

# Guide to Writing a Personal Land Acknowledgment

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## What is a Land Acknowledgment?

A Land Acknowledgment is an official declaration (written or spoken) by an organization or individual acknowledging the historical and contemporary presence of Indigenous peoples on the land of a traditional territory. Thus, it should focus on the past, present, and future.

## What makes a Land Acknowledgment Meaningful?

There are a few ways to ensure a Land Acknowledgment is meaningful and not performative (checking a box) in nature.

- Even if a company or organization has its own standard Land Acknowledgement, each time the acknowledgement is given it should be ***adjusted to reflect the intention for giving the acknowledgement in the given space.***
- ***Traditional Territories, Languages, and Treaties*** relevant to where you are giving the acknowledgement should be included in the acknowledgment. Here are some resources you may choose to refer to:
  - <https://www.caut.ca/content/guide-acknowledging-first-peoples-traditional-territory>
  - <https://native-land.ca/>
- If you are a settler to Turtle Island (aka Canada) sharing a land acknowledgement, ***mention your ancestry*** and the impact settlement has had on Indigenous peoples in your area.
- Recognize in the acknowledgement ***how the fight for Indigenous rights is intricately intertwined with the topic/cause*** to which you are gathering to discuss.
- End with a short ***list of commitments to Reconciliation*** you and/or your organization are committed to. Once again, these should not be performative in nature. Instead, they should be actions which either are currently, or will soon be, put into action.

There is no specific right way to write a personal Land Acknowledgement. The key is to ensure it is written and delivered in a way that centers ***respect, honesty,*** and ***action.***