RAVEN's Opening and Land Acknowledgement Guide for Community-led Fundraisers - October 2026

Thank you for taking the time to raise funds and awareness for RAVEN. We are so deeply appreciative of your support, and extend that gratitude on behalf of the First Nations and Indigenous Peoples our work is led by.

This document is meant to help guide you to craft a personal, culturally attuned, and place-based opening and land acknowledgement for community-led fundraising events in support of RAVEN. Please remember this guide is not meant to be prescriptive; ultimately, the nuances of opening a space and acknowledging the lands you're on is something you're responsible for. Learn more about Cultural Safety in RAVEN's Cultural Safety Guidelines.

As RAVEN supporters, we trust you are doing the introductory work of educating yourselves on the ongoing work of reconciliation and Indigenous rights as outlined in the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (*UNDRIP*). Please reach out if you have any further questions.

Here are some tips to get you started:

- Before the event begins, take some time to centre yourself, clear your mind, and show up as authentically as you can. It can be nerve wracking to open a space and openings/land acknowledgements are personal. Take a few deep breaths to centre yourself and prepare.
- You can start by thanking everyone for being there and note that you're really excited to get underway with the planned event.
- Introduce yourself! Share your name and pronouns (if you'd like), and consider sharing your own ancestral lineage and connection to lands and waters.
- We invite you to share a moment of gratitude you had recently with the land or waters where you're gathered. It could be as simple as the water you drink, or the tree down the road.
- We invite you to then extend that gratitude towards the Indigenous Peoples whose territory you are gathered on and who have stewarded those Lands and Waters since time immemorial.

Land acknowledgements are a minimum standard act toward reconciliation. You may also wish to share action-based ways of acknowledging the land and ways folks can build relationships with it such as starting to learn Host Nation protocol as a visitor or settler; learning your responsibilities if you are on treatied land; volunteering with local eco-cultural restoration programs; learning the traditional names of local land or water features; learning the true decolonial history of a place in your community; or uplifting local Indigenous-led organizations, artists, or businesses.

From here, you're welcome to transition away from the opening and land acknowledgement and move into your event details. This could include thanking any sponsors, volunteers, and/or providing background information on RAVEN. Check out RAVEN's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan for more details about the organization, and RAVEN's campaign webpage for more information on each campaign.

Here are some facts you can share about RAVEN:

- RAVEN is an Indigenous-led, registered charity that raises funds and awareness for Indigenous Nations who are protecting their rights and territories in court.
- Since 2009, RAVEN has raised over $25 million with partnered Nations, whose legal victories have protected sacred lands, upheld modern treaty rights, stopped pipelines, defended the land from open-pit mining, and set powerful precedents for future generations.
- RAVEN supports several litigation campaigns. For each campaign, they sign partnership agreements with each Nation, signifying their commitment to long-term support. Long-term support is needed since litigation can cost millions while taking years, if not decades, to move through the courts.
- Each case that RAVEN supports must honour Indigenous rights, uphold an environmental legacy, and set a legal precedent. That's what makes RAVEN-supported litigation so impactful—it creates systemic change for generations to come.
- RAVEN combines this legal power with grassroots power to build an insurmountable movement for justice. They create and support video podcasts, webinars, reports, rallies, and events to inform the RAVEN community about Indigenous rights. This not only inspires people to support the Indigenous-led litigation, it creates a strong movement behind the resilient leadership of Indigenous Nations across Canada.
- Supporting the assertion of the inherent and constitutionally-protected rights of Indigenous Peoples is a powerful pathway towards reconciliation and environmental justice.
- It also inspires people to take creative action to support, including this event! There's so many ways to get involved—you can sell baked goods, have a farm stand, invite your friends for a potluck, host a birthday fundraiser online. The sky is the limit!

Thanks for leading a community-fundraiser for RAVEN. Please remember this guide is not meant to be prescriptive, but rather used as a proactive tool when planning your event. For further information or specific questions, please visit our website at raventrust.com or reach out to organizer@raventrust.com.