Land Acknowledgements

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June 23, 2021

• Past
• Present
• Future

~More than words~
Past

• TRC Inquiry (2015)

• Indigenous worldview of land:
  - EVERYTHING: identity, connection to ancestors, groceries, teacher
  - Gift, not a commodity that could be divided, bought & sold
  - Stewards: responsibility to protect

• “Crown lands” in Canada:
  - Agreements (Treaties) between Indigenous Peoples & British Crown allowing settlers (& their descendants) to reside on Turtle Island (later called Canada)
  - Treaties encode our responsibilities to each other, land, animal & plant nations
  - These obligations remain unfulfilled:
    • Majority (89%) of Canada’s land is Crown land
    • Majority of Canada’s wealth: generated from natural resource & extraction on these lands
    • Funds ($100 million)/year on land claims & legal costs associated with Indigenous Peoples rights to ownership of land

Image: inspiring Young Minds

Content: Sara Mai Chitty
Present: What are land acknowledgements?

• **Honoring** Indigenous Nations & their *relationship to land*
• Acknowledging *ongoing* Treaty relations
  • London area treaties:
    • Treaty #6 London Township, Treaty #7 Sombra Township & Treaty #21 Longwoods
• Opening remark that **grounds the audience** contemporarily & historically within *ongoing* settler-colonialism; Treaty relations on Indigenous territories
• Disrupts the narrative: settler-colonialism is *ongoing*; land loss is not absolute
• Recognizes the complicit actions in *systemic oppression of Indigenous Peoples*
• Opportunity to challenge audience to engage in *reconciliation* work
• **Opportunity** to contextualize shared histories & ongoing settle-colonialism within the purpose of your action
Present: Where are we?
Present: Who are we?

Haudenosaunee

Anishinaabek

(Lūnapēewak & Chonnonton) (formerly Attawandron)

Image: Decolonialatlas.wordpress.com
Future

- Land acknowledgements is a small but important aspect of decolonization, as we strive towards reconciliation (not tokenism).
- Land acknowledgment will be included in all future departmental meetings.
- If you are invited outside of London & want to make a land acknowledgement:
  - [Native-Land.ca | Our home on native land (native-land.ca)]
  - [Whose Land | Discover]
- In doing so, center it to yourself:
  - Learn about your local Indigenous communities, histories & treaties.
Future: Centre to yourself

• What is my relationship to this territory/land?
• How did you come to be here?
• What has been the impact of your field, as an institution, on Indigenous peoples?
• How does this acknowledgement relate to this event?
Select Resources

- Our History | Oneida (oneidalanguage.ca)
- Our History | Chippewas of the Thames (cottfn.com)
- Land Acknowledgement - Land Acknowledgement - Western University (uwo.ca) (To be updated)
- What are land acknowledgements and why do they matter? | locallove
- Beyond territorial acknowledgments – âpihtawikosisân (api htawikosisan.com)
- Home - Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper
Equity Diversity Inclusion
Update
EDI Working Group Members

- Subrata Chakrabarti
- David Driman
- Rob Hammond
- Lloy Wylie
- Ana Cabrera
- Angela DeCandido
- Rebekah Jacques
- 2 trainees (TBD)
Jan-June 2021

• Established PaLM EDI Working Group
  • Consultations: 2-3/month
  • Align with Western’s commitment to actively take on racism & eliminate inequities where we see them, as well as a response to the President’s Anti-racism Working Group Final Report

• Communication:
  • E-mail, open door & PaLM Website
  • Make items more accessible (audio transcript, email materials)

• Education:
  • Invited Dr. Nicole Kaniki to speak to us on "EDI and Anti-Racism in the Academy"
  • Given direction for residents AHD
  • San’yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training to all PaLM faculty (already started)
  • Working on other guest speakers

• Strategic Plans
  • Needs assessment survey: data driven decision-making
EDI at Western/Schulich

• Preparation for the appointment of a new Associate Vice President – EDI
  • EDI Action Network: to capture the EDI work across campus (made submission)

• Posting for new Associate Dean, EDI
  • New office of EDI at Schulich & Dentistry
• EDI Medical school curriculum enrichment
• Strategic Plan at Schulich: EDI is a key priority
• EDI Specialist: Melanie Katsivo

EDI at LHSC

• EDI is in the plans as a corporate project (Our People Our Survey)