

Considerations for practicing land acknowledgements in the classroom

At the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), we receive a variety of questions about land acknowledgements. These are complex questions for which there is no straightforward answer. For each individual speaker and listener, questions are a part of an ongoing process of acknowledging and engaging in relationships with Indigenous protocols and laws.

Engaging with land acknowledgements in a meaningful way can be an important part of the learning process for reconciliation as it is often the first step towards deeper questioning, thinking and action. Indigenous scholars, public intellectuals, and their allies provide considered commentary and perspectives on this topic. We have created a UBC wiki resource based on our ongoing learning about land acknowledgements that we hope will aid you in making decisions about approaching land acknowledgements in your classroom.

- *Is it appropriate for me to make a land acknowledgement in my class?*
- *Where do I get permission or check the correct wording if I want to include a land acknowledgement on my syllabus?*
- *When—and how often—should I make a land acknowledgement? At the beginning of the term? Every class?*
- *What if making a land acknowledgement leads to questions I don't know the answers to?*

What is the Land Acknowledgements in Teaching and Learning wiki?

The wiki resource serves to be a starting guide to help better understand the importance of land acknowledgements and ways to integrate them into teaching and learning practices. The wiki is intended to be a living document that is subject to change and is not a script on “how to,” but rather intended to continue dialogue and engagement on land acknowledgements across the UBC Vancouver campus.

ACCESS THE WIKI

wiki.ubc.ca/Documentation:Inclusive_Teaching/Land_Acknowledgements_in_Teaching_and_Learning

Where does the information come from?

The wiki is an ongoing collaboration between the CTLT Indigenous Initiatives team and the Equity and Inclusion Office. The resource was developed by a group of non-Indigenous settlers who live on the traditional, unceded lands of the Musqueam people. It is an open resource that is intended to bring attention to ongoing work by Indigenous scholars and community members.

How do I use the wiki?

As an iterative document, the wiki is intended to dig deeper into learning about land acknowledgements and highlight some key resources and ongoing engagement with different perspectives. As mentioned above, the resource is a starting place, and it is important to continue this learning beyond land acknowledgements.

One place to get started is the Musqueam and UBC website (aboriginal.ubc.ca/community-youth/musqueam-and-ubc), which contains a video welcome from Musqueam elder sʔəyəʔəq (Larry Grant) and an explanation by Dr. Linc Kesler about why we acknowledge Musqueam territory. The article *Canadian University Acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands, Treaties, and Peoples* by Wilkes, Doung, Kesler, and Ramos (2017) may also be useful.