

What is a Land Acknowledgement statement?

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement. that recognizes and respects the indigenous. peoples as traditional stewards of this land, the. enduring relationship that exists between. indigenous peoples and their traditional lands.

“Land Acknowledgements make efforts to honor historical links between Indigenous Peoples/Nations and the territories on which the institutions now sit. The practice of land acknowledgements originated in Canada. Through land acknowledgements, institutions use a carefully crafted public statement to express a commitment to the past history, current reality and future relationship between the institution, Indigenous Peoples/Nations, and the land. Effective land acknowledgments, which are usually read at the opening of a meeting or gathering, result from a process of engaging with all relevant stakeholders. The process of land acknowledgement is one approach of many through which institutions and groups can show respect and recognition for the abiding connection between Indigenous Peoples/Nations and their historical lands.” ---**Princeton University's** Posted on its Initiative webpage

“In countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and among Tribal Nations in the U.S., it is commonplace, even policy, to open events and gatherings by acknowledging the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of that land. While some individuals and cultural and educational institutions in the United States have adopted this custom, the vast majority have not. Together, we can spark a movement to change that.

We call on all individuals and organizations to open public events and gatherings with acknowledgment of the traditional Native inhabitants of the land.

Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth. Imagine this practice widely adopted: imagine cultural venues, classrooms, conference settings, places of worship, sports stadiums, and town halls, acknowledging traditional lands. Millions would be exposed—many for the first time—to the names of the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of the lands they are on, inspiring them to ongoing awareness and action.

For more than five hundred years, Native communities across the Americas have demonstrated resilience and resistance in the face of violent efforts to separate them from their land, culture, and each other. They remain at the forefront of movements to protect Mother Earth and the life it sustains. Today, corporate greed and federal policy push agendas to extract wealth from the earth, degrading sacred land in blatant disregard of treaty rights. Acknowledgment is a critical public intervention, a necessary step toward honoring Native communities and enacting the much larger project of decolonization and reconciliation. Join us in adopting, calling for, and spreading this practice.”

---**The U.S. Department of Arts and Culture**, a people-powered department—a grassroots action network inciting creativity and social imagination to shape a culture of empathy, equity, and belonging which is based in New York, NY.

A land acknowledgement recognizes and respects the relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral and contemporary territories. Additionally, land acknowledgements provide us with the opportunity to explore the impacts of colonization and systems of oppression on Indigenous Peoples.

Land acknowledgements do not exist in a historical context or past tense. It is vital to understand the long-standing history that brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Colonialism is a current, ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness and understanding of our present participation. --- UNLV Posted on its About Us webpage followed by a link to: History of the Nuwuvi People

How do you write a Land Acknowledgement?

- 1) Evaluate the Purpose of Your Land Acknowledgement. When writing a land acknowledgment, consider its purpose. ...
- 2) Ground your Mindset in Honesty, Positivity, and Respect. ...
- 3) Do Your Research. ...
- 4) Write Your Acknowledge Focusing on Past, Present, and Future. ...
- 5) Check Your Statement.

Why are land Acknowledgement statements important?

For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgment is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgment is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth.”

Initial language adopted by the NIC Commissioners’ on Dec. 29, 2021, to use at the start of Commissioners’ meetings:

“I would like to begin our Nevada Indian Commission meeting by acknowledging that we gather today from the ancestral homelands of the Numa, the Newe, the Nuwuvi, and the Wa She Shu who have lived in the Great Basin since time began. Please join me in expressing our deepest respect and gratitude to our four major Indigenous groups; the Northern Paiute, the Shoshone, the Southern Paiute, and the Washoe--not just the original caretakers of the land we now call Nevada--but for their enduring stewardship and protection of our shared lands and waterways. Today, the Nevada Indian Commission reaffirms its commitment to improve the quality of life for our 27 Tribal Nations, Bands, Colonies, and the 62,000-plus Urban Indians who chose to make Nevada their current home.” --- Koston Lathouris (Chemehuevi Indian Tribe), Chair of NIC Commissioners