

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

An acknowledgement of traditional territory is a way that **all people** can **show awareness and respect for Indigenous culture** and heritage and the ongoing relationship the traditional people have with the land. In many cases, these are unceded territories (* no treaty), and it is important to acknowledge this reality. It is a demonstration of respect dedicated to the traditional custodians of the territory where the event, meeting, school function or conference takes place. It can be formal or informal. Here are some words you may choose to use.

Beginner

I would like to acknowledge that we have gathered here, on the traditional (unceded*) territory of the Coast Salish people, more specifically the _____ Nation(s).

Intermediate

‘Uy’ skweyul sii’em nu siiye’yu. Good day my respected friends. Before we start our assembly, I would like to acknowledge that we have gathered here, on the traditional (unceded*) territory of the Hul’q’umi’num speaking people, more specifically the _____ Nation(s).

Advanced

‘Uy’ skweyul sii’em nu siiye’yu. ‘Uy’ nu shqwuluwun kwunus ‘i lumnalu. Welcome my respected friends. It is good to see all of you. Shhw’l tst tthu yuw’en’a’lh hwulmuhw mustimuhw, Hul’q’umi’num’ mustimuhw. Let’s recognize that today we are meeting on the traditional (unceded*) territory of the Hul’q’umi’num speaking people, on the _____ Nation(s).

*Note: Unceded territory is First Nation territory where there has never been a treaty signed. In our school district, at this time, the only Nation with a signed treaty is Meluxulh (Malahat). Use of the word “unceded” is optional, but encouraged. Many Nations are in ongoing Treaty negotiations.

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It is important to acknowledge the Nation. It is more personalized to name the village.

School	Located on the traditional territory of the Nation (or village)
Alex Aitken	Quw'utsun (Kwa'mutsun)
Alexander	Quw'utsun (Kwa'mutsun)
Bench	Quw'utsun (*Tl'ulpalus)
Chemainus Elementary	Stz-uminus, Penelakut, Halalt, Lyackson Stz-uminus
Chemainus Secondary	Stz-uminus, Penelakut, Halalt, Lyackson
Cowichan Secondary	Quw'utsun (Samuna')
Crofton	Halalt
CVOLC & Grove	Quw'utsun (Samuna')
Discovery	Quw'utsun and Meluxulh (Malahat)
Drinkwater	Quw'utsun (Samuna')
École Cobble Hill	Quw'utsun
École Mt. Prevost	Quw'utsun (Samuna')
Frances Kelsey	Meluxulh (Malahat)
George Bonner	Meluxulh (Malahat)
Khowhemun	Quw'utsun (Samuna')
Lake Cowichan School	Ts'uubaa-asatx
Maple Bay	Quw'utsun
Mill Bay Nature	Meluxulh (Malahat)
Palsson	Ts'uubaa-asatx
Tansor	Quw'utsun (Samuna')
Thetis	Puneluxutth' (Penelakut)

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Traditional Territory of the Cowichan People

Our traditional territory is the geographic area occupied by our ancestors for community, social, economic, and spiritual purposes. We have never given up title on this land, nor have we ever been compensated for it.

Our ancestors traveled widely throughout the Coast Salish area for fishing, hunting, visiting family, etc. Cowichan's annually fished the Fraser River, as far away as Yale, and in fact, Lulu Island - now the site of Vancouver International Airport - was our traditional summer base camp. We traveled all over the southern half of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and as far south as Sumas and Nooksak in Washington State.

Hul'qumi'num place names densely blanket our traditional territory. Each name was chosen to reflect the significance of the site and today provide the key to the rich history and extensive knowledge of the land and resources owned by the Hul'qumi'num people.

Our core traditional territory - the area under discussion through the Treaty process - does not extend quite this far but does encompass the territory we used regularly in our day-to-day activities. <http://www.cowichantribes.com/about-cowichan-tribes/land-base/traditional-territory/>