

Land Acknowledgement Toolkit Guide

This toolkit will assist on increasing awareness on how to use a land acknowledgement accurately and respectfully. By using the land acknowledgement, before your meetings and events, it will be beneficial to understanding the long history and stewardship Indigenous Peoples have with their territories. We must acknowledge the land we live, work and play on as it's essential in the path to reconciliation as well as developing respectful and meaningful relationships with the local First Nations surrounding Hamilton.

What is a land acknowledgement?

A land acknowledgement is a precise statement that acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples who are the stewards of the land in that traditional territory. It is a respectful and meaningful way to acknowledge the treaties that cover that location.



City of Hamilton Land Acknowledgment

"The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers."

Why is a Land Acknowledgement important?

Land acknowledgements are essential in moving forward on a path to reconciliation. Land acknowledgements are influenced by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action in acknowledging the first occupants of this land. Land acknowledgements are also important in educating the broader public on the significance of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their territories.

When do we use a Land Acknowledgement?

Land Acknowledgements are normally used at the beginning of events, meetings, lectures and other public events.

How do we use a Land Acknowledgement?

Land Acknowledgements are often done verbally however there is an option on playing a recorded version on the Urban Indigenous Strategy's webpage. It is crucial that the pronunciation of the nation's names is correct, if you are having difficulty please refer to the video.

<https://youtu.be/B8orPc2iBXk>

Hamilton's Treaties

The City of Hamilton is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant as well as the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792 which was an agreement between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Crown.

Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant

The Dish with One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

Additional Resources

Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy: www.hamilton.ca/indigenous

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation: www.mcfn.ca

Six Nations of the Grand River: www.sixnations.ca

Huron-Wendat: www.huron-wendat.qc.ca

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