

Land Acknowledgements

Rebekah Jacques [she/her]

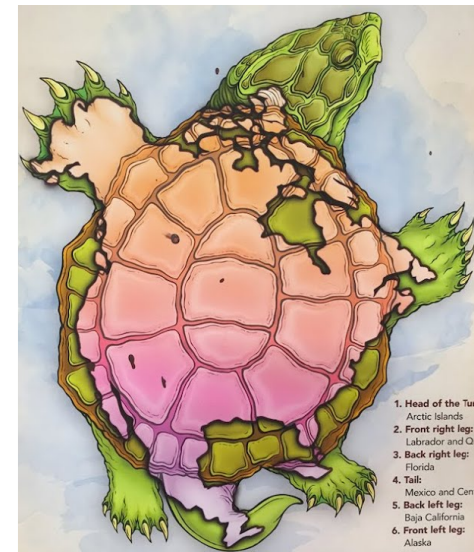
June 23, 2021

- 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



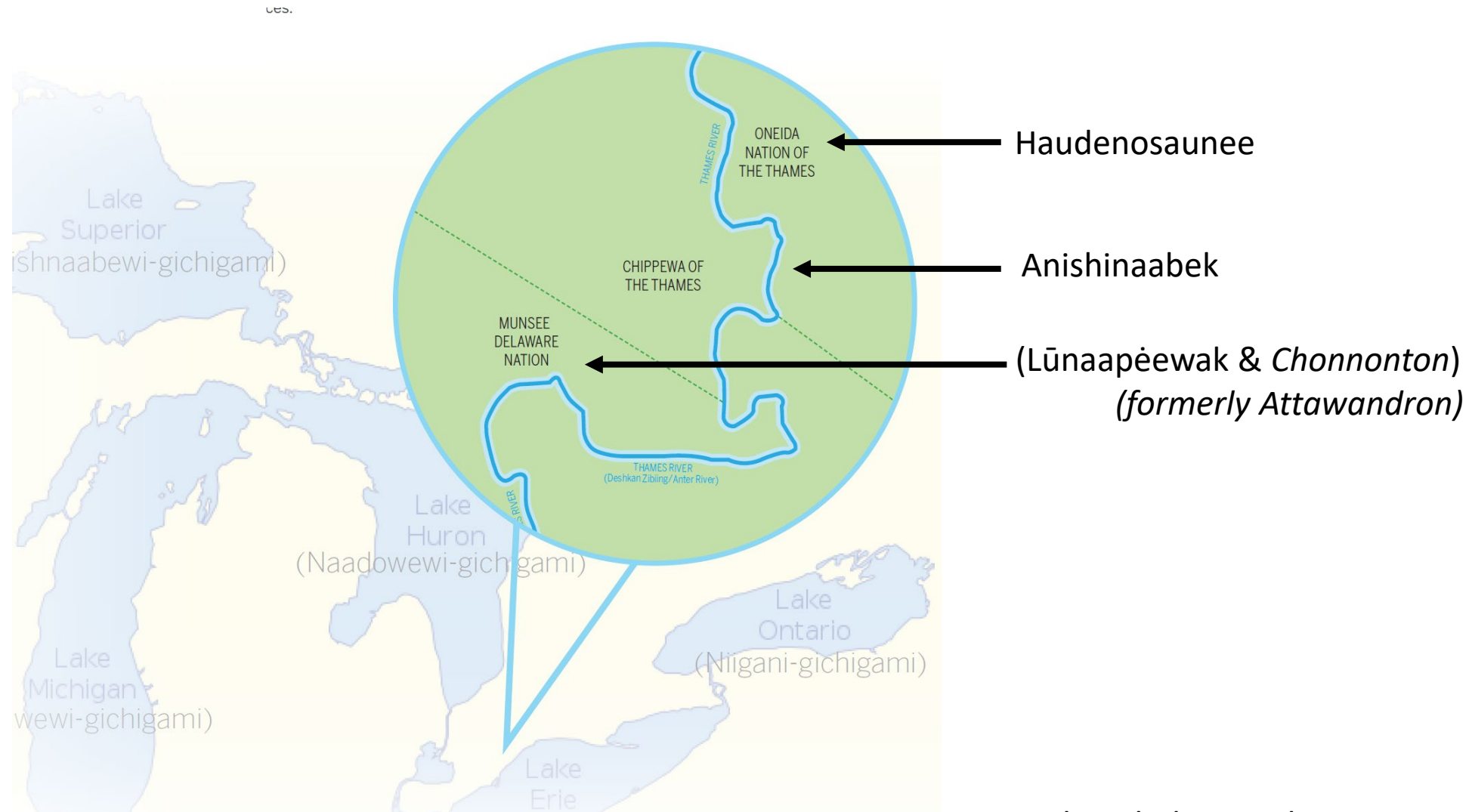
Present: What are land acknowledgements?

- **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?



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 \(native-land.ca\)](https://www.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 \(oneidalanguage.ca\)](http://oneidalanguage.ca)
- [Our History | Chippewas of the Thames \(cottfn.com\)](http://cottfn.com)
- [Land Acknowledgement - Land Acknowledgement - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://uwo.ca) (To be updated)
- [What are land acknowledgements and why do they matter? | locallove](http://locallove)
- [Beyond territorial acknowledgments – âpihtawikosisân \(apihtawikosisan.com\)](http://htawikosisan.com)
- [Home - Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper](http://yellowheadinstitute.ca)

E_{quity} D_{iversity} I_{nclusion}

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)