Guide to Land Acknowledgement

What is Land Ackowledgement?

Land acknowledgement is a practice aimed at honoring and respecting the ancestral and historical presence of Indigenous Peoples on their traditional territories.



Recognition and respect are the starting points of the reconciliation process and the establishment of healthy, reciprocal relationships. Land acknowledgement should be part of a broader context of concrete, meaningful, and continuous actions carried out to understand Indigenous realities and acknowledge the ongoing impacts of colonialism.

Its purpose is to pay tribute to the role of First Peoples as stewards of the land, to foster respectful and meaningful interactions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and to support the reconciliation process by remembering colonial history and land dispossession.

When and by whom?



At the start of the event

The land acknowledgement should be presented at the beginning of an event, meeting, conference, etc., and must not be done merely as a formality, but rather considered an essential component of the event.



By whom?

It is not necessary for this acknowledgement to be delivered by a member of the First Nations. In fact, it is encouraged that organizations, institutions, and individuals do it themselves to better integrate into the reconciliation process.



Avoid using boilerplate text

To avoid generic and performative acknowledgements, we ask organizations to move away from standardized texts. **It is up to you to write your own land acknowledgement**.

To ensure it is authentic and personalized, take a moment for reflection and let yourself be guided by open-ended questions regarding your transmission, your responsibility, your commitment, and the actions you take on the land.

Reflection Questions for Land Acknowledgements

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND POINTS FOR REFLECTION AS A GUIDE TO DESIGN YOUR OWN CUSTOMIZED LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

1. Why is this land acknowledgement important in this specific context?
2. What connection exists between this acknowledgement and the event, activity, or work you are doing?
3. What is the history of the land where you are located?
    - What traces or repercussions of colonialism can still be observed today?
4. What is your relationship with this land?
    - How did you or your family come to live, work, or study here?
5. Beyond words, what actions can you take to challenge and contribute to dismantling colonial structures?
6. How can a land acknowledgement become a concrete commitment toward Indigenous peoples rather than just a symbolic gesture?
7. How does the land on which you are gathered concretely make this event possible? For example, through its resources, its size, or its history?

Official Welcome Message to Ndakina, Ancestral Territory of the W8banaki Nation

K'wlipaï8ba W8banakiak wdakiw8k

"The W8banaki Nation welcomes you on its territory"

« La Nation W8banaki vous souhaite la bienvenue sur son territoire »

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION

French: ko-lé-paï-on-ba won-ba-na-ké-ak o-da-ké-wonk
English: ko-li-pie-on-ba wan-ba-na-ki-ak o-da-ki-wonk

W8banaki

ODANAK

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