



POLICY: AF  
SUBJECT: LAND AND TREATY  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS  
APPROVAL DATE: June 15, 2026  
REVISION DATE:  
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## 1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to promote awareness and understanding of the purpose of land acknowledgements and their importance in furthering reconciliation.
- 1.2 The Land Acknowledgement shall honour the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who were here before the arrival of settlers and who have called this land home since time immemorial.
- 1.3 Land Acknowledgements will be recognized as the first order of business at formal WSD meetings, community and school gatherings, including all events where members of the public are gathering.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Public Schools Act, and in collaboration with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, families, students and community, WSD has developed the following Land Acknowledgement:

“The students, staff, and communities of Winnipeg School Division are committed to truth and reconciliation through building relationships with Mother Earth, the original peoples of this land, and the stories that bring us together. We acknowledge the place in which we gather is on Treaty 1 territory, the homeland of the Red River Métis, and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, and Dakota Oyate peoples.”

- 1.5 The Kookum, Elder or Knowledge Keepers will welcome guests to the territory where a gathering is taking place.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgement is a formal statement performed at the beginning of a gathering to share awareness on land history, traditional territories, Indigenous people and to express gratitude for the land in which we occupy. For many Indigenous people, acknowledging traditional territory is a long-standing practice and a regular aspect of governance relationships and ceremony.

### 2.2 Territory Acknowledgement

Welcome to the territory is when an Indigenous person who is local to the territory on which the gathering is taking place welcomes guests to their territory. Territory acknowledgement have become standard across Canada and around the world as an act of respect and reconciliation towards Indigenous people.

## 3. PROTOCOL

- 3.1 A Land Acknowledgment can be delivered by everyone. Land Acknowledgements offer a learning and teaching moment by increasing one’s own personal knowledge and understanding, and by spreading awareness about the true history of colonization to promote reconciliation.

## 4. SCHOOL COMMUNITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 4.1 Schools may create their own Land Acknowledgements within their school communities.
- 4.2 The development of a school community Land Acknowledgement should include a review of the historical processes, research based on the history of the land, treaties, Indigenous names and places.



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4.3 Schools must consult with divisional Elders, Knowledge Keepers and/or Kookums when creating a Land Acknowledgement.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Superintendent/CEO

The Superintendent/CEO is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

5.2 Principal

The Principal is responsible to ensure the Land Acknowledgement is read at the beginning of each school day and at all school events.