



NAIT Land Acknowledgement Resource

NAIT released an updated version of its [land acknowledgement](#) in 2020. These statements can be used by any member of the NAIT community. They can also be used as a starting point for your own personalized land acknowledgement.

This resource is intended to support students, staff and instructors to use and develop land acknowledgements in their work at NAIT. It covers the historical context of land acknowledgements, the role they play in reconciliation, and offers suggestions on how to personalize a land acknowledgement.

What are land acknowledgements?

Land acknowledgements are a necessary first step toward honouring the original occupants of a place.

Land acknowledgements help people recognize and respect Indigenous peoples' inherent kinship beliefs and relationships regarding the land.

They also provide opportunity for reflection on who we are, how we came to be on the land or our relationship to the land, and the role we all play in reconciliation.

Why do land acknowledgements matter?

Land acknowledgements are an important step in community and relationship building.

Recognizing that you are living and working on traditional ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples is a sign of respect for various Indigenous communities.

Worldviews

A worldview is a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world.

Culture, society, tradition, religion, experiences, and geographical location can all influence worldviews.

While much of the Western world has been taught to view the land as a provider of resources and abundance, in an Indigenous worldview, the relationship with the land is reciprocal. Indigenous peoples see 'Mother Earth' as a living being who connects them with their identity, tradition, language, lifestyle, and family.¹

Giving thanks and respecting and honouring the land and ancestors was and continues to be a common practice within Indigenous communities.² Thus, the practice of doing land acknowledgements pre-dates colonization.

1. [How to Create a Land Acknowledgement | Randstad Canada](#)

2. [Land Acknowledgement Guidance \(toronto.ca\)](#)

When and where to use land acknowledgements:

- You can acknowledge the land you're on at the beginning of a presentation, meeting, training session, or event.¹
- It can also be something as simple as an email signature or a phrase in your LinkedIn bio.¹
- You can share an organizational or personal land acknowledgement

Developing a land acknowledgement:

- Find out what land you're on.¹ – whoseland.com is a helpful resource
- Prepare your acknowledgement.¹
 - Consider:
 - What is your relationship to the land and the Indigenous peoples on this land?
 - How did you come to be on this land?
 - What actions are you taking on the journey towards reconciliation?

Things to avoid:

- Avoid sensationalizing your message or using empty promises to increase the impact of your statement.¹
- Ensure you are pronouncing the territory and community names correctly. Don't guess or assume. Put the time and patience into practicing so that you can get it right.¹
- Avoid possessive language (ex. "...our Indigenous people...").

Additional considerations:

- It's about the land, just as much as it is about the people.
- It can be an invitation for others to reflect on their relationship with the land.
- You will not be able to please everyone – there are even Indigenous people who don't agree with the use of land acknowledgments. And there will be people who do not agree with certain language or terminology.
- Reflect on your field of work and its relation to the land. For example, you can customize your land acknowledgement to include references to healthcare or technology.
- If you are referring to treaties in your land acknowledgement, keep in mind that treaties were also made between groups of people long before there were official treaties between Indigenous people and governments. Be aware that many treaties have been broken.

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- Whenever possible, connect with local Indigenous people to ask for their input and preference of terminology. For example, some Indigenous people may prefer that their traditional names for territories be used in the land acknowledgement. NAIT's land acknowledgement was written in collaboration with members of the Aboriginal community at NAIT.
- Refer to important national/regional reports on truth and reconciliation. These can provide guidance and inform what you include in your land acknowledgement. For example, many people refer to [Canada's Truth and Reconciliation report](#) in their land acknowledgements.
- Allow for evolution and growth in your land acknowledgements. It can be a living document/statement.
- The acknowledgement doesn't have to be long or complicated to create a big impact.¹

For more information about NAIT's Land Acknowledgement, contact:

Nîsôhkamâtôtân Centre

Room: E121

Phone: 780.491.3917

Additional Resources:

[Native-Land.ca | Our home on native land](#)

[Whose Land - Welcome](#)

[How to Create a Land Acknowledgement | Randstad Canada](#)

[A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment - Native Governance Center](#)

[Land Acknowledgement Guidance \(toronto.ca\)](#)

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