

Janice Desroches' Personal Land Acknowledgement

*An opening to circle * A ceremonial greeting * A recognition of relationship and responsibility*



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Call to Action # 63
(iv)

Brock
University

WELCOME TO
The City of
Thorold
POPULATION 16,801
Niagara Region

Jesse Wenté
Unreconciled: Healing, Truth, and
Making Meaningful Change
June 10, 2025- Stouffville, ON

On June 10, 2025, I attended a talk by Jesse Wenté, an Anishinaabe writer and advocate, who spoke about his powerful book *Unreconciled: Family, Truth, and Indigenous Resistance*. During the Q&A, he reminded us that land acknowledgements must be meaningful beginnings—grounded in truth, respect, and intention. In that spirit, I'd like to begin our meeting by acknowledging the land and my responsibilities as a settler.

My name is Janice Desroches (she/her), and I am a white settler with British, Irish, German, Scottish, Swiss, and French ancestry. I live in Thorold, Ontario, on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, including the Ojibway/Chippewa peoples. This land is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Agreement and is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties, reaffirming relationships formalized through the Covenant Chain of Friendship and the Treaty of Niagara in 1764.

This acknowledgement is a commitment. As a settler educator, I take seriously the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's **Call to Action #63(iv)**, which calls for *identifying and addressing teacher-training needs related to Indigenous content, residential school history, and intercultural understanding*. I commit to ongoing learning, to supporting Indigenous justice and sovereignty, including for 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and to contributing to the work of becoming a better ancestor.