



## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

- ❖ Acknowledging the territory is a way of honouring and showing respect for a group of people who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.
- ❖ A “Welcome” to the territory is only offered by the First Nations people who are traditionally from the territory.
- ❖ Visitors, including everyone who is not a member of the traditional First Nation, would “acknowledge” the territory.
- ❖ Acknowledging the territory is performed at any important function such as a school assembly, awards night, graduation, a celebration including Aboriginal communities, etc. It may also be performed prior to an important meeting or presentation.
- ❖ Generally, the host is the person who would acknowledge territory. Guests may or may not acknowledge the territory.
- ❖ It is not necessary to have an Aboriginal person acknowledge the territory.
- ❖ The Acknowledgement/Welcome is usually the first item on the agenda. (If you forget, offer the Acknowledgement as soon as possible.)
- ❖ For large events, it is always respectful to have a member of the local First Nation, preferably an Elder, perform a Welcome. As a token of appreciation and respect for their Welcome an Honorarium is given to them.

- ❖ Honorariums may vary from one Nation to another so it is best to ask someone who is familiar with the local practice. A pouch of tobacco, small gift, gift card, mileage coverage, etc. are examples of what might be considered.
- ❖ Initial welcomes/introductions to events may be consistent with what you would naturally do and followed by the welcome/acknowledgement to the territory. The Welcome/Acknowledgement to the territory can be worded in a way that is most natural to you as well.

### **Sample Acknowledgements**

- ❖ I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc / Nlaka‘Pamux First Nation.
- ❖ I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc / Nlaka‘Pamux people.
- ❖ I would like to acknowledge the Secwepemc / Nlaka‘Pamux People whose land we are on.

