



Land Acknowledgments

Purpose

To formally recognize and honor the Indigenous peoples whose traditional lands Park West School Division operates on, acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization, and demonstrate the division's commitment to reconciliation in accordance with Bill 40 (Manitoba) and the Education Administration Act / Public Schools Act.

Background

Bill 40 (Manitoba) requires school boards to establish and implement a written policy respecting land acknowledgments and treaty acknowledgments. This protocol reflects guidance from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Scope

This procedure applies to all Park West School Division staff, trustees, students, and community members at all official division and school events and meetings, including virtual meetings.

Land and Treaty Acknowledgment Statement

It is recommended that the following statement is used for land acknowledgement:

Park West School Division recognizes our history as an organization and as settlers to these Lands on Treaty 2 and Treaty 4, the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. Park West School Division respects the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and the mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities, in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

While variations in the wording of the land acknowledgment are permitted to reflect specific contexts or events, it is recommended that all acknowledgments explicitly reference Treaty 2 and Treaty 4, as well as the relevant Indigenous peoples and communities, including the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene peoples, and the Métis Nation. This ensures that acknowledgments remain respectful, accurate, and meaningful to the history and ongoing relationships within Park West School Division's traditional territories.



Protocol

- A member of the Park West School Division community (e.g., trustee, administrator, staff member, student, or community elder) will read a land and treaty acknowledgment statement at all official divisional meetings and events, including but not limited to:
 - Board of Trustee meetings
 - Public consultations
 - Professional development days
 - Graduation ceremonies
- The division will ensure that prominent displays of the land and treaty acknowledgment statement are placed at the main entrances of all division buildings and schools.
- Opportunities will be provided for a diverse range of community members to participate in delivering the acknowledgment, reflecting the division's inclusive community.

Responsibilities

- **Board of Trustees:** Ensure the acknowledgment protocol is followed during Board meetings and official events.
- **Superintendent and Senior Administration:** Implement this procedure, provide training or resources as needed, and ensure staff awareness.
- **School Principals and Staff:** Ensure the acknowledgment is included at school-level events and meetings.
- **All Division Staff:** Respect and support the land acknowledgment protocol in their roles and during division-related activities.

Review

This procedure will be reviewed every three years or as required by changes in legislation or division policy. In accordance with the Public Schools Act as amended by Bill 40 (Manitoba), this policy shall be implemented in each school within the division, promote awareness and understanding of the purpose and significance of land and treaty acknowledgments, provide for how land and treaty acknowledgments will be used throughout the school year, and address the required content of those acknowledgments.

References

- Bill 40 (Manitoba), Education Administration Act / Public Schools Act
- Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation