

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

SD#73 Kamloops Thompson

- Acknowledging the traditional territory shows recognition of and respect for the First Nations and their lands, in the context of the past and present. A territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the First Nations who called the land home before the arrival of settlers. The acknowledgement is specific to the Secwepemc territory and it does not include other Aboriginal groups.
- Visitors, including everyone who is not a member of the local Band or First Nations, would **ACKNOWLEDGE** the Secwepemc territory and then acknowledge the First Nations or band. **WELCOME** to the territory is only done by the local First Nations or Band from the territory where the function is being held.
- Acknowledging territory is performed at any important function such as a school assembly, awards night, graduation, a celebration that includes Aboriginal communities, etc. It can also be done before an important meeting or presentations.
- The host is the person who would acknowledge territory; you would usually not ask a guest to acknowledge territory as it is not his/her function/event. It is not necessary to have an Aboriginal person acknowledge territory.
- Acknowledgement / Welcome is usually the first item on the agenda. (If you forget, just quickly acknowledge, and don't worry about it!). If you have both an Acknowledgement and Welcome, the host usually acknowledges first and then introduces the Welcome.
- For larger events it is always respectful to have a member of the local Band or First Nation, preferably an Elder, Knowledge Keeper, or Elected Leader, perform the *welcome*. As a token of appreciation and respect for their *welcome*, an Honorarium is given to them.
- If you are travelling to speak and work with people, seek out the name of the traditional territory you will be on so you can acknowledge their territory.

Acknowledging Local Territory

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“I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Secwepemc and I would like to acknowledge the local _____ First Nations/Band who have called this home since time immemorial.”

OR

“We acknowledge that Kamloops/Barriere/Logan Lake/Chase/or Clearwater is located on unceded Secwepemc territory.”

Note: this protocol is for acknowledging LOCAL TERRITORY, it is not (and isn't appropriate) for acknowledging the diverse Aboriginal People at our assembly or meeting.

This protocol is in consultation with the Secwepemc Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) and approved through the Band Council Resolutions (BCR) from all local bands within School District No. 73.