



Land Acknowledgement Guide for Members

The goal of this guide is to encourage all BILD members to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work. The acknowledgment is part of our DEI initiatives, education and leadership to foster awareness for truth and reconciliation in our industry. BILD encourages their members to reach out to Indigenous consultants and communities to open pathways for dialogue and seek input on the wording of the acknowledgement.

Why use a Land acknowledgement?

As builders, developers and other professional services related to land development, it is important for us to acknowledge and recognize Indigenous lands, treaties, and people. Having a land acknowledgement prepared and available for reading at appropriate times or written out and located in a visible location in your offices and other appropriate locations is one step in the reconciliation process. It helps with the reconciliation process and building relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Land acknowledgments can be used as a learning and teaching moment, for each individual and organization. It is a way to create awareness about the history of the Canadian landscape and create a relationship to the land to where people build, live and work. Land acknowledgements are the first step in cultivating better relationships with Indigenous peoples and should be partnered with genuine ongoing work to forge real and lasting relationships through the work we do.

When to use it?

Land Acknowledgements usually take place at the start of meetings, conferences or events. They are meant as a meaningful practice with thought and consideration. For conferences and events you can also reach out to the Indigenous Community whose traditional territory the event is being held on.

The process:

1. As an opening, you could start with what you are doing and why it is important to you and your organization. Some promoting questions could be:
 - *Why are we doing this?*
 - *Why is it important to the speaker?*
 - *How does it relate to the event?*
2. Acknowledge what territory and land you are on. You can use BILD's or your City's land acknowledgement as a starting point and to confirm the traditional territory that your meeting is being held on, you can use the following link – [here](#)

BILD's Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many 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. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

For your reference, Regional Acknowledgement links can be found below:

- City of Toronto's [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Peel Region's [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- York Region's [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Halton Region's [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Durham Region's [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Simcoe County's [Land Acknowledgement](#)

More Resources:

- [Territory Acknowledgement](#) - A guide with a list of Do's and Don'ts
- [Land Acknowledgement](#) -A General Guide from the City of Toronto
- [Calls to Action English2.pdf \(exactdn.com\)](#) - Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
- [UNDRIP_E_web.pdf](#) - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- [23 Tips on What Not to Say or Do When Working with Indigenous Peoples. \(ictinc.ca\)](#) - Link for the ebook and further information.