

## McGill Sustainable Events Certification Program

# 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 very 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 Ryerson 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 you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

## How?

You are welcome to use the [land acknowledgement](#) created by the McGill First Peoples' House:

*McGill University is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. McGill honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.*

*L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. McGill honore, reconnaît et respecte ces nations à titre d'intendant traditionnel des terres et de l'eau sur lesquelles nous nous réunissons aujourd'hui.*

However, we highly recommend you reflect on how the event relates to Indigenous issues or reconciliation. In other words, we suggest you personalize and craft your own land acknowledgement as much as possible. Consult these [tips from Equity at McGill](#) or this [guide from Amnesty International](#) to make a customised land acknowledgment before an event. It is also important to correctly pronounce the names of the nations while performing the land acknowledgement. Haudenosaunee is pronounced roughly as **hoh-DEE-noh-SHoh-nee** and Anishinabeg as **Ah-nish-ih-nah'-bey**.

Ultimately, the best way to honor the traditional stewards of the land is to consider integrating Indigenous speakers, perspectives, authors, artists, etc. into the actual event programming. Performing a land acknowledgement and reflecting on it are only first steps to understanding the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land and to seek to understand your place within that history.