



ALL ABOUT DOING A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT... A GUIDE TO EASE YOUR ANXIETY

For many, writing a land acknowledgement may be intimidating when there's uncertainty on what type of content is appropriate.



Created by the Halton Youth Initiative Calls to Action Team

Section 1 - Why is Doing a Land Acknowledgement Important?

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

- A land acknowledgement is a short passage, verbally delivered at the beginning of events, which recognizes Indigenous history and connection to the land. It can be conducted in gatherings of any size or formality.

Why is it Important?

- A land acknowledgement is one of the ways you can express recognition for the Indigenous generations who lived on it before us, as well as the land itself. It allows for a moment of reflection about history, what the land means to you as well as gratefulness.
 - A reflection of what the land means to you.
Express YOUR recognition.
Express what the land means to you.

Prepare Yourself By:

- Knowing whose land you're on
 - [Native Land](#)
 - [Mississauga of the Credit First Nations](#)
- Learn to pronounce
 - [The Ojibwe People's Dictionary](#).
 - [Odawa and Eastern Ojibwe Online Dictionary](#).
- Reflect on what the land means to YOU (make it personal)
- Practice to try not to read it



Section 2 - What Should a Land Acknowledgement Include?

Know Whose Land You're On

Research which groups and treaties pertain specifically to the land you reside on, so that you may acknowledge them. Some websites that may aid you are: Who's Land App and Nativeland.ca

Talk About What the Land Means to You

After you respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous history behind the land, feel free to add a personal touch by mentioning your own connection to the land. After all, a land acknowledgement should allow the writer and audience to sincerely reflect on their relationship with the land.

Incorporate the Reason Gathered

At the beginning of the land acknowledgement, be sure to include the reason gathered on the land.

Call to Action

At the end of the land acknowledgement, state a call to action that can be done to continue to support Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation. If you are unsure of what a Call to Action is and what you can include, check out this document: [Calls to Action](#)

Section 3 - Additional Tips for Writing a Land Acknowledgement

- **Be sincere/heartfelt, not generic**
 - Write your own land acknowledgement instead of reusing pre written ones, and avoid using the same ones repeatedly. Try to preserve it's purpose and not let it turn into a hollow routine.
- **Use past + present + future tense**
 - Acknowledge past generations, those who are currently living on this land, and recognize that we must care for the land for future generations.
- **Use appropriate language (don't make it political)**
 - A land acknowledgement should be respectful to whom it addresses, but also to its listeners. Avoid using language or include messages that will make your audience uncomfortable, such as any political or distressing statements.



Picture from EFTO