

Land Acknowledgement

Purpose

This Land Acknowledgement may be used by member organizations of the HPA-OHT as one of the actions to support Canada's Truth and Reconciliation commitments. It is encouraged that member organizations add a specific action when the Land Acknowledgement is spoken. HPA-OHT will provide recommendations for action work through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion [webpage](#) and shared through various communication channels.

Process

The original HPA-OHT land acknowledgement was drafted during the summer of 2021 with insight from HPA-OHT member organizations and Huron and Perth municipalities that shared their organization land acknowledgements. Some organizations included the processes implemented for developing the acknowledgements.

To honour the previous work of HPA-OHT members and in awareness that Truth & Reconciliation is the work of those who do not identify as Indigenous and First Nations, this Land Acknowledgement is offered. As HPA-OHT relationships evolve, and with the anticipation of collaboration with an Elder for OHT regional work, we acknowledge this Land Acknowledgement will mature with new iterations. The Land Acknowledgement is more than a statement to be spoken; it is a step in a call to action.

In the summer of 2022, a review of the current land acknowledgement was undertaken, and a significant learning and unlearning occurred to revise the current land acknowledgement. Further engagement with expertise from a knowledge keeper, equity experts, ongoing literature exploration and organizational representatives were active participants. Further discussion occurred at the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Reconciliation Advisory Council before review and endorsement occurs at Implementation Committee.

HPA-OHT Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and give thanks for the land on which we gather as being the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee/People of the Long House and the Anishinaabe.

We recognize the First Peoples' continued stewardship of the land and water, and that this territory is subject to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum under which multiple nations agreed to care for the land and resources by the Great Lakes in peace.

We also acknowledge and recognize the treaties signed in regard to this land including Treaty #29 and Treaty #45 ½. Our roles and shared responsibilities as treaty people mean we are committed to moving forward in reconciliation with gratitude and respect with all First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Indigenous Peoples. We commit to the following action:

Pronunciations

Follow the links to learn the pronunciation of the nations;

[Anishinaabeg](#) Awe – Nish – Nah - Beck

[Haudenosaunee](#) Hoe – De – Nah – Show – Nee

Truth & Reconciliation Actions

The Land Acknowledgement encourages action as it relates to Truth & Reconciliation. Member organizations are encouraged to explore, discuss, and identify actions. In addition, the following actions may be considered for use with the Land Acknowledgement;

[READ](#) the 94 Calls to Action - especially 18 to 24 as they are related to health.

[READ](#) A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from TRC.

[READ](#) Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga

[READ](#) The Advocate online magazine at the Chiefs of Ontario web site.

[BUY](#) the Orange Shirt Day and WEAR it often.

[LISTEN](#) to All Our Relations: 2018 Massey Lectures by Tanya Talaga

[LISTEN / WATCH / READ](#) The Secret Path by Gord Downie & Jeff Lemire

[DONATE](#) to Downie & Wenjack Fund

[EXPLORE](#) a map of territories, languages, and treaties

Bringing reconciliation to healthcare means:

- Promoting Policy and Systems Change.
- Engaging Communities.
- Recruiting and Retaining Indigenous Staff and Health Care Providers.
- Engaging Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety Education.
- Improving Indigenous Client Care and Outcomes.

[Learn more at healthcarecan.ca](http://healthcarecan.ca)