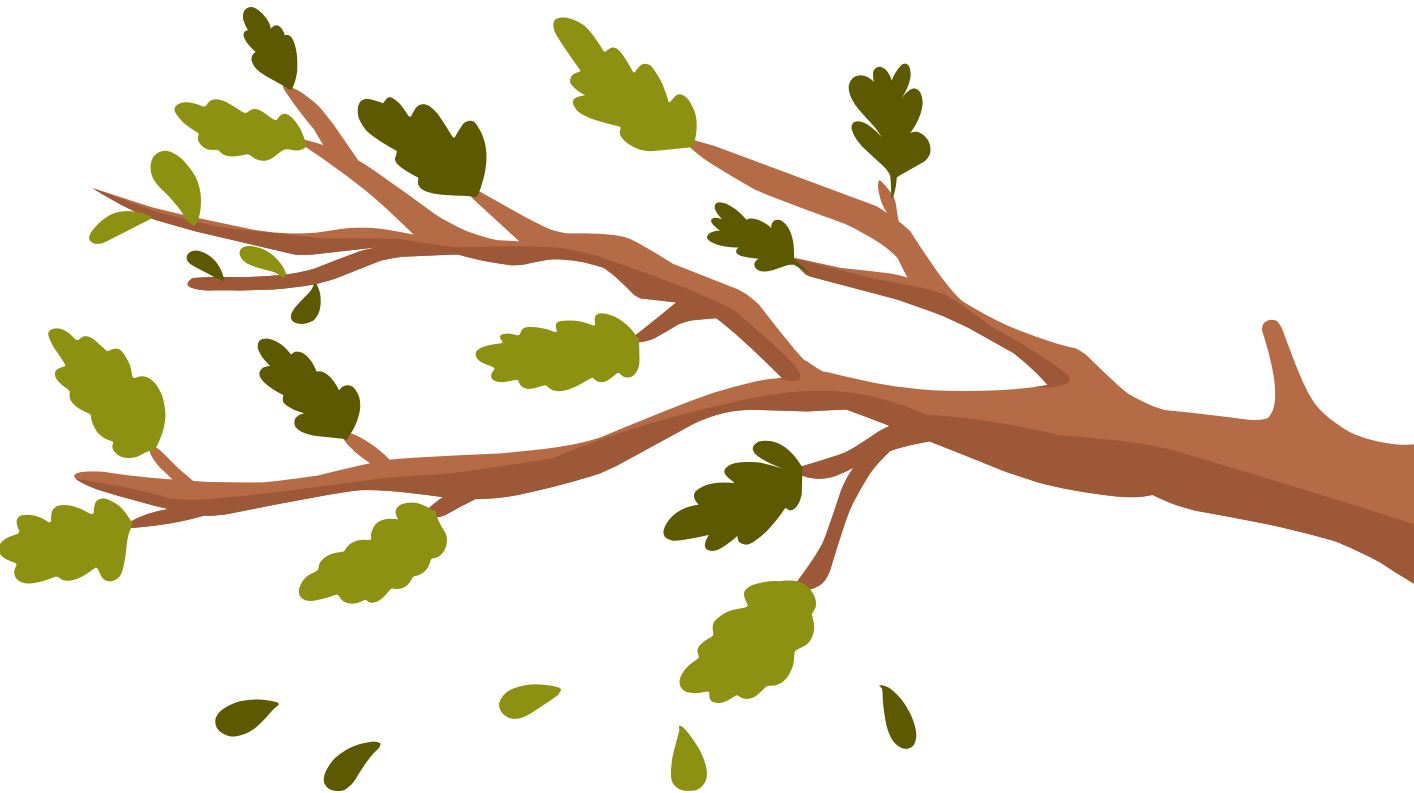


Land Acknowledgements

List as many things as you already know about land acknowledgements



Why are land acknowledgements important?

Why should you know how to do your own land acknowledgement?



Read these examples of Land Acknowledgements

The Greater Victoria School District (SD61) Land Acknowledgement:

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

District of Oak Bay:

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Coast and Straits Salish Peoples. Specifically we recognize the Lekwungen peoples known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and that their historic connections to these lands continue to this day.

Township of Esquimalt:

The Township of Esquimalt acknowledges with respect that we are within the Traditional Territories of the x^wsepsəm or Kosapsum (Esquimalt) Nation and Songhees Nation.

District of Saanich:

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək^wəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the ƵSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations. The First Peoples have been here since time immemorial and their history in this area is long and rich.

University of Victoria:

We acknowledge and respect the Lək^wəŋən (Songhees and X^wsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək^wəŋən and ƵSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Camosun College:

Camosun College serves the communities of southern Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands that are located in the territories of the Lək^wəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum), Malahat, Pacheedaht, Scia'new, T'Sou-ke and ƵSÁNEĆ (Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum) peoples.

Now circle or highlight your favourite one!

Time to Reflect and Brainstorm...

Why did you pick the land acknowledgement you did? Why did it stand out to you?

What three points are you going to add into your own land acknowledgement?

What Indigenous Nation (or Nations) are you acknowledging in your statement?



Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

There have always been Indigenous peoples in the spaces we call home, and there always will be.

Territorial acknowledgements have existed for centuries as part of many Indigenous cultures. In recent years it has become common practice for organizations and individuals to acknowledge the land and the traditional custodians of the land at the beginning of gatherings.

1. Why is it important to acknowledge traditional territory?

- Acknowledging territory shows recognition and respect for the land and the traditional inhabitants of the land, both past and present. Recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relationships.
- Practicing acknowledgement can raise awareness of the history of the land and its first peoples that is often not well-known by non-Indigenous inhabitants.

2. Who should acknowledge traditional territory?

- The person giving the acknowledgment should be the person hosting or leading the gathering, regardless if they are Indigenous or non-Indigenous (acknowledgment of traditional territory is different than “welcoming” to territory, which would be done by local Nation leaders).

3. When is it appropriate to acknowledge traditional territory?

- It is appropriate to offer acknowledgment of traditional territory at large gatherings, events, assemblies, and meetings.
- Acknowledgement of territory can also be done in the classroom as a teaching tool or an inquiry. What do you know about the history of the land on which your school is located? What do you know about the local Nations? Why is land of such vital importance to Indigenous peoples?

4. How does one do an acknowledgement of traditional territory?

- The territorial acknowledgement should be done at the very beginning of the gathering (if you forget, just go ahead and acknowledge during the gathering!). SD61, in collaboration with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, has developed the acknowledgement statement that you see at the bottom of this page.
- The territorial acknowledgement should be approached not as an obligatory set of words to rush through in order to get on with the “real business”, but rather approached in the spirit of good relationship and understood as an important part of the “business”. The acknowledgement is also a call to give of our time and energy to learn and to build relationship.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.