

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

A territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home.

Land acknowledgements have been part of Indigenous culture for many years. Stating a Land acknowledgements to open meetings or events has become more common since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on residential schools released its calls to action in 2015. Many organizations started to think about what needs to be done to respond to the TRC. It is about thinking about what happened in the past and what changes can be made going forward in order to further the reconciliation process

### WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the meaning and appropriate use of land acknowledgements, see the following resources and, in addition, seek out additional information:

<https://native-land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement/>

<https://native-land.ca/>

<https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/><https://www.trentu.ca/teaching/how-do-land-acknowledgment>

### SAMPLE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**For opening a meeting or event on a First Nations territory with a treaty:** “Good morning. My name is \_\_\_\_ and I am a third generation settler of mixed Polish and Irish decent, and I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather, and that I am privileged to call my home for the last 20 years, is the Treaty territory of the (see territory lands at <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1605796533652/1605796625692#sec2>).

**For opening a meeting or event with overlapping First Nations territories:** “Good morning. My name is \_\_\_\_ and I am a first generation settler of mixed English and Korean ancestry, and I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather, and that I am privileged to call my home for the last 20 years, is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations\*. \*Note: It is common to list multiple Nations alphabetically as to not imply a hierarchy.

**For opening an event in which you have been welcomed by a First Nations host or elder:** “I would like to extend our gratitude to Elder \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Nation for welcoming us to the traditional unceded territories of the \_\_\_\_\_ Nation(s). We are privileged to be able to conduct our business on these lands today, and are grateful to Elder \_\_\_\_\_ for opening our event in a good way, to guide our work today in the spirit of reconciliation and undoing ongoing colonial processes in our own lives and workplaces.”

**You may wish to take this further and add something more contextual to your own organization, such as:** “As a health care organization, we recognize that there is systemic racism within and throughout our institutions, and that we have the responsibility and power to create culturally safe and appropriate environments of care.

**IPAC CANADA has often used the following as a Land Acknowledgement to open education and business events:**

#### **SAMPLE #1**

IPAC Canada recognizes that its headquarters are located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota, and is the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

We acknowledge that we have members and attendees joining us today from across Canada and many may be in a different territory. From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this land home.

We also recognize that Canada is home to African-Canadian communities whose culture, heritage and histories have been and remain a key part of this country for more than 400 years. For generations, African-Canadians have experienced inequities due to systemic racism and still do today. As an organization that is guided by values of equity and compassion, we will listen to and learn from the first-voice perspectives of Black Canadians, amplify Black voices, and address inequities and injustices across our land.

We are committed to a lifelong journey of learning and working towards truth, reconciliation, and justice.

#### **SAMPLE #2**

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting today on the traditional territories of the \_\_\_\_\_ people (or Nation). We thank them for allowing us to meet and learn together on their territory.