



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Background

First Light receives many requests to attend events to offer land/territorial acknowledgements. It is an honour to be invited by the community to participate in your gatherings. While we are not always able to attend, we are committed to supporting the community by providing resources that promote respect, reciprocity, and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and organizations. St. John's has the fastest growing urban Indigenous population in the country and we are grateful to be able to work with such a vibrant community.

Acknowledging the territory in which a gathering takes place is a demonstration of respect for Indigenous Peoples and our past and present contributions to the province. The acknowledgement is offered to recognize our ancestors and the history of the land that is currently shared by many. It is also offered to emphasize that the lands on which we gather are to be cared for as a shared responsibility of all those who reside in a territory.

As communities search for collective healing and work toward reconciliation, many individuals and organizations are seeking to implement meaningful acts of change to contribute to the process. Opening meetings and public events with a land acknowledgement is a welcomed practice that indicates your commitment as an individual and as an organization to be intentional with your efforts in promoting truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador.

If you have decided to acknowledge the territory in your day-to-day business, we ask that you first reflect on the measures you and your organization are taking to learn about and promote greater understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures and how you are contributing to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Once you have done so, we encourage you to share the acknowledgement below as a sign of your commitment to being an active participant in the truth and reconciliation process. This acknowledgement is a sample/suggestion and these acknowledgements can be customized. As a demonstration of allyship we encourage you to share the ways that you or your organization are actively participating in reconciliation as an acknowledgement of your commitment.

Land Acknowledgement

(if taking place in St. John's)



Phonetics Included:

We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk [*bee-oth-uck*], whose culture has now been erased forever. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk [*uk-dah-hum-gook*] (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq [*mee-gum-maq*]. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu [*in-new*] of Nitassinan [*ne-tass-eh-nen*], the Inuit [*in-new-eet*] of Nunatsiavut [*nu-nat-see-ah-vut*], and the Inuit of NunatuKavut [*nu-nah-tuhk-ah-vut*]. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

Phonetics Separated:

We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has now been erased forever. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

Beothuk	<i>bee-oth-uck</i>
Ktaqmkuk	<i>uk-dah-hum-gook</i>
Mi'kmaq	<i>mee-gum-maq</i>
Innu	<i>in-new</i>

Nitassinan	<i>ne-tass-eh-nen</i>
Inuit	<i>in-new-eet</i>
Nunatsiavut	<i>nu-nat-see-ah-vut</i>
NunatuKavut	<i>nu-nah-tuhk-ah-vut</i>