

Guidelines for Land Acknowledgements within Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Treaty Lands and Territory

1. Using the map: **Municipalities within Mississaugas of the Credit Treaty Lands and Territory** (located at mncfn.ca), research the location of your event/ organization within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

(a) If the location falls within one of the treaty areas, your land acknowledgement should make reference to the “Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation”.

Ex. *We meet today within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation...*

(b) If your location falls outside the treaty areas, but within the territorial boundaries of *the MCFN*, reference should be made to the “Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation”.

Ex. *We are pleased to meet today on the Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation...*

2. In the land acknowledgement, one may cite the specific treaty area in which the organization/event is located, or alternatively, simply make a more general statement regarding the Treaty Lands.

Ex. (specific treaty area)

As we gather in Milton today, we recognize that we meet within the bounds of the Ajetance Treaty agreed upon by the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown in 1818.

Ex. (general)

As we gather today in Hamilton, we meet within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

3. Many land acknowledgements give recognition to First Nations that had previously occupied the land prior to the arrival of the ancestors of the Mississaugas of the Credit. The land in question is known as the “traditional territory” of the former occupants. Depending upon location, the acknowledgement might reference the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, Neutral, Petun, or Haudenosaunee Nations. Alternatively, a collective acknowledgement referring to the previous occupants of the land may also be employed.

Ex. (specific First Nations)

Today we gather on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as well as the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples.

Ex. (collective: non-specific)

Today we gather on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and recognize this land as being home and traditional territory to other Indigenous people since time immemorial.

4. Additional statements, beyond a simple land/treaty recognition, are often included within the body of a land acknowledgement. Statements might include references to a spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; a commitment to the wise stewardship of an area; or expressions of good will. When including such statements, care should be taken not to include material considered a source of contention. As an example, many land acknowledgements make mention of a “Dish with One Spoon Agreement” as a model for sharing the land and its resources. The “Dish with One Spoon” is considered controversial among First Nation as there is no consensus as to the particulars of the “Agreement”.

5. Be specific when constructing the land acknowledgement. Some statements, for example, mention the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Anishinaabek at the same time:

“We recognize we are on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Traditional Territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron Wendat.”

The term “Anishinaabe” refers to a broad range of culturally related peoples including the Ojibway, Odawa, Pottawatomi, Oji-Cree, and other Algonquians. The Mississaugas of the Credit are a sub-group of the Ojibway and have been the only Anishinaabe people to occupy, control, and exercise stewardship over the Treaty lands and Territory they now occupy. Using the term “Anishinabe” after citing the Mississaugas of the Credit is a redundancy. It is also suggested that the term “Anishinaabe” is too broad a term to be used within the statement as it inadvertently includes other First Nations that have no connection with the MCFN lands in question. Removing the word “Anishinaabe” from the statement avoids redundancy and prevents misunderstandings.

6. Construct the land acknowledgement to meet the needs of your situation. Acknowledgements may be used by governments, government agencies, schools, gatherings, events, and so. The acknowledgement may be made verbally, in print, or even posted on a plaque. Above all, the acknowledgement should be accurate as to facts and sincere in its deliverance.

7. Feel free to contact the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation’s Department of Communication to address any questions related to the construction of a land acknowledgment.

Notes:

The Rouge Tract is part of the Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; it is not covered under a treaty between the Crown and the MCFN.

The Six Nations of the Grand Reserve is located within the bounds of the Between the Lakes Treaty, No. 3, established between the Crown and Mississaugas of the Credit in 1784 and ratified in 1792. The Treaty allowed the Crown to grant the Six nations as parcel of land known as the Haldimand Tract in 1784. The Six Nations of the Grand hold no treaties recognized by the Crown.