



**Best Practice Enquiry - Summary of Responses  
Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

Query received from Fanshawe College, ON on April 5, 2018:

*I have been asked by my Board Chair to find out the practices other Colleges may have adopted regarding acknowledging the land at the beginning of Board meetings?*

*18 responses received as of April 8, 2018.*

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	RESPONSE
Alberta College of Art & Design	Calgary, AB	At the first Board meeting of the school year the Board chair does the long form land acknowledgement. After that, she does the short form at the beginning of every Board meeting.  It is recorded in the minutes as such:  <i>The Board Chair acknowledged the traditional territories of the Blackfoot and the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta.</i>
Cambrian College	Sudbury, ON	At the Board's recent Circle for Indigenous Education Committee meeting, the committee recommended that the following acknowledgement be adopted at events. It is being presented to the Board for approval at the end of this month:  <i>"I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Robinson Huron Treaty and acknowledge our host Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, as well as our ancestors of this land, and the Anishnaabe people."</i>
Camosun College	Victoria, BC	This line is always printed at the top of the Board agenda, and the Chair opens every Board meeting with this verbal acknowledgement of the territory:

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	RESPONSE
		'Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lkwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.'
Centennial College	Toronto, ON	Centennial College has a standard land acknowledgement used at events. The Board is in process of reviewing and adopting a practice. At this point, our Board meetings do not include a land acknowledgement.
College of the Rockies	Cranbrook, BC	Working with local indigenous communities to develop appropriate acknowledgement, nothing to date.
Confederation College	Thunder Bay, ON	<p>At our board meetings we state the following:</p> <p><i>"The Chair will call the meeting to order by acknowledging that we are on the traditional land of the Anishinawbe people, those of Fort William First Nations and other nations of the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850."</i></p> <p>At a recent Diversity Thunder Bay breakfast, the host there said this, but also acknowledged Metis and Ojibwe - I am in the process of getting a copy of their introduction to provide to the board as an option.</p>
Douglas College	New Westminster, BC	<p>This is evolving. For our first Board meeting of 2018, during which the Board welcomed three new appointees, the Board Chair asked a Director who is the College's Aboriginal Student Services Coordinator to extend a welcome. This is reflected in the minutes as shown below:</p> <p><i>"Dave Seaweed extended a welcome to campus on behalf of the Qayqayt First Nation and all Coast Salish peoples."</i></p>
Fleming College	Peterborough, ON	At Fleming College, the Board Chair calls the public meeting to order, then states: <i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the traditional lands of the Mississauga and Anishinaabe peoples."</i>
Langara College	Vancouver, BC	Langara consulted with the Musqueam First Nations who helped us develop the following acknowledgement which we use for every Board meeting, special event, etc.:

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	RESPONSE
		<p><i>"I would like to acknowledge the unceded territory of the ḥə ʔmíḥəḥ (hun ga mi num) speaking xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), on which Langara College is located."</i></p>
Lethbridge College	Lethbridge, AB	<p>At many of our events, we make acknowledgement similar to that below:</p> <p><i>"We wish to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is traditional Blackfoot territory, and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous peoples, including nations of Treaty Seven which include Kainai, Siksika and Piikani."</i></p> <p>At board meetings, we have not adopted the practice of acknowledging the lands - but what a great idea. I am going to explore this further for practice at our institution.</p> <p>You may not know, but we fly the Blackfoot Confederacy flag along with our national, provincial and college flags.</p>
Medicine Hat College	Medicine Hat, AB	<p>At Medicine Hat College we open our Board meeting with the following verbal acknowledgement of the territory:</p> <p>Medicine Hat College honors and acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 7 and Treaty 4 territory, traditional lands of the Siksika (Blackfoot), Kainai (Blood), Piikani (Peigan), Stoney-Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina (Sarcee) as well as the Cree, Sioux, and the Saulteaux bands of the Ojibwa peoples. We also honor and acknowledge that we are on the homelands of the Metis Nation within Region III.</p>
Mohawk College	Hamilton, ON	<p>This is something that currently Mohawk does not do. I would like to bring this to our President's attention for future Board meetings.</p>
NBCC	NB	<p>The following acknowledgement is posted on our Indigenous Students page on our website, nbcc.ca: <i>NBCC wishes to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Wabanaki People (People of the Dawn) on which our campus locations sit. The Wabanaki include Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, Passamquoddy, Abenaki and Penobscot.</i></p> <p>Acknowledgement of traditional territories is currently not part of our Board's usual practice when convening a Board meeting. However, an acknowledgement is made at public events.</p>

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North Island College	Courtenay, BC	<p><b>Mount Waddington</b> I / we wish to acknowledge and thank the Kwakwaka'wakw people, on whose traditional and unceded territories we are gathered today. Kwakwaka'wakw = "kwa - kwa - key (like a door key) - walk (like taking a walk)</p> <p><b>Campbell River</b> I / we wish to acknowledge and thank the Wei Wai Kum and We Wai Kai people, on whose traditional and unceded territories we are gathered today. Wei Wai Kum "wee why kum" We Wai Kai "wee wah kai" (like 'sky' without the 's')</p> <p><b>Comox Valley</b> I / We wish to acknowledge and thank the K'omoks First Nation on whose traditional, unceded territory we are gathered today.</p> <p><b>Port Alberni</b> I / We wish to acknowledge and thank the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations on whose traditional, unceded territory we are gathered today. Nuu-chah-nulth say "New-cha-nulth"</p>
Northwest Community College	Terrace, BC	<p>Northwest Community College (NWCC) serves seven First Nations in northwest British Columbia: Haida, Tsimshian, Nisga'a, Haisla, Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en, and Tahltan and acknowledges the traditional territory its campuses reside on:</p> <p><b>Prince Rupert:</b> Northwest Community College's Board of Governors acknowledges the Tsimshian people of the Allied Tribes of Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla on whose traditional territory this meeting will take place.</p> <p><b>Terrace:</b> Northwest Community College's Board of Governors acknowledges the Tsimshian people of Kitsumkalum, especially the Laxgibuu Clan on whose traditional territory this meeting will take place.</p> <p><b>Kitimat:</b> Northwest Community College's Board of Governors acknowledges the Haisla people of Kitimaat Village on whose traditional territory this meeting will take place.</p> <p><b>Hazelton:</b> Northwest Community College's Board of Governors acknowledges the Gitksan people for being on the traditional territory of Nikateen where this meeting will take place.</p>

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		<p><b>Smithers:</b> Northwest Community College's Board of Governors acknowledges the Wet'suwet'en people on whose traditional territory this meeting will take place.</p> <p><b>Houston:</b> Northwest Community College's Board of Governors acknowledges the Wet'suwet'en people of the Laksilyu Clan on whose traditional territory this meeting will take place.</p>
Portage College	Lac la Biche, AB	<p>Portage College includes the following statement on every Board agenda and it is read out loud at the beginning of the meeting if there are external attendees at the Board meeting. The statement was developed at the President's Indigenous Advisory Council and is also used at other meetings that have external attendees and special events.</p> <p><i>"We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional lands of First Nation Peoples, the owners of Treaties 6 and 8, which are also homelands to Metis people and we are grateful to them for sharing the land with us."</i></p>
Red Deer College	Red Deer, AB	<p>We do an Acknowledgement at all of our formal events on campus. We haven't done it at meetings though. Here is our Acknowledgement:</p> <p>It's important to recognize that our campus is situated on the traditional land of the Blackfoot to present day Cree people under Treaty 6. It mostly serves a constituency that lives in both Treaties 6 and 7, such as the Assiniboine / Stoney Nakoda to the foothills, who fall under Treaty 6, and the Metis people. On behalf of Red Deer College, we welcome and honour the First people who lived here long ago, and we give thanks for the land we cherish where RDC sits.</p>
Vancouver Community College	Vancouver, BC	<p>At VCC, the Chair will use the following acknowledgement at public board meetings and events:</p> <p>"I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the unceded territory of the Musquem, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people."</p>