

PETERBOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH

Board of Health

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Section: Board of Health	Number: 2-50	Title: Land Acknowledgement and Recognition of Indigenous Cultures
Approved by: Board of Health		Original Approved by Board of Health On (YYYY-MM-DD): 2019-04-10
Signature: _____		Author: Indigenous Health Advisory Circle
Date (YYYY-MM-DD): 2022-10-12		
References: Inaakonigewin Andaadad Akid: Michi Saagiig Treaties: Defining Relationships Between Peoples (Accessible to staff on the HUB (PPH Intranet) > Staff Orientation)		
Forms:		

NOTE: This is a **CONTROLLED** document for internal use only, any document appearing in a paper form should **ALWAYS** be checked against the online version prior to use.

POLICY:

Definition:

The tradition of recognizing the land and territory where we are situated dates back centuries for Indigenous peoples. Currently, a territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home.

Objective:

For non-Indigenous people living in Peterborough (Nogojiwanong), acknowledging the Indigenous history of this land and its treaty signatories can be a first step in a reconciliation journey. It represents an opportunity to pay our respects to the original inhabitants and owners of the lands within our health unit boundaries, and to acknowledge their ongoing custodial role. As a daily practice for those of us who identify as settlers, it provides an opportunity for self-reflection and growth in our roles as allies and advocates. For those of us who self-identify as Indigenous, it reminds us of our connection to this land, and can strengthen our belonging and self-worth.

In addition to First Nations peoples, there are other Indigenous peoples who contribute their cultures and ways of knowing including the Inuit and Métis. Since the late 20th century, the Métis in Canada are included as a distinct Indigenous peoples under the Constitution Act of 1982. Recognition of the varied cultures of the many Indigenous peoples is an important way to further relations to all Indigenous peoples.

Policy Statement:

Peterborough Public Health will incorporate a land acknowledgement as a regular practice at all meetings that are hosted by the organization. Staff are encouraged to incorporate a land acknowledgement as part of their meeting agendas.

Staff may also recognize the contributions of Indigenous cultures by adding a separate statement after the land acknowledgement.

PROCEDURE:

Starting out with good intentions, a good heart and saying your words and thoughts in kindness, is what matters most.

Peterborough Public Health staff and board members should be encouraged to research and personalize the land acknowledgement they use in their practice so that it is meaningful and relevant to any meeting they are beginning. This may for example reference strategic plan priorities relating to Indigenous allyship and health equity as it relates to the current meeting.

The land acknowledgement may involve these elements and an additional statement to recognize Indigenous cultures:

1. **Read the land acknowledgement:** The land acknowledgement takes place at the beginning of your event, before any other business. Check with local Indigenous partners to ensure you are acknowledging the correct nations or peoples, using the correct pronunciation and spelling. Acknowledge the traditional caretakers of the land you occupy, as well as the Treaty and its signatories.
2. **Acknowledge your commitment to working to improve relationships with Indigenous people.** This is not a chance to brag, but a reminder of the work still to be done. Consider specific references in relation to the topic of the event to be more meaningful.
3. **If you have invited guests or Elders from an Indigenous community to your event, you can ask them to welcome the meeting attendees to their territory.** A non-Indigenous person should acknowledge territory. Only a member of the Indigenous community can welcome others to their land.
4. **The Recognition of Indigenous Cultures:** This is an optional opportunity to reflect on and express gratitude for the contributions of the cultures and ways of knowing of the varied Indigenous people in Ontario. This wording may recognize the unique history, culture and traditions of the many Indigenous Peoples with whom we share this time and space. This may give thanks to First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and the many other Indigenous people for their contributions as we strengthen ties, serve their communities and responsibly honour all our relations.

PPH LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT EXAMPLE:

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the Treaty 20 and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnaabeg. We offer our gratitude to the First Nations for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.

Review/Revisions

On (YYYY-MM-DD): 2019-04-10

On (YYYY-MM-DD): 2020-09-08

On (YYYY-MM-DD): 2022-10-12

On (YYYY-MM-DD):