

Honoring Native Land: A Truth and Reconciliation Process



UUCWI acknowledges that this land where we gather was once the home of the Snohomish people whose spirits still inhabit these bays, forests and wetlands.

A territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home.

"Honoring the land is healing." - Doug James, Lummi elder

An Important Part of Truth and Reconciliation

It is a measure of respect and opens a conversation long neglected. Few inheritors of settler culture know the true history of the land they inhabit. The Lummi Nation located north of Bellingham who we have a deep relationship with, is a leader in this international campaign. They are advocating for publically recognizing that many of us inhabit land, which was often forcefully and/or illegally taken.

The practice is becoming increasingly common across many venues in our region and Canada. In fact it was incorporated into every service at GA2019 and many of the sessions we attended as well. Every environmental event in our region begins by recognizing the traditional peoples of the land it is held on. Quimper, Edmonds and several other UU congregations incorporate it into their events/services. According the Beth Brownfield It is done all over Whatcom County. It is in the widows of businesses, the city council starts out their meetings with the acknowledgement, Whatcom Human Rights Committee, WWU Students for the Salish Sea, Whatcom Racial Justice Committee, Whatcom Dispute REsolution Center, It was even used at political caucuses, BUF Social and Environmental Justice Committee, ETC, ETC.

The 2018 Parliament of Religions in Toronto that each session opened with such a statement. There is now a statewide campaign led by Lummi as part of a reconciliation plan GP We are planning to have things in the newsletter about acknowledging previous inhabitants as a step towards reconciliation

Canada is far ahead of us in this process. They have both apologized for the culturally destructive, often deadly and family shattering residential school program and even made reparations to survivors. The US government has taken a small step which included a form of

acknowledgement but, not the cultural or physical genocide. When whites came to Turtle Island NA there were an estimated 10-15 million here by the 1890 census there were 28,000. That is why you frequently here them say, with pride and sometimes resentment, “We’re still here.” The statement was planted deep within a military appropriations bill along this path in 2013.

We feel this is not just a way to correct history (think about what you learned about Indians in school) and a process of mutual healing but necessary for living in a rapidly changing world. It invites reflection about roots and a connection to our living Mother Earth.

This is a very important initiative and becoming increasingly common in many venues. Every environmental event in this area begins by recognizing the traditional peoples of the land it is held on. Quimper, Edmonds and several other UU congregations incorporate it into their events/services. According the Beth Brownfield It is done all over Whatcom County. It is in the widows of businesses, the city council starts out their meetings with the acknowledgement, Whatcom Human Rights Committee, WWU Students for the Salish Sea, Whatcom Racial Justice Committee, Whatcom Dispute RESolution Center, It was even used at political caucuses, BUF Social and Environmental Justice Committee, ETC, ETC.

The Parliament of Religions opens each session opened with such a statement.. file:///Users/garypiazon/Desktop/Acknowledging%20Original%20Inhabitants%2018/Native-Land.ca%20%7C%20Our%20home%20on%20native%20land.webarchive

Learn more

Territory Acknowledgement Panel Talk (1:30)

Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology, University of British Columbia
October 18, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzqe2fh4Zdc>

Making Coast Salish Territorial Acknowledgements Matter (1:07)

Coast Salish Cultural Network
November 25, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Tei5tGoQ4s>

Beyond Territorial Acknowledgements

Chelsea Vowel
September 23, 2016

What is the significance of acknowledging the Indigenous land we stand on? (CBC)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/territorial-acknowledgements-indigenous-1.4175136>

Take the Pledge-Show You Care: #Honor Native Land

We urge you to take the pledge to publicly commit to practicing recognizing traditional Native land. We also invite you share this message with other organizations, collectives, institutions, and agencies to which you belong. Learn more and take action here:

<https://usdac.us/nativeland?source=email&>

Learn more: Territory Acknowledgement: <https://native-land.ca/territory-acknowledgement/>

Ramna Shahzad
Know the Land: Territories Campaign