

 Selkirk College Policies and Procedures		Number	1100 Territorial Acknowledgement		
		Replaces:	N/A		
		Effective:	2018-02-01	Next Review:	2022-09-01
Executive Responsibility:	Administrative Responsibility:	Recommended by Policy Review Committee:		2017-12-13	
President	President	Recommended/Approved by Education Council:		n/a	
		Approved by President:		2018-01-24	
Linkage to Board of Governors Policies		E60	Territorial Acknowledgement		

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for faculty, staff, and administration in the acknowledgement of First Nations traditional territory on behalf of Selkirk College at key events and gatherings where such an acknowledgement is required or desired in observance of and respect for protocol.

B. SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for those speaking on behalf of Selkirk College or at Selkirk College supported events and gatherings. It is not intended to direct individuals speaking on their own behalf.

Typical events where a territorial acknowledgment would be stated include annual graduation/convocation, hosted conferences and symposia, key student events, as well as staff and community events.

C. PRINCIPLES

The College recognizes the need to acknowledge the traditional territories of First Nations on which the College region, its campuses and learning centres are situated, at relevant events and activities as an act of good faith in government-to-government consultation and strengthened relationships, and in the spirit of reconciliation and the observance of protocol. In keeping with the articles of UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), it is the policy of Selkirk College not to pronounce relative accuracy of the maps developed and owned by respective and sovereign First Nations.

As a regional college with locations throughout a large geographic area, Selkirk College acknowledgements of the traditional and ancestral territory need to be inclusive and respectful of each nation's own definitions of their specific territories. This approach is consistent with the Selkirk College organizational values of respect, inclusivity, curiosity and collaboration; the spirit and intent of the UNDRIP (Articles 13, 15, 25, and others); the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the Colleges and Institutes Canada Indigenous Education Protocol; and the Memoranda of Understanding with regional First Nations.

D. DEFINITIONS

Territorial acknowledgement. Acknowledging territory is presenting a verbal or written statement that communicates recognition of and respect for indigenous peoples, their histories and their distinct and unique connections to the land. It is recognition of their presence both in the past and the present. It may reflect a treaty or may be expressed as “unceded” where no treaty exists.

Traditional territory. Traditional territory is the geographic area identified by a First Nation to be the area of land which they and/or their ancestors traditionally occupied or used for specific ceremony or traditions. A traditional territory is often illustrated on a map but can also be described in oral history, story and language.

Protocol. Protocol includes the systems, customs, or established processes to observe and respect indigenous rights and sovereignty. Protocols might include aspects of territorial acknowledgement, honoring, blessing and prayer, culture, ceremony, traditions, language, knowledge keeping or the use of knowledge, respecting elders, children etc.

Government -to- government. Government -to- government refers to the context for and level of relationship building or policy development that identifies and respects sovereignty of nations, their peoples, and systems of governance. Often agreements to collaborate with a First Nation or the Metis Nation will include a government-to-government aspect that sets out guiding principles and shared values for working together at a governance level.

Colleges and Institutes Canada Indigenous Education Protocol. Colleges and Institutes Canada developed an Indigenous Education Protocol with member institutions of Colleges and Institutes Canada that signatory institutions commit to prioritizing in their operations to advance the work of engaging and supporting indigenous learners at member institutions to be successful in post-secondary education.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action. When the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada concluded its work on the impacts of the Canadian Residential School system in 2015, the Commission published 94 Calls to Action. A number of the calls to action related specifically to post-secondary education in Canada.

E. POLICY

The general statement for Selkirk College employees for First Nations territorial acknowledgement follows the basic wording of:

Selkirk College acknowledges our respect for and deep gratitude to the First Nations of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions: the Sinixt (Lakes), the Syilx (Okanagan), the Ktunaxa, and the Secwepemc (Shuswap) peoples on whose traditional territories we are honoured to operate.

Alternatives:

Selkirk College operates at campuses and learning centres throughout the West Kootenay and Boundary regions so we (or I would like to) acknowledge respect for and deep gratitude to the First Nations of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions: the Sinixt (Lakes), the Syilx (Okanagan), the Ktunaxa, and the Secwepemc (Shuswap) peoples on whose traditional territories we are honoured to operate.

On behalf of Selkirk College, I (we) acknowledge that we operate and serve learners on the unceded traditional territories of the Sinixt (Lakes), the Syilx (Okanagan), the Ktunaxa, and the Secwepemc (Shuswap) peoples.

We (I) would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather, learn, and operate as a college is within the traditional [unceded] territories of the Sinixt (Lakes), the Syilx (Okanagan), the Ktunaxa, and the Secwepemc (Shuswap) peoples.

F. GUIDELINES FOR HOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE TERRITORY

- a) The preferred way of honouring and showing respect to the First Nations with traditional territory in the West Kootenay Boundary is either to acknowledge the four First Nations at the beginning of the event or, when appropriate, to invite an Elder(s) or representative(s) to extend a welcome.
- b) For official College-wide events (involving the President, Board Chair, Board of Governors, Elders Program), Aboriginal Services at Selkirk College is responsible for contacting the appropriate

representative, contact, or Elder. All other requests (including student-led events, external groups, etc) must be communicated with Aboriginal Services and a faculty or staff member before following the procedure noted below for when to contact a representative or Elder. Any queries can be forwarded to Aboriginal Services.

Points to note:

1. Acknowledging territory is a way of honoring and showing respect to the First Nations peoples who inhabited, stewarded and protected this land before settlement and before the establishment of Selkirk College. This does not need to be done at every meeting and gathering at Selkirk College but should be done when it is meaningful or appropriate to do so.
2. The only people who would provide a 'Welcome' are appointed representatives by the First Nations; anyone else, including other indigenous people, would simply acknowledge the territory.
3. The host or emcee is the only person who needs to acknowledge territory. It is not necessary for any other speaker to do so (although it is appropriate for another indigenous speaker to do so, should they wish
4. For larger events, it is respectful to have a member of the one or more of the First Nations of the region, preferably an elder, provide a welcome.
5. The acknowledgement statement is not changed from above if other nations are present.

Appendix A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following links provide information about traditional territories of the First Nations in the West Kootenay Boundary region. The various maps show that portions of the Selkirk College region are in “overlapping” (sometimes referred to as “shared”) territory.

<https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/territory/>

<http://www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/>

<http://sinixtnation.org/content/sinixt-territory>

<https://www.colvilletribes.com/>

<http://landoftheshuswap.com/land.html>

<http://shuswapnation.org/>

Additional helpful links

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=905>

<https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/policyfocus/indigenous-learners/protocol/>

<http://maps.fpcc.ca/>

<http://www.firstvoices.com/>