

Meaningful Land Acknowledgements and Realconciliations

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Teachings on land acknowledgements

- **Why?**
- **How?**
- **Other “reconciliACTIONS”**

Why do we do land acknowledgements?

- Insert Indigenous presence and land rights in everyday life
- Recognize history of colonialism and need for change in settler societies
- Meaningful practice that should not be treated as a token gesture
- Concise and brief, but with intention

How to prepare a meaningful land acknowledgement?

- Do your research. Reflect. Write from the heart. No magic formula or template.
- History of the land
 - Which Indigenous Peoples traditionally lived there?
 - Are there any treaties?
- Use Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), provincial or territorial websites for accurate information
- Local organizations (band office, Friendship Center, Student Center)

My example of a Land Acknowledgement

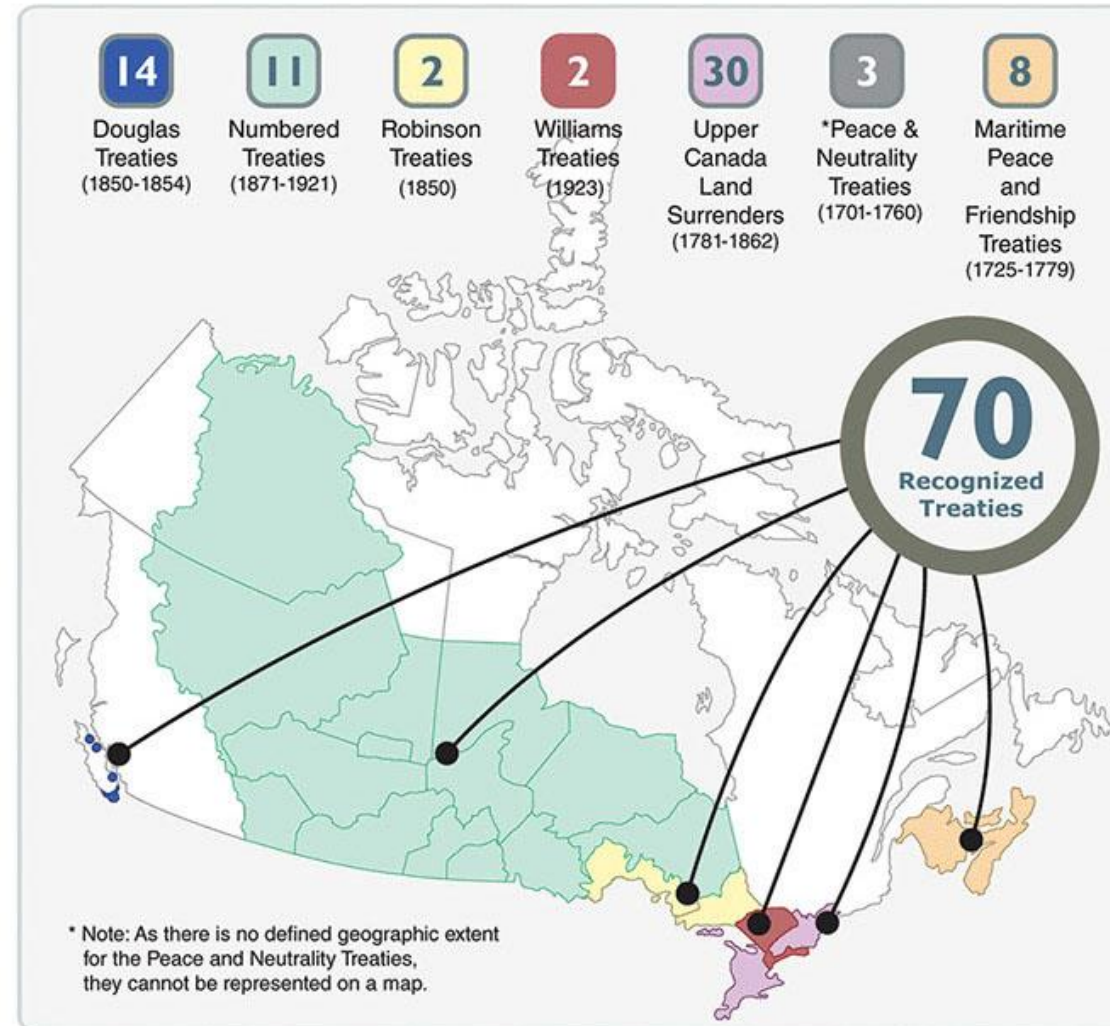
While we meet today on a virtual platform, please take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the land, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and 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 nation home. Please join 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. **(bow your head and pause for a moment, to really reflect)**

I would like to acknowledge that I am currently living and working on the uncaded territory of the Algonquin, an Anishinaabe people who have occupied the entire Ottawa watershed for thousands of years. One of the most important and sacred places for the Algonquin is Chaudière Falls on the Ottawa River in Gatineau. And I encourage you to do your own research, to find out which ancestral lands you live on, and learn how you too can help build relationships and support each other.

History of the land - Most commonly known 11 Treaties



History of the land - 70 Recognized Treaties in Canada



Other realconciliations

- Read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action
- Donate your time and/or money to support Indigenous organizations of your choice
- Purchase Indigenous art, jewelry and clothing
- Participate in cultural activities and events if invited or open to the public
- Attend an Indigenous concert or art exhibit

Resources

[Indigenous Peoples and Lands \(CIRNAC website\)](#)

[Treaties and agreements \(CIRNAC website\)](#)

[National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation \(94 Calls to Action and more\)](#)