

Acknowledging Territory

GOAL:

The goal of this guide is to encourage staff and students to acknowledge the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work. This acknowledgement appropriately takes place at the commencement of courses, meetings or conferences, and presentations (given either at one's home institution or elsewhere).

Acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for Aboriginal Peoples. It is recognition of their presence both in the past and the present. Recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations. These relationships are key to reconciliation.

TERMINOLOGY:

Unceded means that First Nations people never ceded or legally signed away their lands to the Crown or to Canada.

Indigenous territory — also referred to as ***traditional territory*** — describes the ancestral and contemporary connections of Indigenous peoples to a geographical area. Territories may be defined by kinship ties, occupation, seasonal travel routes, trade networks, management of resources, and cultural and linguistic connections to place.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT EXAMPLE:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the *Omàmiwininiwag* (Algonquin), *Kanien'kehá:ka* (Mohawk), and *Anishinabewaki* ᐱᑦᓂᐸᐤᐅᐸᐤ peoples. (Prevost Region)

We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which we now gather.”

TERRITORY MAP:

Use this interactive map to verify the languages, treaties, and territories in your region:
<https://native-land.ca>

It can be difficult to pin-point all of the Indigenous Nations that have lived on the territory of your school simply because barriers, regions, and land ownership are all a colonial construct. Learn and do your best.