

## CAUDS Guidance on Land Acknowledgements

To craft a land acknowledgement that is authentic and relevant, we follow the guidance outlined in the [First Nations Health Authority Territory Acknowledgements Information Handbook](#). Please review this handbook in full and refer to it as you create your acknowledgement.

Within this handbook you will find:

1. Why acknowledgements are important as a long-standing practice of Indigenous peoples and as an act of respect and reconciliation at formal meetings, conferences, and events. Understanding the purpose of an acknowledgement will naturally lead to meaningful ones.
2. Ideas for how to do a territorial acknowledgement. There are many different ways to do an acknowledgement based on the occasion, the individual and their experiences.
3. A list of self-reflection questions to help prepare an in-depth or expanded acknowledgement, which should be our goal.
4. Key Do's and Don'ts. Please review all before crafting. This includes when to do an acknowledgement, and whether a welcome would make sense.

CAUDS has prepared a sample. Please do not cut and paste but use it as a starting point to craft your own to suit the particular occasion. Your Engagement Coordinator is available to assist in the process.

Tips:

- 1.) Channel Jeff. If you were lucky enough to hear Jeff speak at Indigenous events, you would have heard his compassion, his gratitude for their stewardship of the land, and his dedication to helping heal past wrongs.
- 2.) Please prepare your own land acknowledgement carefully. It is recommended to review and practice it, and then put your notes away and speak from the heart.
- 3.) If you are opening an online dialogue, invite guests to give land acknowledgements as they introduce themselves, or to put their acknowledgement in the chat, if they prefer.
- 4.) Practice Indigenous names until you can say them with ease. If you need help with pronunciation, please let me know.

Common pronunciations for our Society's homepage are:

**(Name of language group)**

syilx (see eel x) The x is pronounced as a light hiss

**(Name of language)**

nsyilxcn (n see eel x chin)

**(Name of town)**

snpintktn (sin peent k tin)

Please ask your Engagement Coordinator about using terminology if you are unsure.



## **SAMPLE and WORKING SPACE FOR CRAFTING AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **V1:**

[Intro name/position] at the Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Society.

We are gathered here on the unceded and traditional territory of the syilx nation, and I am grateful for their continued stewardship of these land and waters since time immemorial.

As a Society, working with the understanding of trauma whether generational, complex, or acute and the coping mechanisms such as alcohol use is a strong foundation to work towards healing that is respectful, inclusive, and empowering.

\*For us, it is important to acknowledge that we hope our work will complement reconciliation – especially as we understand how alcohol has been used as a means of colonization and as a method to cope with the continuing harms resulting from colonization

### **V2:**

Hello and I am the \_\_\_\_\_ at the Canadian Alcohol Use Disorder Society. We are gathered here on the unceded and traditional territory of the [name] nsyilxcn-speaking people, and I am grateful for their continued stewardship of these land and waters, since time immemorial. [Space for personal reflection or connection (reciprocity is important). + Organizational commitment to reconciliation.

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