

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

### General Guidelines

- Acknowledging territory is a way of honouring and showing respect for a group of people who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.
- A land acknowledgement is a reminder to non-Indigenous people that it was all once Indigenous land.
- There is no right or wrong way to do an acknowledgement. However, a free form statement that speaks to the connection to the land is often preferred.
- The acknowledgement will be stated by the host or chair and is the first item on the agenda.
- For larger events it is always respectful to have a member of the local First Nation, preferably an Elder, perform a welcome, if possible. This would require an honorarium to be given to this person, to acknowledge his or her knowledge and respect within the community.

### Recommended Acknowledgement for use at TRCA Executive meetings:

“We respectfully acknowledge the lands we are situated on are Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and are now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. ~~As stewards of land and water resources within the greater Toronto region the~~ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority appreciates and respects the history and diversity of the land and is grateful to have the opportunity to work and meet in this territory.”

The pronunciation code is as follows:

Anishinaabeg (ah-nish-nah-beg)

Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-show-nee)

Wendat (wen-dat)

### TRCA Acknowledgement used at events:

Note that each statement of acknowledgement needs to be personalized and related to the event. It is recommended that an acknowledgement consist of two statements. The first acknowledges the specific Nations that have Treaty or Territorial rights in the area. The second connects the event or meeting to the people and the land. The following acknowledgements may be used for the various geographic areas:

#### Statement 1:

##### *City of Toronto:*

“We respectfully acknowledge the lands we are situated on are Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and are now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.”

##### *West of the Rouge River:*

“We respectfully acknowledge the lands we are situated on are Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, and the Haudenosaunee.”

*East of the Rouge River Valley:*

"We respectfully acknowledge the lands we are situated on are Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands of the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations and the Huron-Wendat."

Statement 2:

*Generic:*

~~"As stewards of land and water resources within the greater Toronto region the~~ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority appreciates and respects the history and diversity of the land and is grateful to have the opportunity to work and meet in this territory."

*Personalized example:*

- may be amended to include the names of co-hosts of the event (e.g. sponsors such as banks), the name of the event (e.g. Paddle the Don).

"As co-sponsors, TRCA and the Bank of Montreal, appreciate and respect the history and significance of the river to Indigenous peoples and are grateful to host the Paddle the Don event in this territory."