

## - GODLY PLAY & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLACE -

***“The greatest wisdom is in simplicity. Love, respect, tolerance, sharing, gratitude, forgiveness. It's not complex or elaborate. The real knowledge is free. It's encoded in your DNA. All you need is within you. Great teachers have said that from the beginning. Find your heart, and you will find your way.”*** - Carlos Barrios, Mayan elder and Ajq'ij of the Eagle Clan

***Territorial Acknowledgement*** is an effort to show recognition of and respect for Indigenous Peoples and the land. It recognizes their presence both ancient and current. It may be a step in a process of reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

**Aspects of acknowledgements:** <https://www.kairoscanada.org/territorial-acknowledgment>

1. respectful recognition of Indigenous Peoples and the land
2. honouring names of Indigenous Peoples
3. acknowledging presence of Indigenous Peoples in the land today

A variety of means may be used to offer acknowledgements:

- today I presented a Godly Play ‘story’ as one way
- visual: poster or plaque; printed bulletin notices
- a spoken acknowledgement by an individual or said responsively
- as part of a website

**Context:**

- many settings are formal acknowledgements of territory at the opening of a gathering, liturgy or meetings, to mark liturgical seasons, to give thanks
- places like: theatres, churches, universities
- or inviting local Indigenous leaders to offer a welcome to their territory

**Indigenous Knowing:** Although Indigenous groups in North America are distinct in their own right (e.g. customs, languages, histories), similarities exist in terms of their guiding story, one that explains “the universe, its origin, characteristic, and essential nature.” (U of Calgary – adapted)

Characteristics of Indigenous knowledge: (Castellano, M.B. Updating Aboriginal traditions of knowledge)

Indigenous knowledge is personal

Indigenous knowledge is orally transmitted

Indigenous knowledge is experiential

Indigenous knowledge is holistic

Indigenous knowledge is narrative

## I WONDER HOW WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW

Recognition, respect and healing are encouraged by listening and acting compassionately

<https://circlesforreconciliation.ca/>

*“It takes two to speak the truth—one to speak and another to hear.”* Henry David Thoreau