NOVEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 25

ATN NEWSLETTER

From Acknowledgement to Action



DATES OF NOTE FOR NOVEMBER

All Month: Hindu Heritage Month Trans Awareness Month

November 1st - All Saints Day, Karva Chauth, Samhain, Bhandi Chhor Divas November 2nd - All Souls Day, Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) November 5th to 11th - Veteran's Week November 6th - Transgender Parent Day November 7th - International Inuit Day November 8th - Indigenous Veterans Day, **Intersex Day of Remembrance** November 10th - World Science Day for Peace and Development November 11th - Remembrance Day November 12th - Diwali, Bandi Chhor Divas, Sigd November 13th to 19th - Metis Awareness Week November 15th - Rock Your Mocs Day, Kartik Purnima November 16th - Louis Riel Day, International Day of Tolerance November 18th - Gyan Panchami November 19th - International Mens Day November 20th - National Child Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance & Resilience November 22nd - Lhabab Duchen November 24th - Martydom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji November 25th - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Holodomor Memorial Day November 25th to December 10th - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence November 26th - Day of the Covenant (Baha'i) November 27th - Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji November 28th - Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha November 29th - UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People November 30th - St. Andrew's Feast Day

RECONCILIACTION FOR EDUCATORS: MOVING BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

From the desks of the Antiracist Teachers Network:

Land Acknowledgements have become a standard practice, but without action beyond the acknowledgement, they risk becoming hollow gestures. True reconciliation means moving beyond words, taking responsibility for supporting Indigenous sovereignty, and dismantling the systems of colonialism that still affect Indigenous communities.

This month, we challenge you to reconsider how you use Land Acknowledgements in your schools. Educators play a crucial role in making these Acknowledgements meaningful by embedding Two-Eyed Seeing and Indigenous perspectives and knowledge into everyday teaching. By taking tangible steps to support Indigenous rights and confront colonial structures within education, we can turn Acknowledgements into a foundation for lasting change.

Land acknowledgements are just the starting point. Let's turn them into a foundation for meaningful action.





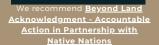


the

ecommend <u>The confluence</u>: As long as the river flows

sprawlcast







COOL STUFF!

- The Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network created the Indigenous Ally Toolkit, which is a practical guide for individuals and educators who want to take action in meaningful allyship with Indigenous communities.
- Looking for a local perspective? Check out the Calgary Foundation's Treaty 7 Indigenous Ally Toolkit
- Native Land has developed a quick guide on how to acknowledge land, which goes well with their map interactive of traditional territories
- The Native Governance Centre has created a guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgements along with an accompanying worksheet
- Jen Greenway of the Go Smudge Yourself Podcast focuses on Reconciliation-Based Land Acknowledgements (we've included her infographic in this issue so you can get started on vours)



RESEARCH THE AREA YOU LIVE OR WORK IN.

- Whose Land are you on?
- Is this Traditional Land or Treaty Land? (Treaty doesn't mean ceded or surrendered.)
- Does the Indigenous community have a history of
- Was this an area of co-stewardship?
- Who has been erased from the history of the Region? For example, did the Metis co-stewar
- Learn about local resiliency, both for humans and "non-humans" in the region.

REALLY THINK ABOUT IT - REFLECT

- Time for some DEEP reflection about your place and who has contributed to your life in the region.
- Assess how the Land and Water support you, who they've been supporting before you and who they will need to support after you're gone (human and non-human.)
- Remember that the present moment isn't the only thing that matters and that being a human doesn't put you above anyone else.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- If you're reflecting on how you benefit from a region, you should understand that acknowledging it must come from you and your heart.
- It's also important to note if you are an uninvited guest to the region and that doesn't depend on if you were born there or not. (Are you Indigenous to that Place? Did you receive an invitation specifically from the Indigenous Peoples in the region to come?)

SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THE LAND THE WATER PLANTS AND ANIMALS

By now you've reflected on your place in the web of life and how you benefit from a region. You also know how you harm a region. Now it's time to really sit with the understanding that non-humans have a Relationship to Place too. They have a role to play in the web as well.

SHOW APPRECIATION, HUMILITY AND RESPECT FOR THE PEOPLES THAT HAVE ENACTED STEWARDSHIP SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.

- Show true gratitude for the hard work that Indigenous Peoples have put in and continue to put in.
- The forceful removal of Indigenous Peoples from our Lands is one of the State's highest economic goals because we stand in the way of unfettered access to the Land and Water's gifts.
- When we say that we humbly acknowledge ar respect the stewardship of Indigenous Peoples, many of us are actually understanding how int that work is to the health of this planet?

SAY THEIR NAMES RIGHT.

- If you don't grow up making the sounds that are used in an Indigenous language, it's going to be hard. It's case by case and not all Nations will be okay with a bastardized name. That's why your practice should
- Definitely don't just hope for the best by saying the name for the first time during a Land Acknowledgment

LASTLY, SAY THANK YOU.

• Don't assume that anyone knows the research and reflection that you've done.

- Come right out and say Thank You and explain how grateful you are and why.
- Show your gratitude and speak your gratitude.
- Say Thank You to the entire web of life in the region.

• Alex Kapitan of **Radical Copy Editor** shares How to Ensure that Your Land **Acknowledgment Doesn't Perpetuate Oppression** with key lens-shifting considerations

- Interactive App: **Native-Land** – Besides offering land acknowledgment guidance, there are engaging tool for
 - geography and history lessons.



OUR MONTLY BOOK RECCS

From the ATN **Resource Bank!**

K-4

Thanks to the Animals by Allen Sockabasin We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom Stolen Words by Melanie Florence Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard

5-9

Treaty Words: For As Long As the Rivers Flow by Aimée Craft I Am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson If I Go Missing by Brianna Jonnie Not My Girl by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

10-12

Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson Surviving the City by Tasha Spillett & Natasha Donovan A Girl Called Echo Series by Katherena Vermette

For Educators

Teaching Truth and Reconciliation: A Guide for Educators by Pamela Rose Toulouse

Our Words, Our Ways: Teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learners by Alberta Education

Resurgence: Engaging with Indigenous Narratives and Cultural **Expressions in and Beyond the** Classroom edited by Pauline Wakeham, Jill Carter, and others



Looking for previous ATN issues? Find them under Antiracist Teacher Network Newsletter here!

• Now acknowledge that role explicitly.