

This section helps to make your Land Acknowledgement more meaningful to you and your community. Reflect on the challenges you have in common with Indigenous people. Personalise the Land Acknowledgement to your community's reality.

Example:

We would like to acknowledge the underrepresentation of Indigenous women and girls in sport in this country and the multiple barriers that they face to participate in sport at all levels. It's our intention to continue to build relationships that allow us to better address this gap through our work.

Example:

We would like to acknowledge the climate change issues disproportionately affecting Indigenous people. We invite you to experience more nature, find love within it, and then fight for what you love. We can all decide to fight for nature.