

# Territorial Acknowledgement and Welcomes

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Honouring and  
Respecting Others

Events and  
Celebrations  
Completion  
Graduation

Are done when it is  
appropriate and  
meaningful

Beginning new  
classes, programs, or  
meetings

Official College Wide  
or Campus events and  
ceremonies

North Island College is honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions, on whose traditional and unceded territories the College's campuses are situated.

Land acknowledgements demonstrate our appreciation and promote awareness of the presence of all Indigenous Nations we serve. A land acknowledgement is shared in recognition that Indigenous people have historical connections to the land our college is situated on. Territorial Acknowledgements are acts of respect and reconciliation and should never become rehearsed or random.

**Territorial Welcomes:** Welcoming people to the territory is a protocol that needs to be conducted by an official representative from the nation on whose territory the event occurs. This honour is bestowed on a Hereditary Chief, Elder or representative of the nation.

A welcoming is done at the beginning of official events or large gatherings. The welcome is completed prior to opening remarks and ahead of university senior admin or any other official representatives.

When inviting someone to do official welcoming please provide them with the following: information about the event, the purpose, background information, who the event is for, outline of the program, date, time, location, length of welcome (suggested), contact person. Please ask if they require transportation or have special requirements.

**Blessing:** They may request to offer a traditional blessing in which case more planning and preparation will be necessary.

**Additional Information:** It is customary to present a gifts and honorarium at the time of the event. Please contact the Indigenous Education Department for more information regarding blessings and traditional welcomes.

**Territorial Acknowledgment:** Sharing a territorial acknowledgement is a way to honour and pay respect to the nations we serve. This is usually conducted at the beginning of events such as those indicated above.

The host or emcee would normally share an acknowledgement to territory at the beginning of the meeting.

You may want to ask individuals who regularly attend event or meetings to share responsibility for providing acknowledgements.

Research the names of the nations and practice your pronunciation or better yet say it in the language.

You can go to [www.native-land.ca](http://www.native-land.ca) to search your area.

Several tribe names can be found at:

<https://www.firstvoices.com>

## Examples:

Today I would like to acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territories of the Kwagu'ł people.

I am grateful for our gathering today that is taking place on the traditional, unceded, ancestral territories of the Nuu-chah-nulth people.