

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

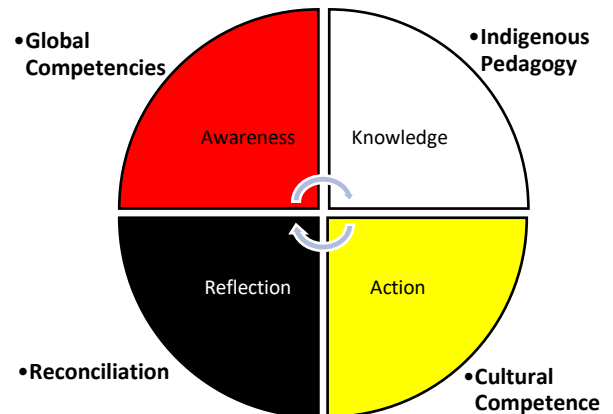
WHAT IS A TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

“A **territorial** or **land acknowledgement** is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional **territory** of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home.”

(From: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/territorial-acknowledgements-indigenous-1.4175136>)

WHY DO A TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

- To acknowledge the relationships to space and place which is an ancient Indigenous practice. (UBC Scholar Jan Hare)
- To honor the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada
- To show recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples (CAUT)
- As a means to bridge relationships
- As a means to address the legacy of colonialism
- To respect the importance of the land
- To build awareness



WHEN DO WE DO AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

- At the beginning of a course, meeting, assembly, event, etc.
- At the beginning of a Circle – to acknowledge the historical/cultural significance of Circles
- Within a classroom – as a teaching tool within a curricular context or a discussion starter

NEXT STEPS? THINKING CRITICALLY...

- What treaties are here in NB? How does the acknowledgement relate to this?
- What is the educational value of this?
- Are there any 'down sides' to using this?
- What is 'unceded'?
- How can we use this authentically?

WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE?

We are grateful and respectfully acknowledge that we gather today on the traditional lands of the Wabanaki Peoples that include the Mi'kmaq, Peskotomuhkati, Abenaki, Penobscot and Wolastoqey. In the spirit of Reconciliation, we commit to building strong relationships with the original custodians of this land.

“Meaningful territorial acknowledgements develop a closer relationship with the land and stewards of the place by recognizing the living history and connections of ourselves with other communities.” (Pulling Together: A Guide for Teachers and Instructors by Allan et al.)

Wela'lin