

# Conestoga Employee Guide to Territorial Acknowledgements

At Conestoga College we aim to acknowledge the land and the people on whose land we work and create. Departments and services of the College are encouraged to acknowledge the land we occupy.

You may wish to make a Territorial Acknowledgement at the beginning of presentations, courses, conferences, and events (in person or virtually).

The following are some considerations for employees of Conestoga College when creating a Territorial Acknowledgement.

- Departments/Services areas are encouraged to create their own individual acknowledgements that reflects on the following<sup>1</sup>;
  - Why is this acknowledgement happening?
  - How does this acknowledgement relate to the event or work you are doing?
  - What is the history of this territory? What are the impacts of colonialism here?
  - What is your relationship to this territory? How did you come to be here?
  - What intentions do you have to disrupt and dismantle colonialism beyond this territory acknowledgement?
- It is reasonable to expect that your reflection and acknowledgement is different than other departments
- Practice pronunciation or consult a pronunciation guide to honour the nations of which you speak. Anishnawbe (Ah-Nish-Knob-bay), Haudenosaunee (Hud-din-nah-shown-knee), and Neutral peoples.
- It is important to confirm whose Territory you are on in addition to confirming the pronunciation. Conestoga College has campuses across Southern Ontario and as we continue to expand, we must understand whose lands we are on.

[Native Land Digital](#) is an excellent resource to confirm whose land we are on and it has several resources and a teaching guide to support incorporating this knowledge in the classroom.

[Whose Land](#) is another resource to confirm whose land on which you reside/work, as well as outlining the respective Treaties. It also includes numerous resources on acknowledgements.

University of Waterloo provides a great resource on offering Territorial Acknowledgements in a [virtual environment](#).

## Conestoga College Campuses

Below includes the territories and nations on whose land we occupy. We encourage you to learn the history, including engaging with the communities on whose land on which we work and create. This is meant as a guide and reviewing the resources above is encouraged.

Guelph Campus is located on the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples.

Doon/Waterloo/Kitchener/Reuters/DTK Campuses are located on the traditional territory of the Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://native-land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement/>

Brantford Campus is located on the traditional territory of the Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral peoples.

Milton Campus is located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; Traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people.

### **Sample Territorial Acknowledgements currently used at Conestoga College**

*At Conestoga College, we would like to acknowledge that in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, and Brantford we are located on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Haudenosaunee people of Six Nations, which includes six miles on either side of the Grand River. This is the traditional territory of the Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral peoples. To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land for thousands of years.*

*I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe [Ah-Nish-KNOB-bay], Haudenosaunee [Hud-din-nah-SHOWN-knee] and Neutral people.*

*We make this acknowledgement as a way of recognizing and honouring the Indigenous people who – for thousands of years – have been living and working on the land upon which our campuses reside.*



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