Creating an acknowledgement statement

"Territorial acknowledgements have existed for hundreds of years as part of many Indigenous cultures. Acknowledging relationships to space and place is an ancient Indigenous practice that flows into the future What we see as concrete, what we see as the CN tower, as buildings, these are all places that have been prayed for, that have been gathering places for ceremonies and I think it is important to remember that.."

Karyn Recollet
CBC News, July 15, 2017

TEACHER :

- *Assign each student a different Canadian town or city. Be sure to include cities from across the country.*
- *Provide each student with a copy of 'Land Acknowledgement: Canada'.*
- *Ensure students have access to atlases and the internet for research. Consider inviting a local Elder or Knowledge Keeper to class.*

Step 1: Locate your city on the map.

- Mark a dot and write the city's name.
- Write the province or territory.
- Locate and indicate 3 geographic features that are nearby (river, lake, mountain, prairie, etc.).
- Locate and indicate 3-4 nearby First Nations/Métis/Inuit communities. Be sure to use traditional Indigenous language place names.
- Add colour as needed.



Step 2: Research.

- Find whose ancestral lands your city is located in. (Use Indigenous terms. For example: Anishinaabe rather than Ojibway).
- Determine what Treaty was made in that area. (If a Treaty was made.)

Step 3: Think about your city's location on Indigenous lands.

- Draft a short statement that is a personal pledge or honours Indigenous peoples. Be sure to use pronouns like 'we' and 'us'.
- The statement should be action based and mindful of reconciliation.



Step 4: Write a territorial acknowledgement statement

- Be sure to include: (1) city name (2) Indigenous ancestral lands (3) Treaty area (4) personal pledge/honour statement.
- Write the statement on your map.

STUDENT RESOURCE



Learning to do a territorial acknowledgement statement takes time. You can learn from friends, family, fellow students Elders., Knowledge Keepers, and teachers. As you build connections with the land, you also build connections with and belonging to Indigenous communities. The exercise enables you to engage with our collective past, present, and future.

Adapted from: Land Acknowledgements | Centre for Teaching and Learning (ualberta.ca)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: CANADA

TREATY EDUCATION