



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Land Acknowledgment Policy

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on including a land acknowledgement in the course of business related to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Traditional land acknowledgement statements are used as a practice of reconciliation aimed at recognizing the treaty territories of Indigenous peoples.
- 2.2 The Mi'kmaq are the founding people of Nova Scotia and are the predominant Aboriginal group in the province.
- 2.3 Mi'kma'ki is the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq, and includes seven districts which are found in what is now known as Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, and the Gaspé region of Quebec.
- 2.3 In the 18th century, Mi'kmaq people and the British Crown entered into Peace and Friendship Treaties that created treaty relationships within Mi'kma'ki.

3.0 When to include a land acknowledgment

- 3.1 The extent to which land acknowledgements are utilized differs amongst organizations. A generally accepted practice is to include a land acknowledgement at the beginning of public events as well as at those occasions which are not typical of daily operational business.
- 3.2 The NSFM president (or designate) will include a land acknowledgement at the beginning of public events, conferences, regional and resolution meetings, the Annual General Meeting (AGM), as well as other situations deemed appropriate. Alternatively, a Mi'kmaq elder (or community member) may be sought by NSFM to include a land acknowledgement.
- 3.3 Non-public and customary meetings that constitute the regular operational business of NSFM will not include a land acknowledgement.
- 3.4 The facilitator of a workshop or webinar may choose whether or not to include a land acknowledgement.
- 3.5 Events that take place virtually should include a land acknowledgement if one would have been included in-person.

4.0 Sample Acknowledgements

- 4.1 Some organizations in Nova Scotia choose to include the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples in their land acknowledgement. Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations have traditional territory throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Gaspé region of Quebec.
- 4.2 The majority of First Nation people in Nova Scotia are from the Mi'kmaq nation. Acknowledging Mi'kma'ki territory and the Mi'kmaq people is appropriate regardless of specific geographic locations within Nova Scotia.
- 4.3 The following are sample land acknowledgements that may be utilized by the NSF President (or designate):
- a) I/we would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
 - b) I/we would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726.
 - c) I/we would like to acknowledge that [place] is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.
 - d) The [organization] wishes to recognize the traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq People. The Mi'kmaq are the traditional custodians of the land where the [organization] sits.
 - e) [Organization] would like to acknowledge that this event takes place in Mi'kma'ki (Mee-gum-mah-gee) the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. [Organization] acknowledges the Peace & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

5.0 Review of Policy

- 5.1 This policy shall be reviewed and evaluated every three calendar years.

6.0 Date of Approval

- 6.1 This policy was approved on the following date: June 11, 2021.

7.0 Date of Review

- 7.1 This policy was reviewed on the following date(s):