

# CREATING YOUR OWN TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TIP 1: MAKE IT RELEVANT. TIE YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE REASON YOU ARE GATHERED.

Welcome to all of you who have joined us here today on Treaty 6 territory travelling from Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and the homelands of the Métis. We have come together for \_\_\_\_\_ to continue building relationships and learning from one another.

TIP 2: RESEARCH AND ENGAGE WITH THE HISTORIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE PLACES YOU LIVE AND VISIT.

The land here in this place on which I live, work, and play has been shared with me through the signing of Treaty 6 by Cree, Assiniboine and Ojibwa leaders and by ancestors of the Métis community that included the Southbranch and Round Prairie settlements.

TIPS 3 AND 4: ASK YOURSELF: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY ON TREATY SIX TERRITORY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY ON THE MÉTIS HOMELANDS?

It is important to acknowledge that I am a descendant of settlers, and that as a child, I took for granted the freedom and 'ownership' of the land of my family farm. It is only now that I have learned about the true history of settlement on this land that I realize that those happy childhood memories came at the expense of other families and their children who were forced from that land so that my family could be there. I and my children benefited, and continue to benefit, from Treaty. We are Treaty people.

TIP 5: ASK YOURSELF: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HONOUR THE GIFTS OF THE LAND? WHAT ARE THEY? HOW DO THE GIFTS OF THE LAND FEED ME AND MY SPIRIT?

I am the descendent of immigrant settlers who has never had cause or reason to consider my relation to the land. Each time I am invited to reflect on what the land means to me, I go to the same place in my mind – and that is polar bear rock which sits twenty feet off the shore of the river in the north end of Saskatoon along a deer path and through the scrub brush and willows. It's a white rock and always reminds me of a polar bear. So even when I was alone there, I had polar bear rock to talk to. I benefited, and continue to benefit, from Treaty. Without Treaty, I would not have had the chance to connect with polar bear rock. I am a Treaty person. We are all Treaty people.

TIPS 6 AND 7: ASK YOURSELF: WHAT IS MY OWN STORY IN RELATION TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE PLACE IN WHICH I AM GIVING THE TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT? HOW MIGHT I COMMIT TO MEANINGFUL REFLECTION IN PLACE OF TOKENISM?

As we think about our relationships with the land and the people of the land, we are committed to learning from a place of humility, listening to understand, using our voices to raise those of others who have been less heard, and leading with our hearts to treat all Treaty land inhabitants with dignity, grace, and value.

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