



AN INTRODUCTION TO LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bow Valley Immigration Partnership (BVIP)



"Setting Sun Prayer"

Art by Leah Marie Dorion

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WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

- An important step in reconciliation and an acknowledgment of traditional land and recognition for people of the territory.
- A helpful and meaningful steps for us, as we seek to understand our place within history.
- A demonstration of respect.
- A recognition of the attempted genocide of Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- A demonstration of our understanding of colonization.
- Also referred to as a “Traditional Territory Acknowledgement”.
- A stepping stone to honouring broken treaties.



Photo: "Pow wow in Canada Communities Huron and Wendat during the annual pow wow of Wendake in Quebec."
- by Clemquetzal from Shutter Stock

WHY DO WE SHARE THEM?

- It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought us to reside on the land and to seek to understand our place within history.
- Land acknowledgments do not exist in past tense or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build the mindfulness of our present participation.
- Land acknowledgments are a stepping stone to honouring broken treaty relationships.
- When land acknowledgements are approached with humility and as a learning opportunity, knowledge is shared with others.



HOW?

1. DO YOUR HOMEWORK – HAVE CONVERSATIONS AND DO RESEARCH TO LEARN ABOUT:

- The Indigenous peoples that have used and continue to use this land
- The history of the land – was treaty signed, is there significance with groups (Dene people, Cree people, etc.), language groups, sites of significance, etc.
- Place names – communities, groups, treaties, etc.
- The correct pronunciation



HOW?

2. SELF-REFLECTION – THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER YOUR ‘WHY’.

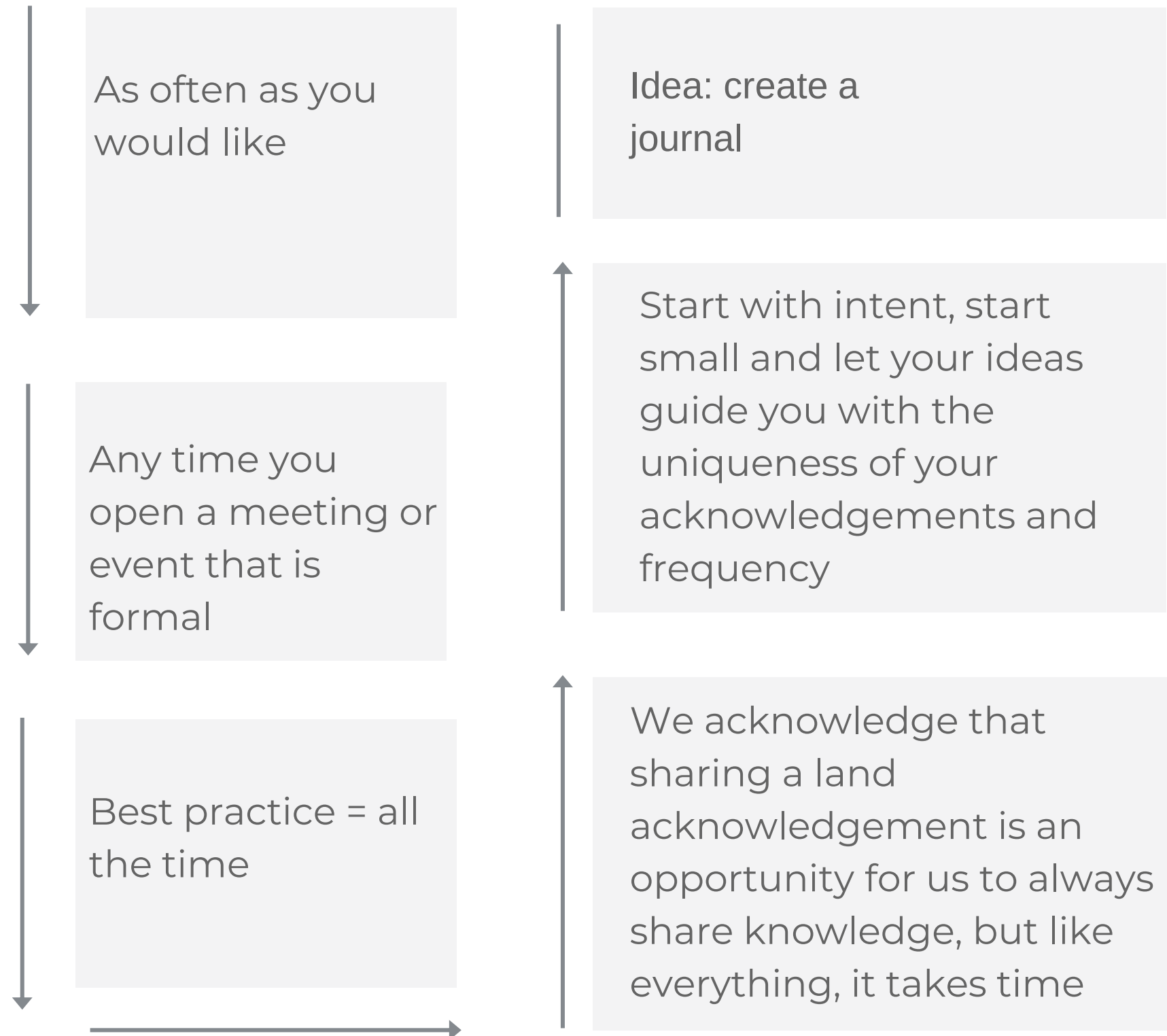
- Consider why you are doing this LA, what is your end goal?
- What do you hope listeners will learn or do after hearing the acknowledgment?
- Consider stating what you or your organization are doing to advance reconciliation.
- Have you googled your LA and is it unique to your or your organization?

3. TAKE ACTION – PARTICIPATE IN RECONCILIATION ACTIONS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE YOU’VE ACKNOWLEDGED IN #1 AND LINK THAT TO #2.

- The Calls to Action say that “Canadians must do more than talk about reconciliation we must learn how to practice reconciliation in our everyday lives”.
- Build relationships and support Indigenous communities, show up to events, donate and support Indigenous organizations.



WHEN?



MY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay respect to the fact that I work, live, live-stream and raise my family in the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. This includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations; the Tsuut'ina First Nation; and the Metis Nation Region 3. I am grateful to the original, and current, keepers of the land that I am on and with my family enjoy the opportunity to be on this beautiful land that has been cared for by many different Indigenous peoples for generations.

I acknowledge that you are joining us from all different traditional territories across Turtle Island today, and we welcome you all.

BANFF - CANMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"In the spirit of our efforts to promote reconciliation and create belonging for all, we acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot, the Tsuut'ina, and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all the people who make their homes in this Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta.

We live and work in this beautiful place that is on the traditional territory of Indigenous People who have lived and travelled through these mountains for thousands and thousands of years. In particular, we acknowledge the Shuswap and K'tunaxs (too nah ha), first nations to the west, as well as the Treaty 7 first nations: the Blackfoot, the Kainai (pronounced "gainai"), the Piikani (pronounced Biigani) and the Siksika first nations, the T'suuTina First Nation, the Stoney Nakoda First Nation: the Wesley, Bearspaw and Chiniki bans, as well as the Métis People of Region 3."

THE TOWN OF CANMORE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"The Town of Canmore is located within Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge the Canmore area, known as "Chuwapchipchiyan Kudi Bi" (translated in Stoney Nakoda as "shooting at the willows") and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Îyârhe Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda) – comprised of the Bearspaw First Nation, Chiniki First Nation, and Wesley First Nation – as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3, within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. We acknowledge all Nations who live, work, and play and help us steward this land and honour and celebrate this territory. We commit to working to live in right relations and to advance Truth and Reconciliation."

CALGARY FOUNDATION LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory.



CALGARY FOUNDATION LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - SHORT VIDEO

We acknowledge Treaty 7 territory, we acknowledge the Treaty 7 nations, the Piikani, Siksika, Kainai, Iyarde Nakoda and Tsuut'ina First Nations. We acknowledge the ancestral territory of Siksikaitsitapi, the Blackfoot Confederacy, the home of the Métis region three of Southern



CANMORE MUSEUM LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Canmore and all of the Bow Valley is located on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples as referred to in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This relationship to the land is further declared by the National Indian Brotherhood (now Assembly of First Nations), in A Declaration of The First Nations (1981). Historically, there is a long-standing connection to the Bow Valley around Canmore for many Indigenous nations – Stoney Nakoda, Blackfoot, Tsuut'ina, Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Dene, Mountain Cree, and Métis.

We acknowledge that we are on territory known as Treaty 7, which is a treaty signed on behalf of Queen Victoria in 1877, with the Stoney Nakoda (Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Wesley), Blackfoot Confederacy (Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika), and Tsuut'ina Nations.

ENGINEERS CANADA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Online:

*“I would like to begin by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. **While we meet today on a virtual platform, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the lands, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this land home. Please join me in a moment of reflection to acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and to consider how we are and can each, in our own way, try to move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration”***

MY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Email signature:

I acknowledge that my family is from, and has lived in, the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and Mi'kmaq on the island Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland). Today, I live, work, live stream, and play at Moh'kinstsis (Calgary) in the traditional territories of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) Confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, and Pikani; the Îyâxe Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda); the Tsuut'ina Nation; and the Métis Nation Region 3.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WORKSHOP

How To Create A Meaningful Land Acknowledgement

DO YOUR HOMEWORK:

- Who are the Indigenous people whose land you occupy?
- History of treaties?
- Correct pronunciation of the Indigenous communities

Resource:
[Whose Land](#)

DO SOME SELF-REFLECTING:

- Why are you doing this land acknowledgement?
- What is your end goal?

Resource:
[Acknowledgement to Action: Ensure Your Land Acknowledgement is Meaningful](#)

TAKE ACTION:

- How do you plan to take action to support Indigenous communities?

Resource:
[Land Acknowledgements: From Recitation, To Real](#)

WORKSHOP BREAK OUT ROOMS

Step 1 Practice writing! Break off into groups to craft your land acknowledgement (15 mins)

Step 2 Practice sharing! Share your land acknowledgment (10 mins)

Step 3 Reflection and discussion! Reflect and Q&A (5 mins)



"Visiting Sunflowers"
Art by Leah Marie Dorion