

WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group
<http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

WHY DO WE RECOGNIZE THE LAND?

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol.

WHOSE LAND ARE YOU ON?

To find out more info about the land that you're on, visit [Native-Land](#)

HOW DO WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND?

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the _____ peoples"

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- The person giving the acknowledgement should be the host of the event or meeting themselves

- Include a formal thank you to the host nation whenever making a presentation or holding a meeting, whether or not Indigenous individuals are part of the meeting or gathering
- If you do not know the name of the Nation on whose territory or treaty land the building sits, ask around; Friendship Centers, Aboriginal Student Centers, local Band Offices are always a good source of information
- Ask the Friendship Center or Aboriginal Student Center for help with the pronunciation.
- If that is not possible, call the band office of the Nation after hours and listen to the recording
- Practice saying the name of the host nation out loud
- A land acknowledgment is not something you “just do” before an event. Rather it is a reflection process in which you build mindfulness and intention walking into whatever gathering you are having. It should be rooted in whose land you are honoured to stand on and should guide how you move forward in both conversations and actions.

MOVING BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Although it is important to acknowledge the land, it is only a first step. We are all treaty signers and are thus responsible and accountable for the violence that Indigenous people face. Allyship is a continuous process; it is not a designation that one can earn and hold forever. It is also not a label one can give themselves, but one you earn from your actions and commitment to standing in solidarity.

Allies must continually engage in self-reflection, and must consistently work at being an ally (through learning, acting in a de-colonial manner, and sustaining relationships with Indigenous Peoples, etc.)

Here are some simple ways you can begin the ongoing and continual process of acting in solidarity with Indigenous folks in Canada:

- **Learn:** About oppression and privilege. About the history of colonization. About Indigenous peoples and cultures. About the land you live on. To listen. There are many books, blogs, documentaries, Independent media sites, plays, and songs that Indigenous people have written and performed that are great places to start learning.
- **Build relationships:** Building relationships is a very important aspect of standing in solidarity. Reach out to communities and check out public events in your area.
- **Act:** Be accountable towards Indigenous people and communities by affirming the importance of what they're saying, aligning oneself with the struggle, and speaking up when something problematic is said.

Content and Campaign developed in collaboration with the Indigenous Student Centre and Indigenous Initiatives