

February 14, 2018

What is a territorial or land acknowledgement?

Acknowledging the land of those who walked before us is a long standing tradition that has dated back for centuries for Indigenous people or many non-Indigenous Canadians, officially recognizing the territory or land we stand on is a fairly new concept.

To acknowledge the traditional territory is to recognize its longer history, reaching beyond colonization and the establishment of European colonies. It allows us to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon this territory. Acknowledging the land is just one way that we can move forward with reconciliation.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools land acknowledgement

In Acknowledging the land during a school-wide assembly, public event or ceremony, our division would like the presenter to speak on the following three points:

Thank God for all of creation.

Acknowledge the Treaty land your school is located on. (If your school is in Red Deer, please acknowledge both treaties since the river is the dividing line).

Pay respects to the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit who were originally on the land and have been excellent stewards.

Our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Support Team encourages everyone to acknowledge the land in a comfortable and authentic manner, so please use the three points as a guide. We have provided an example of how it can be worded for a reference. Opening prayer would precede this acknowledgement.

Example:

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools would like to thank God for all of creation. We acknowledge that we are on two territories: Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit footsteps have marked these lands for centuries and whose respectful stewardship have enabled us all to enjoy the riches of the Creator's blessings.

Specific School Acknowledgement

(Blackfalds, Innisfail, Olds, Rocky Mountain House, Sylvan Lake)

[School Name] would like to thank God for all of creation. We acknowledge that we are in Treaty [Area]. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit footsteps have marked these lands for centuries and whose respectful stewardship have enabled us all to enjoy the riches of the Creator's blessings.