

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, Día 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 - Martyrdom 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

RECONCILIATION 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.



PODCAST RECCS.

From the ATN!



We recommend [All About Land Acknowledgements](#)



We recommend [The confluence: As long as the river flows](#)



We recommend [Beyond Land Acknowledgment - Accountable Action in Partnership with Native Nations](#)



We recommend [RECONCILIATION](#)

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 yours)

7 STEPS TO CRAFT YOUR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

From the Go Smudge Yourself Podcast
Hosted by: Jen Greenway

1 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 relocation?
- Was this an area of co-stewardship?
- Who has been erased from the history of the Region? For example, did the Métis co-steward?
- Learn about local resiliency, both for humans and "non-humans" in the region.

2 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.

3 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?)

4 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.
- Now acknowledge that role explicitly.

5 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 and respect the stewardship of Indigenous Peoples, how many of us are actually understanding how intricate that work is to the health of this planet?

6 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 be consistent.
- Definitely don't just hope for the best by saying the name for the first time during a Land Acknowledgment.

7 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!

