

Land Acknowledgements

NAC20

The Origins of Indigenous Land Acknowledgements

→ Originally, Land Acknowledgements were used by Indigenous Nations as a means of communicating who you were, why you were travelling in that area, whose territory you were visiting, and if they've given you permission to be there.

→ **Example:** I'm Bonnie, I am a member of the Serpent River First Nation, my people are the Ojibwe, I'm here to represent them and I am in Mississauga territory to visit friends.



Do we understand the **Land Acknowledgement**?



Questions:

What do you think this sketch is trying to point out about Land Acknowledgement?

Does this sketch remind you of any times you have heard the Land Acknowledgement?

Do people really understand what we are listening to when we hear the Land Acknowledgement?

TDSB Land Acknowledgement

“We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples”

In groups, you will work together to research the different communities recognized in the Land Acknowledgement we hear everyday at school:

- [The Wendat](#)
- [The Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe](#)
- [The Haudenosaunee Confederacy](#)
- [The Inuit](#)
- [The Métis](#)

“The Problem with Land Acknowledgements Today” with Hayden King



Questions

- 1) Why does Hayden King regret writing TMU's Land Acknowledgement?
- 2) According to King, what makes a Land Acknowledgement effective?
- 3) What is our responsibility as settlers today?

1) Why does Hayden King regret writing TMU's (Ryerson) Land Acknowledgement?

- Who are we to invite anybody into the [Dish with One Spoon Treaty](#)
- Becomes a superficial box to check off → makes us think that the different treaties are just metaphors and not actual agreements
- With a script-based land acknowledgement, it doesn't require much work. "Offers an alibi" for doing the hard work.

2) According to King, what makes a Land Acknowledgement effective?

- Take your time (King acknowledges that the TMU acknowledgement was kind of rushed)
- Provide people with a framework and let organizations write it themselves
- Obligation that comes with it: what are you going to do? What are your obligations?
- Needs to come with commitments and actions
- Tangible actions: i.e. hiring more Indigenous faculty or it could compel a conversation.

3) What is our responsibility as settlers now?

- Move from just saying a Land Acknowledgement to actually committing to take action.

Task: Write your own Land Acknowledgement

Indigenous scholars generally agree that a proper land acknowledgement must:

- Be written by the person delivering it
- Be personally meaningful to that individual
- Take responsibility for the upkeep of the land & relationships with Indigenous peoples on that land

Having participated in this discussion today about land acknowledgements, I now want you to write your own acknowledgement for the land on which you learn and live everyday.

If you would like, your Land Acknowledgement could be one of the acknowledgements that are read in the morning here at Harbord and/or said at future assemblies.

Ms. Edwards' personal **Land Acknowledgement**

As we begin this (class/performance/school day/sports game etc.) I would like to acknowledge and give gratitude to the Land we are on. Traditionally, in Indigenous communities, Land Acknowledgements were used by Indigenous Nations as a means of communicating who you were, why you were travelling in that area, whose territory you were visiting, and if they've given you permission to be there. More recently, they have become statements to inform people of the Indigenous Land they are on, as well as motivate people towards reconciliatory action. Today in T'Karonto, which is the Mohawk word for Toronto, we are enjoying this (play/movie/school day/sports game) on the traditional territory of the Mississauga's of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. As a settler, I express my gratitude to these First Nations for taking care of this Land and teaching me about the importance connection to the Land. Every day I take a few moments to relish in the beauty of the Land, water, and air around me and every day I am making efforts to be more in relationship with the Land. Further, let me speak to my commitment to the Dish with One Spoon Treaty. The Dish with One Spoon Treaty is an agreement that was originally made between the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee and was later extended to all settlers. The dish represents the Land and the spoon represents humans taking what we need to sustain ourselves from the Land. Note that it is *one* spoon. This represents that we must share both the resources and the responsibility for taking care of the Land. Let this Land Acknowledgement mark my commitment to upholding the Dish with One Spoon Treaty and to continue learning about the Indigenous history of T'Karonto. Miigwech.

Another example of a personal **Land Acknowledgement**

Boozhoo. My name is _____ and I am a descendant of _____ ancestors who lived in _____. I am first-generation Canadian, and my parents are settlers who were able to immigrate due to the policies set out by the Canadian government. They came to Canada and took part in colonialism as they lived comfortably with free healthcare, public schools and clean water on Indigenous land. Even though they are proud to have come here, their knowledge and understanding of Canadian history is limited. They have not fully understood or thought about the fact that we have been raised on stolen land. Nor have they made the efforts to educate themselves about these issues. Part of my own responsibility now comes with ensuring that I learn the history of this land and continue to take action to make Canada and Canadians accountable for the past and to support in attaining justice. I begin by recognizing whose land this is, and as the Land Acknowledgement is stated, I truly reflect on what it really means to say: “We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.