



[A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment](#)

Examples:

Rotary Club of Peterborough Kawartha Land Acknowledgment

As we celebrate the shining waters which run through these ancestral lands, we would like to acknowledge that we gather here today on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas and the Territory of the Anishinaabe.

We also acknowledge the many Indigenous, Inuit, Metis and other global peoples who call Peterborough home.

We welcome everyone.

This is a living document and has been adjusted several times in the past 5 years and will no doubt be tweaked again as the club's awareness grows. (July 2021)

Rotary Club of Fonthill Land Acknowledgment

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples¹, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

Explanation

A Land acknowledgement is a customary practice of Indigenous Peoples. It is a sign of respect and reciprocity when entering, gathering, and utilizing another's space and place. Indigenous Peoples continue this practice amongst their Nations. Today the practice is beginning to be understood and utilized to renew, respect, reconcile and reciprocate Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations. The practice also serves as a reminder of pre- and post-European contact histories, treaty relations and obligations, as well as providing information for newcomers, now entering Indigenous territories. Today acknowledgements are used in opening announcements in schools, events, gatherings, and meetings; that specifically recognize the Nations who hold treaty, right and title in the territory.

¹ Note: Anishinaabe - refers to the Ojibway nation.

Haudenosaunee - refers to the Six Nations of the Grand River Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora.

Courtesy of the Calgary Foundation

Land Acknowledgement:

Spanning generations, acknowledgement of the land is a traditional custom of Indigenous people when welcoming outsiders onto their land and into their homes. To build respectful relationships, acknowledging the land is an important part of reconciliation. It honours the authentic history of North America, its original people and tells the story of the creation of this country that has historically been missing. (Source: Calgary Foundation)

and quote from Dr. Leroy Little Bear:

"Every society, in one way or another, lays claim to a territory. Within that claimed territory, a culture arises from the mutual relationship with the land. It is through this mutual relationship with the land, that cultural icons, symbols and images, values, customs, ceremonies, stories, songs, and beliefs of the people are developed. These, in turn, are embodied into the very being of the people."

Dr. Leroy Little Bear

JD, DAS (hon), LLD (hon), recipient Order of Canada, Kainai Nation, Blackfoot Confederacy