



TDSB Land Acknowledgement Protocol

Overview

In 2017/18, the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee of the Toronto District School, a group of Elders, Indigenous parents/guardians, and staff undertook a review of the Treaty Acknowledgement in consultation with TDSB staff and students, as well as Indigenous partners and Nations. Through this review, the UICAC has revised the Acknowledgement that takes place each day in TDSB schools. The revisions and information described below reflect the outcomes of this ongoing process and have been approved by the UICAC. Schools will begin transition to this Land Acknowledgment using the following information.

Goals of Indigenous Land Acknowledgments

Acknowledgement of the Land on which we are situated is an important sign of respect, presence, assertion and recognition of Indigenous self-determination. The Land Acknowledgement aims to:

- Bring Indigenous presence and voice to Canadian society and its institutions (e.g., schools);
- Create an opportunity for Indigenous students and staff to begin their day within their cultural context, and;
- Foster mutual respect and reconciliation.

Land Acknowledgement, Protocols and Timelines

All TDSB schools and staff will begin using the new Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of the school day and at the beginning of events, gatherings and meetings by January 7th, 2019.

Land Acknowledgment for all TDSB schools and events system-wide:

"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples."

Beginning the Day with the Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement is to be used at the start of the school day, just before the playing of "O' Canada". All individuals in the school at the time of the Acknowledgement should stand, if possible, in the same way they do for the National Anthem.

Acknowledgements are culturally contextual and flexible in nature. It is important that schools and event organizers work with Indigenous guests and community members to make adjustments as needed.

If a school wishes to use an alternative text to the Land Acknowledgement on a regular basis, they should work directly with the Urban Indigenous Education Centre.

Support

The Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee wishes to thank all staff and schools for the implementation of this revised Land Acknowledgement as self-determined by the Urban Indigenous community. For additional support, please the Urban Indigenous Education Centre:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Indigenous-Education/Contact-the-Indigenous-Education-Centre>