

Basic required components of a land acknowledgement:

- Self-reflection on why we are doing this and what our goal is
- Specifically name the tribe that traditionally stewarded this land
- Name any related treaties
- Name Indigenous people currently living in this community
- Acknowledge and celebrate that Indigenous people still steward/live/work/resist here
- Acknowledge our complicity
- Commit to change

Some local examples:

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) acknowledges it is located on traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. This is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota and Ojibwe people, who were forcibly exiled from the land because of aggressive and persistent settler colonialism. We recognize that this place has a complex and layered history. As a community dedicated to creativity, MCAD is committed to ongoing efforts to support and advocate for American Indian Nations and peoples.

Whittier Alliance (tied to 2116 Nicollet Ave lot, not a formal or permanent statement): We acknowledge our neighborhood and this property are on the stolen ancestral lands of the Dakota people and recognize the resiliency of our Indigenous, Black and other marginalized community members amid centuries of ongoing, state-sanctioned violence and oppression. We are committed to implementing a robust community engagement plan, which will operate with an anti-racist, anti-oppression and equity framework, prioritizing the voices of historically underrepresented people, populations, and communities.

Minnesota Council of Churches: The Minnesota Council of Churches acknowledges that we are located on the ancestral homeland of the Dakota People. We are in close proximity to the territories of the Anishinabe and Ho-Chunk peoples. This land has been stewarded as a living relative by the Dakota for generations. The United States government effectively stole this land from the Dakota people through a series of unjust treaties and broken promises, followed by targeted efforts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced removal.

The Minnesota Council of Churches, born out of White Protestantism, recognizes our complicity in these matters. The United States government often carried out this injustice in cooperation with institutionalized white churches. The trauma of forced assimilation and the boarding school system is a stain that cannot be washed away. But we can repent of that past and turn towards a more just future.

We look now to the Dakota people and indeed all Native American communities located in the State of Minnesota as examples of resilience, resistance, and strength. We stand resolute in our commitment to oppose any threat to Indigenous culture or tribal sovereignty, be it political, industrial, or religious. We were wrong, we can do better, we will do better.

Toolkits on Writing a Land Acknowledgement:

- Comprehensive Land Acknowledgement Toolkit: <https://www.csusm.edu/cicsc/land.pdf>
- Guide to Land Acknowledgements with some resources: <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

Comprehensive Examples:

- Gettysburg College (very detailed with resources and info on commitment): <https://www.gettysburg.edu/offices/diversity-inclusion/land-acknowledgement-statement/>
- Michigan State University (short, email, and extended versions): <http://aisp.msu.edu/about/land/>

Articles & Podcasts

- Warning against empty land acknowledgements and rushing through the process: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/redrawing-the-lines-1.4973363/i-regret-it-hayden-king-on-writing-ryerson-university-s-territorial-acknowledgement-1.4973371>
- Another warning about land acknowledgement pitfalls and making sure they are actually meaningful: <https://apihtawikosisan.com/2016/09/beyond-territorial-acknowledgments/>
- Detailed article about sovereignty issues behind why to do a land acknowledgement and how to incorporate sovereignty into changes/commitments: https://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/article/where-we-stand/#_edn1
- Academic article called “Decolonization is Not a Metaphor”: <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/des/article/view/18630/15554>
- ‘All My Relations’ podcast, deals with a range of Indigenous issues: <https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/>

Land & Tribe Maps

- Questions and thoughts to consider when trying to “map” where different indigenous people lived: <https://native-land.ca/resources/teachers-guide/>
- Native Land map: <https://native-land.ca/>
- List of Minnesota recognized tribes: <https://mn.gov/portal/government/tribal/mn-indian-tribes/>