

When should we acknowledge territory?

In a meeting or event, for weekly school assemblies or announcements, the acknowledgment is typically the first item on the agenda read before the singing of *O Canada*. If missed it can be made at some point during the gathering. Be sincere, it should sound as natural as possible and fit into what you are doing.

Please note: This brochure is a tool to support students, staff, and community as we work to incorporate territory acknowledgements into our practices.

Gratefully adapted from SD 8 (Kootenay Lake) Aboriginal Education Handbook, SD 62 & 63 Territory Acknowledgement Staff Information



How can a traditional territory acknowledgement be integrated into the learning environment?

Share whenever we are gathered together, at school assemblies, to open meetings, on morning announcements, in school newsletters, posted in classrooms, open class meetings, at the beginning of land-based lessons.

Arrow Lakes Aboriginal
Education Advisory Council

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Territory Acknowledgement

SD 10 (Arrow Lakes)
Student, Staff & Community
Information Brochure

Territory Acknowledgement

"I would like to begin today by acknowledging that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Interior Salish peoples, in particular, the Sinixt (sn-selxcin) on whose territory we work, live and meet today, the Syilx or Okanagan Band to the West, the Secwepemc (Sheck-wep-mick) or Shuswap to the North and the Ktunaxa (Tun-AH-hah) or

Kootenay to the East." Or simply say: "Today I would like to acknowledge the traditional



Traditional Territory Acknowledgement FAQs

What is a Traditional Territory Acknowledgment?

Territory acknowledgements honour and show respect to the nations who have lived, worked, and played in a location since time immemorial. We are proud of the ties we have with our local nations and use the words gifted by them in our territory acknowledgement. Unceded territory or land has not been surrendered historically. A *territory welcome* is made by Indigenous peoples who are traditionally from the territory. A *territory acknowledgement* is made by non-Indigenous or Indigenous attendees who are not traditionally from the territory.

Where does the protocol of acknowledging traditional territories originate from?

Customarily when entering another nation's traditional territory, the people entering the traditional territory would seek permission from the traditional stewards of the area and be welcomed through an opening ceremony. The protocol is based on the Nation's concepts of 'host' and 'guest'.