



# BCTF

**British Columbia Teachers' Federation** A Union of Professionals  
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## Tips for Acknowledging Traditional Territory

1. The acknowledging of the traditional territory is a protocol that has been practised by Aboriginal people for generations. It is a means of showing respect for the nation that has lived in a given region since long before the arrival of European settlers.
2. The Aboriginal acknowledgement differs from an Aboriginal welcome, which is traditionally given by a member of the First Nation upon whose territory a group is meeting or hosting an event. The Aboriginal acknowledgement is traditionally given by a member of a group who is hosting the event.
3. It is important to offer an Aboriginal acknowledgement at the beginning of any important function, such as a BCTF or local union meeting, conference or workshop.
4. The acknowledgement of the Aboriginal territory is usually the first item on the agenda.
5. In the acknowledgement, it is important to recognize that the meeting is taking place on the unceded territories of the nation upon whose land the meeting is taking place. This means that the land was taken from this nation.
6. Taking time to prepare the Aboriginal acknowledgement by researching the history of the nations and some of the impacts of colonization can make the acknowledgement more meaningful.
7. Some examples of Aboriginal acknowledgements are provided, along with this document, on the [BCTF Equity and Inclusion Tools web page](#). (See Aboriginal acknowledgements 1 and 2, by Annie Ohana.) You are encouraged to use these as a guide and personalize them to honour the nation upon whose land the meeting is taking place.