

Board Development Topic: Why We Do Land Recognitions

Date of Board Meeting:

June 15, 2023

Strategic Priority:

- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities
- Effective Policy and Procedures
- Healthy, Sustainable Physical & Social Environments

Quality Indicator(s):

QI 6.2 – The Director keeps the Board informed about Division operations.

QI 6.3 – The Director provides the Board with balance, sufficient, concise information, and clear recommendations for actions items in agendas.

QI 6.6 – The Director ensures high quality management services are provided to the Board.

Information for the Board (10 fast facts):



As an Act of Reconciliation, we acknowledge that we are located within Treaty 4, signed September 1874 at Fort Qu'Appelle, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Assiniboine and homeland of the Métis Peoples. This act of acknowledgement demonstrates our recognition of and respect for Indigenous Peoples both in the past and the present.

1. Educational Value: Treaty land acknowledgments offer an important opportunity to educate students, staff, and community members about the historical context and current realities of Indigenous people in relation to the land. This is a chance to learn about the treaties, the specific local Indigenous nations, and the implications of being a treaty person.
2. Acknowledging Indigenous Rights: These acknowledgements recognize the legal and historic rights of Indigenous nations to the land. It reinforces the fact that public institutions are located on lands that were traditionally used and occupied by Indigenous people, often before the arrival of settlers.

3. **Promoting Reconciliation:** It is a small but important step towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It sets a tone of respect and recognition, which are crucial for the reconciliation process.
4. **Showing Respect:** Treaty land acknowledgements show respect for the Indigenous nations who were stewards of the land long before colonization. It is a way of honouring the traditional caretakers of the land and their connection to it.
5. **Creating Awareness:** They serve to remind people of the ongoing presence and contributions of Indigenous peoples in the area. This helps to increase awareness and understanding among non-Indigenous people, contributing to greater cultural sensitivity.
6. **Encouraging Community Engagement:** They can foster a sense of community engagement and partnership between the institution and local Indigenous communities. This could potentially lead to collaborations and shared initiatives.
7. **Promoting Cultural Diversity:** These acknowledgements contribute to a diverse, inclusive culture within the institution. They create an environment that recognizes and values different histories and perspectives.
8. **Modeling Responsible Citizenship:** By acknowledging the history and rights of Indigenous nations, schools and public institutions model responsible, respectful citizenship for their students or users.
9. **Building Relationships:** Treaty acknowledgements can facilitate stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. These relationships can lead to further collaboration, understanding, and respect.
10. **Encouraging Further Action:** By starting meetings or events with a treaty land acknowledgement, institutions can encourage further action in support of Indigenous rights and reconciliation. It can stimulate dialogue, research, and active participation in related initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Quintin M. Robertson, Director/CEO
Good Spirit School Division