
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT POLICY

Approving Authority:	Council	
Approval Date:	September 2023 (Draft)	Resolution #:
Supersedes:	New	
Amended or Reviewed:		Resolution #:
Next Review Date:	September 2026	
Cross Reference:	N/A	

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 The Town of Edson respects and acknowledges that the present-day Town sits on the ancestral and traditional territories of Indigenous peoples. By using a Territorial Acknowledgement, the Town:
- commits to ongoing reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples whose traditional territory the Town occupies;
 - acknowledges the historical and ongoing impacts of the colonization of Indigenous peoples and lands;
 - honours the relationship between the land and the Indigenous peoples who are present and have thrived in this area since time immemorial;
 - recognizes the present-day relationship Indigenous peoples have with this area.

2. PURPOSE:

- 2.1 The purpose of this Policy is to outline an approach for the utilization of a Land Acknowledgement (Schedule A) within the organization by providing elected officials, staff, volunteers and committee members with:
- a collaboratively developed and approved statement of Territorial Acknowledgement; and
 - a guide for putting the statement into practice within the larger context of reconciliation.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 In this Policy,
- “CAO” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Edson, or their designate.
 - “Land/Territorial Acknowledgement” means a verbal or written statement that communicates recognition and respect for Indigenous peoples, their cultures, histories, and distinct connections to the land, both past and present, as indicated in Schedule A.

- c. "Town" means the municipal corporation of the Town of Edson, or the jurisdictional boundaries of the same, as the context requires.

4. SCOPE AND USE

- 4.1 A Land Acknowledgement may not be required at all gatherings of the Town of Edson, but should be used wherever meaningful and appropriate.
- 4.2 A Land Acknowledgement will be used at the start of
 - a. Regular Meetings of Council;
 - b. Special Meetings of Council;
 - c. Committee of the Whole Meetings;
 - d. Council Committee Meetings;
 - e. Organizational Meetings of Council;
 - f. Municipal celebrations and other official events that are either hosted and/or supported by the Town.
- 4.3 The Land Acknowledgement statement will be printed on each of the following:
 - a. Meeting agendas;
 - b. The Town website; and
 - c. Other Town communications where meaningful and appropriate.
- 4.4 The Chair, host, or emcee of a municipal event, program or meeting at which a Land Acknowledgement is being used is responsible for giving the Land Acknowledgement. This section should not be interpreted as preventing another guest or speaker from also providing a Land Acknowledgement, where meaningful and appropriate.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Council is responsible for:
 - a. Approving and reviewing this Policy, including the Land Acknowledgement statement.
 - b. Familiarizing itself with the significance and meaning of the Land Acknowledgement and its role in reconciliation.
- 5.2 A Chair or host is responsible for:
 - a. Reading the Land Acknowledgement during meetings and events in accordance with this Policy.
- 5.3 The CAO is responsible for:
 - a. Overseeing all aspects of the implementation of this policy.
 - b. Familiarizing themselves with the significance and meaning of the Land Acknowledgement and its role in reconciliation.

- c. Ensuring Town staff are aware of this Policy and the Land Acknowledgement statement, and are provided direction on its meaning, significance, and appropriate usage.

5.4 The Communications Coordinator or their designate is responsible for:

- a. Ensuring the accuracy of the Land Acknowledgement on any Town communications on which it appears.
- b. Where appropriate, publishing interpretive materials and other information which highlights the meaning and significance of the Town’s Land Acknowledgement.

5.5 All staff are responsible for:

- a. Utilizing the Land Acknowledgement in accordance with this Policy.
- b. Familiarizing themselves with this Policy and with the significance and meaning of the Land Acknowledgement and its role in reconciliation.

6. REVIEW FREQUENCY

6.1 This Policy shall be reviewed every three years, and such review shall be acknowledged by resolution of Council. An amendment of this Policy shall constitute a review for the purposes of this section.

CAO or Designate	Signature
Christine Beveridge, CAO	
Mayor	Signature
Kevin Zahara, Mayor	

SCHEDULE A – LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, we acknowledge the Town of Edson is located on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional and ancestral lands of the Nehiyawak (Naheeyawak), Saulteaux (Sotoe), Siksika (Siksiga), Piikuni (Peegaunee), Kainai (Kina), Dene (Dena), Nakota Sioux (Nakota Sue), and the Otipemisiwak (Otipemissoowak)(Métis) Nations. We honour the knowledge of this land, the Elders and youth which gather here, and our ancestors who have gathered here for centuries.