



Land Acknowledgements

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Recognize Indigenous peoples as stewards of their traditional lands since time immemorial while acknowledging the ongoing impacts of colonization.

Thompson Rivers University acknowledges the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwépemc'ulucw, reside on the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. TRU also acknowledges the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Tšilhqot'in, Nuxalk, and Dakelh Peoples, on whose traditional territories we are privileged to live, work, and play. Through our work we are committed to incorporate Indigenous epistemologies, pedagogies and ontologies into our actions and understandings, supporting decolonization, reconciliation, and Indigenization.

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that honors the longstanding existing relationship of Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. A formal Land Acknowledgement opens a space with gratitude and appreciation to the Indigenous peoples and the traditional lands you reside on. Doing a Land Acknowledgment honors the past as well and honours Indigenous peoples who currently live and work in the region. As we live, work, and play at our institutions, at businesses, and within communities, it is important to regularly reflect on and appreciate that Indigenous peoples were on the land and have had ties to it since time immemorial -- before settlers arrived.

Why should you do a Land Acknowledgement?

Land acknowledgements are a time for you to reflect and draw on your knowledge of the local Indigenous peoples and the traditional lands of a place. Respectful land acknowledgments involve a process of reconciliation and acknowledgement of the displacement of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples have always honored guests, as well as their hosts when visiting other nations and communities. To honor and show gratitude is a sign of respect. In order to enact meaningful change and build positive relationships is time for all of us to do the same.

- Land Acknowledgements can be a way for you to reflect on your knowledge and how it applies to your work, to think about your audience and listeners: What do they need to know about history, culture, language, and current experiences of Indigenous peoples?
- They allow you to recognize and respect Indigenous people's values and protocols in the workspace and community with honor and integrity.
- They allow you to reflect on you are and where you come from, and the Indigenous people's traditional lands you reside work and play.

To learn more about Indigenization initiatives at TRU, please contact Indigenous Education.

 Website: www.tru.ca/indigenous/indigenous-education-team.html

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