

Land Acknowledgements

What?

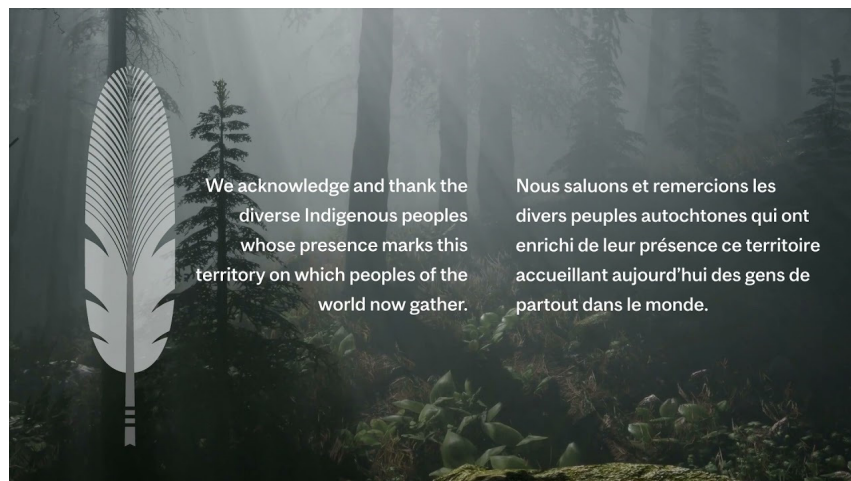
A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. A connection to the land is inextricably linked to Indigenous identity. It is crucial to understand that a land acknowledgement, when performed by non-Indigenous individuals, is not a superficial protocol to brush over without reflection and deliberation. This [article](#), adapted from a radio interview with Hayden King, an Anishinaabe writer and educator at Toronto Metropolitan University, explains the importance of putting your own thoughts into developing a land acknowledgement.

Why?

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory on which we reside, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

How?

McGill's [Indigenous Initiatives](#) page has many resources that can be consulted to further your education about Indigenous Peoples and their land in order to write a personalized and informed land acknowledgement. You may also want to read [McGill's land acknowledgement](#) to see an example of how the recognition of Indigenous land can be written, in order for you to create your own. [Native Land](#) is a resource that provides an immersive way to discover native territories, languages, and treaties and where they are situated around the world.



Section from McGill's land acknowledgment

It is also important to correctly pronounce the names of nations while performing your land acknowledgement. McGill resides on Haudenosaunee - pronounced *hoh-DEE-noh-Shon-nee* - and Anishinabeg - pronounced *Ah-nish-ih-nah'-bey* - nations land. These videos can help you practice your pronunciation of **Haudenosaunee** and **Anishinabeg**, as well as other Indigenous names on [this playlist](#) created by Julien Miquel.

Ultimately, one of the best ways to honour the traditional stewards of the land is to invite Indigenous speakers, perspectives, authors, artists, and beyond, into the actual event programming and planning. Performing a land acknowledgment and reflecting on it are just the first steps to understanding the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on these lands and to seek to understand the place you have within that long history.