

YWCA TORONTO LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Land acknowledgements commemorate Indigenous Peoples' principal kinship to the land. They represent a necessary first step toward honouring the original residents of a place. Land acknowledgments are not new and have been around for hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans. When Indigenous Peoples visited other territories, it was customary to respect and acknowledge the traditional stewards of the land.

With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, more non-Indigenous people have become aware of the importance of land acknowledgments.

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This document is not intended to be a definitive resource on land acknowledgments as there are many ways to acknowledge the land. This resource is intended to encourage YWCA Toronto staff and the larger community to engage in land acknowledgments thoughtfully. You are welcome to use the version you feel is most appropriate for your meeting, or use another version, or a combination of versions that you feel speak your truth.

Intentionality, reflection, and above all, a commitment to do better is most important, as is acknowledging the rightful First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples who are stewards of the land.

YWCA TORONTO LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

● STANDARD

We would like to begin by acknowledging the sacred land on which YWCA Toronto operates. This land is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. This territory is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Anishinabeg and Haudenosaunee allied nations to share peaceably and care for the lands around the Great Lakes.

Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and we are all treaty people. Many of us have come here as settlers, immigrants, or newcomers in this generation or generations past. We also acknowledge the many people of African descent who are not settlers but whose ancestors were forcibly displaced as part of the transatlantic slave trade against their will and made to work on these lands. We honour and pay tribute to the ancestors of African origin and descent.

European colonialism and institutional racism have resulted in a great deal of harm to Indigenous Peoples - the effects of which continue to be felt today. As treaty people, we resolve to do better, in our actions and our thoughts, in order to defend Indigenous self-determination, protect Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender diverse people, and make right with all our relations.

● SHORTENED

YWCA Toronto operates on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. We are grateful to work on treaty land in community with each other as we strive to build a more equitable and just city for women, girls, and gender diverse people.

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● PERSONALIZED

As a settler of <X descent/heritage> I would like to begin by acknowledging the sacred land upon which YWCA Toronto operates. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. This territory is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Anishinabeg and Haudenosaunee allied nations to share peaceably and care for the lands around the Great Lakes.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous Peoples. We are grateful to work on this territory as we strive to build a more equitable and just city for women, girls, and gender diverse people. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the urgent need to make right with all our relations. To this end, <I am committed to deepening my understanding of what meaningful acts of reconciliation can look like for me, my family and my work - and I encourage you to do the same.>

● EMAIL SIGNATURE

YWCA Toronto operates on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We are grateful to work on this territory as we strive to build a more equitable and just city for women, girls, and gender diverse people. For a full land acknowledgment, please [visit our website](#).

● CAMP TAPAWINGO

As settlers, we are grateful to work on this land as we strive to build a more equitable and just society for women, girls and gender diverse youth. We thank the Indigenous Peoples who have been the original stewards and have taken care of this land for generations. We recognize that we bear responsibility for the harms that have been caused to them in our colonization.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinabek, which includes Wasauksing First Nation, our neighbours across the bay and Shawanaga First Nation, just north of Parry Sound. This territory was a part of the Robinson Huron Treaty, regarding land on the northern shore of Lake Superior and the Eastern and Northern shores of Lake Huron.

We will strive to do better in rectifying the harms of the past as we work together in serving our communities and, in particular, our youth.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- > A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment by Native Governance Centre:
<https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment>
- > Interactive Indigenous Land Map:
<https://native-land.ca>
- > Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports:
<https://nctr.ca/records/reports>
- > National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls findings:
<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report>

*Please note that land acknowledgments are living statements.
This document is not intended to be an exhaustive or definitive resource.*



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