

Land Acknowledgement Guidance Document

PURPOSE:

To provide background information and learning opportunities to support the implementation of the Land Acknowledgement policy by Town of Edson staff, leadership, Council and Mayor.

1. What is a territorial or land acknowledgement?

A territorial or land acknowledgment is an act of truth telling and reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the territory of Indigenous Peoples who are present and have thrived in the area since time immemorial.¹ It can be a verbal or written statement that communicates recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples cultures, histories, and distinct connections to the land, both past and present. It may reflect a Treaty or may be expressed as “unceded” where no Treaty exists.

2. What is the significance of acknowledging the Indigenous land we work on?

Wherever you are reading this right now, you are on Indigenous land. Every place in Canada has an Indigenous history, from the smallest prairie town to the largest urban centres.

Land acknowledgement is a traditional practice that pre-dates contact with Europeans.

With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Calls to Action in 2015, land or territorial acknowledgements have become increasingly common in non-Indigenous spaces. The TRC’s Calls for action do not mention a need for acknowledgement statements. However, it’s one that some Indigenous peoples say marks a small but essential step towards truth telling and reconciliation.²

3. How can I deliver a meaningful Land Acknowledgment?

For a Land Acknowledgment to be meaningful, it is important that it is delivered with a sense of purpose, meaning, authenticity, and within the bigger picture of a commitment to reconciliation. The time and intentional practice of asking yourself questions and guiding your own learning in Truth & Reconciliation is a worthy investment that can lead to enhancement of wellbeing for yourself and the community.

Ask yourself, what action(s) can I take to give myself a sense of purpose for engaging in the work of building respectful relationships with the Indigenous Peoples in my community?

Not sure where to start? Come and talk to the Community Development Team who can offer guidance, resources and referrals to local organizations who can support your learning journey.

¹ What is the significance of acknowledging the Indigenous land we stand on? [Ramna Shahzad](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jul 15, 2017 3:00 AM MDT | Last Updated: July 17, 2017

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

² Acknowledgement Statements: A First Step in Reconciliation; Kenneth Favrholt, [CMA | Canadian Museums Association](#)

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4. Style Guide and Pronunciation

When in written form, capitalize Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Territory(ies) and Treaty. Indigenous Peoples is plural to reflect an understanding of the diversity of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous name	Pronunciation	English name
Otipemisiwak	Otipeemissoowak	Métis
Nehiyawak	Naheeyawak	Cree
Dene	Dena	
Nakota/Nakoda Sioux	Nakota Sue	Stoney-Nakoda / Rocky Mountain Sioux
Saulteaux	Sotoe	
Kainai	Kina	Blackfoot (belongs to the Siksikaitstapi Confederacy)
Piikuni	Peegaunee	Blackfoot (belongs to the Siksikaitstapi Confederacy)
Siksika	Siksiga	Blackfoot (belongs to the Siksikaitstapi Confederacy)
Siksikaitstapi	Sik-sigaye-sit-a-pee	Blackfoot Confederacy

Pronunciation:

Empower yourself to ask questions for clarity on how to pronounce local nation names. When you ask questions, you create space for dialogue and relationship building.

The Town of Edson Land Acknowledgement is pronounced as follows:

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 (Otipeemissoowak)(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.