

Refreshed Territorial Acknowledgement

Sara Sayyed, Kim Krawczyk and Dawn Owen
September 6, 2023

The Journey

1. Where did we start?

- Importance
- 2016 Territorial Acknowledgement

2. What did we do?

- Feedback
- Engagement
- Research
- Reflection

3. Where are we now?

- Refreshed Territorial Acknowledgement
- Strengthened Relationships

4. Where are we going?

- Relationship Building
- Indigenous Relations Framework

1. Where Did We Start?

Importance

To honor the land and Indigenous presence that goes back millennia

To recognize the impact and consequences of colonialism

To remind us of the legitimacy of Indigenous governance

As a gesture that nurtures healthy and just relationships



1. Where Did We Start?

Territorial Acknowledgement - 2016

As we gather, we are reminded that Guelph is situated on treaty land that is steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people today.

As a city we have a responsibility for the stewardship of the land on which we live and work.

Today we acknowledge the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek Peoples on whose traditional territory we are meeting.

2. What Did We Do?

Feedback

- Historical inaccuracies
- Lack of emotion, connection

Engagement

- Mississaugas of the Credit First nation (MCFN)
- Six Nations of the Grand River Executive Council (SNGREC)
- Sharing Circle with local Indigenous community
- Akinomaagaye Gaamik: Lodge of Learning
- Dr. Cara Wehkamp, Assistant Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives, University of Guelph



2. What Did We Do?

Research

- Municipal Best Practices
- Articles & Documents
 - [The Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#)
 - [The Government of Canada](#)
 - [First Nations Health Authority Information Booklet on Territorial Acknowledgements](#)
 - [Native Land](#)
 - [Why Is Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Important? Tips For Creating An Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement](#) ¹
 - [Guide to Acknowledging First Peoples & Traditional Territory](#) ²

1 Native Governance Centre 2. Canadian Association of University Teachers

2. What Did We Do?

Reflection:

- Why is this acknowledgement happening?
- What is the history of this territory?
- What is our relationship to this territory, land and water and the work we do?
- How do we benefit from living on these First Nations territories?
- What privileges are afforded us by living on these lands?
- What intentions do we have to disrupt and dismantle colonialism beyond this territorial acknowledgement?

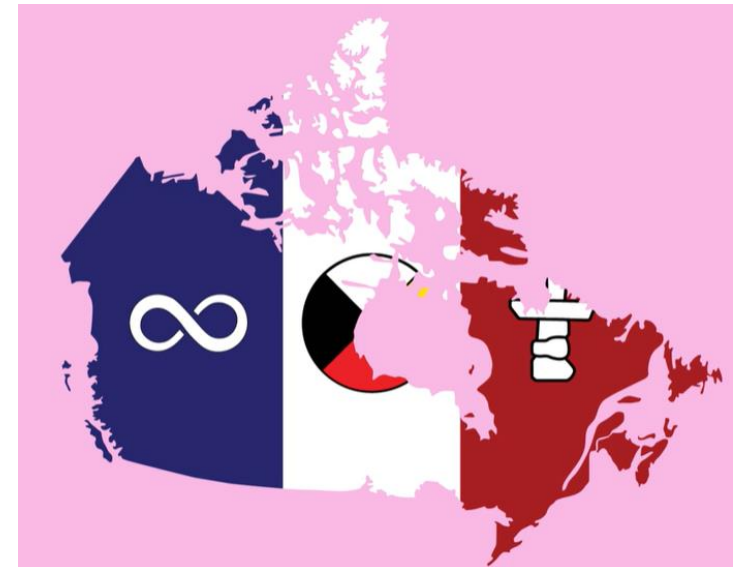
2. What Did We Do?

Homework:

- Learn the history of the land and the Indigenous Nations that live here
- Proper terminology (traditional territory vs treaty land)
- Correct pronunciation
- Appropriate language; words matter
- Use of tense, proper capitalization

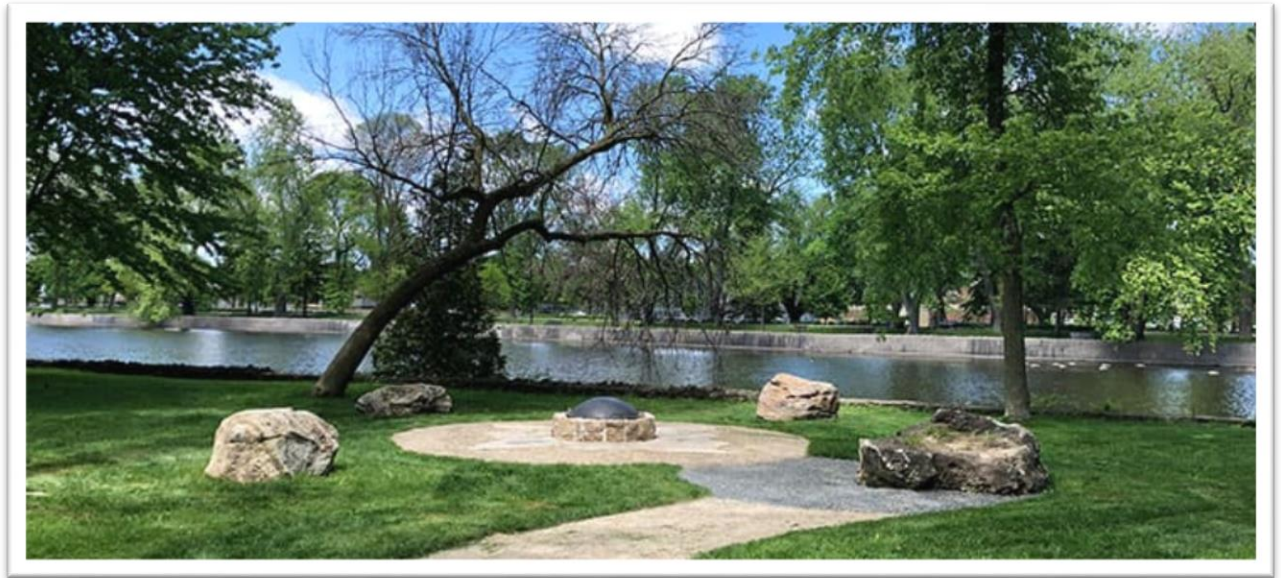
Relationships:

- Listened
- Unlearned



3. Where Are We Now?

- Strengthened relationships
- Better understanding
- Refreshed territorial acknowledgement



Refreshed Territorial Acknowledgement

As we gather, let us take time to reflect on our privilege to live and work in Guelph; a city built over rich Indigenous histories. We are guests here, and we should reflect upon the responsibility to care for this land, the people who live here today, and the generations to come. If our actions today can move us towards reconciliation, we should take pause and make those decisions with intention and gratitude.

This place we call Guelph has served as traditional lands and a place of refuge for many peoples over time, but more specifically the Attiwonderonk, and the Haudenosaunee. This land is held as the treaty lands and territory with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Guelph lies directly adjacent to the Haldimand Tract and is part of a long-established traditional hunting ground for the Six Nations of the Grand River. Many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples who have come from across Turtle Island call Guelph home today.

Pronunciation guide:

[Attiwonderonk](#) (At-ti-wan-da--ronk)

[Haudenosaunee](#) (Ho-den-no-show-nee)

4. Where Are We Going?

Continuing the Journey

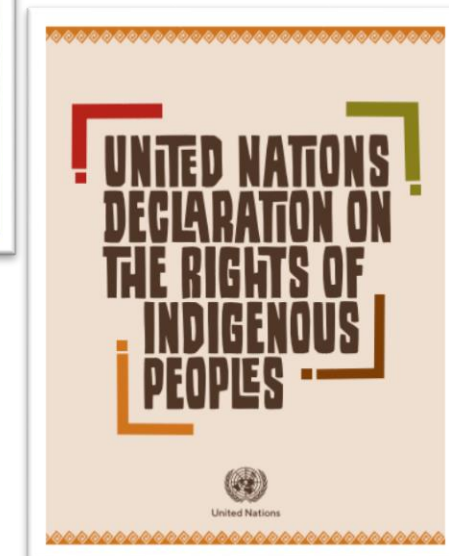
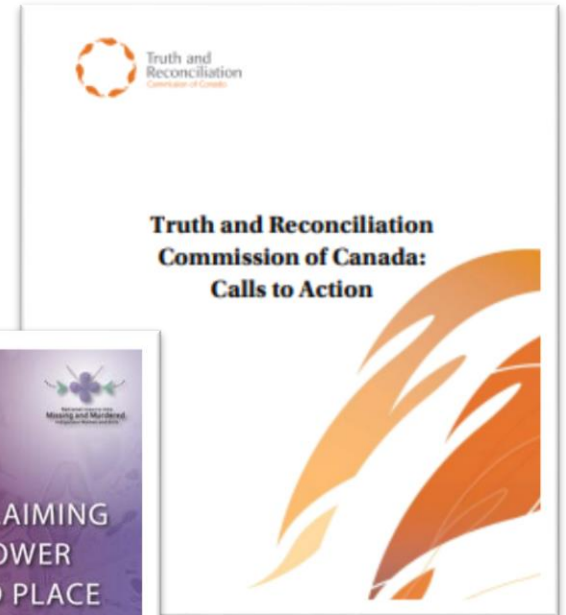
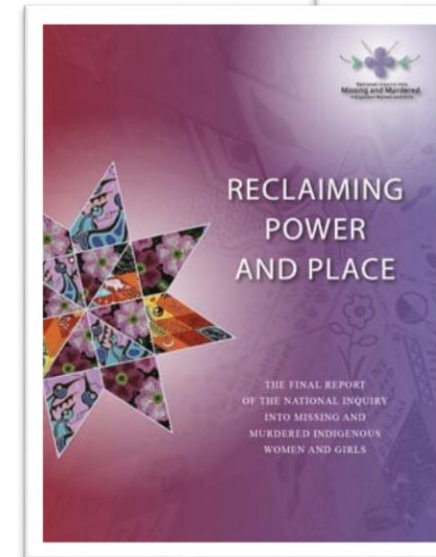
- Phase 2 of territorial acknowledgement
- KAIROS Blanket Exercise
- Continue the journey of listening, learning, and understanding to advance reconciliation.



4. Where Are We Going?

Indigenous Relations Framework

- Consultant selection & onboarding
- Objectives:
 - Corporate guidance for the City to advance truth and reconciliation across the organization
 - Addressing Calls to Action and recommendations from federal and provincial studies and reports relevant to the City
 - Strengthen a mutually respectful relationship between the City and Indigenous Nations and Peoples
 - Listen and learn to promote shared understanding of histories, impacts and goals.
- Final launch planned for June 2024



Thank you