



North Okanagan-Shuswap School District #83  
Aboriginal Education

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## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

- Acknowledging territory is a way to show honour and respect to the First Nations whom have lived on the land since time immemorial.
- Acknowledging territory should be performed at any important function, such as an assembly, presentation, graduation, official meeting or special celebration. For very large or significant events, such as graduation, a member of the local First Nation should be invited to do the Welcome. As a sign of respect, an honourarium is given to the person who Welcomes.
- Acknowledgements and Welcomes should be the first thing done at the event. If you forget, just acknowledge as soon as you remember. You are still showing respect.
- Only people from the local First Nations can perform a Welcome to the territory, or those who have been given permission by the local First Nations.
- All visitors on this land should acknowledge the territory. Everyone who is not from the local First Nation is considered a visitor. The host of the events generally will do the acknowledging. You do not have to be Aboriginal to acknowledge territory.
- Introducing special guests, such as the person who does the Welcome, is an important part of acknowledging territory.

## **Sample Acknowledgments**

“I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc First Nation”

“I would like to acknowledge the Secwepemc People whose land we are on.”