

University of Victoria Territorial Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wsep̓səm/Esquimalt) peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Who are we and where are we?

The University of Victoria Faculty of Fine Arts is very grateful to the Lək̓ʷəŋən People of Songhees and X̱wsep̓səm / Esquimalt First Nations for their ongoing hospitality in allowing many of us to come and live, learn, work and thrive in their territories.

The University and the Faculty of Fine Arts are located on the ancient village site of Cheko'nien, we pay homage to the ancestors on whose homelands we now learn and work in.



Reference Acknowledgements and Additional Resources:

- <https://ipsociety.ca/about/territorial-acknowledgement/>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/territorial-acknowledgements-indigenous-1.4175136>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_acknowledgement
- <https://native-land.ca>
- <https://www.kairoscanada.org/territorial-acknowledgement>

A Guide to Territorial Acknowledgements: Creating Statements of Respect, Recognition and Reconciliation

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What are Territorial Acknowledgements:

- They are meaningful statements of respect that recognize that the land was not empty when Europeans first arrived and that Indigenous peoples inhabited and cared for these lands for many generations.
- They usually involve naming the First Peoples of the area and may also involve acknowledgement of treaties that covered that area or an acknowledgment of the fact that no such treaties exist in the area.
- It may also involve giving thanks for the land and acknowledging the ongoing oppression and struggles for justice that are facing Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- They are usually held at the beginning of a gathering which may include meetings, workshops, conferences or any public event where a demonstration of Indigenous Reconciliation is warranted.

Ways to communicate your Acknowledgement:

- At an event delivered by a designate for any of the above-noted gatherings.
- Email signatures, on websites, on E-newsletters.
- On printed documents.
- On various sites throughout the building.
- Included in the story of your department's history.

How to make Acknowledgments Meaningful:

- Delivering meaningful Acknowledgments takes some thought and practice.
- Reflect on why you are making the statement – what is your intent in making it?
- Ensure that you are well-informed and do your research on the following:
 - The Indigenous people to whom the land is home.
 - The pre- and post-settlement history of the land as well as related treaties.
 - Indigenous words and phraseologies including correct pronunciation for the names of nations, communities, places, and individuals.
- Contemplate the language that you use, ensuring that you are using appropriate terminology:
 - Use appropriate identifying terms such as Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, rather than antiquated designations (e.g. Indian, Aboriginal, Native, etc.)
 - Use terms like colonization, settler and assimilation highlight actions taken in the past that have disrupted Indigenous wellbeing.
 - Use past, present, and future tenses thoughtfully. Remember, Indigenous people are still here - they are not a remnant of the past.
 - Make every effort to ensure you are correctly pronouncing a nation's name.
- Personalize your statement! It reflects that your mind and your heart were put into it.