



Land Acknowledgement Policy

Introduction

The Lake Country Food Assistance Society acknowledges the importance of recognizing the traditional territory upon which we operate. As an organization committed to fostering respect, equality, and reconciliation, we recognize the significance of acknowledging the land and its Indigenous inhabitants. This policy outlines the appropriate use of our land acknowledgement statement.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

"The Lake Country Food Assistance Society acknowledges that we connect with many First Nations across the communities we serve and that we operate on the unceded territory of the syilx (Okanagan) peoples. We are committed to learning and working towards reconciliation along with fostering a culture of respect and equality for all."

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Lake Country Food Assistance Society's land acknowledgement statement is used appropriately and consistently across all communication channels. By adhering to this policy, we demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation and respect for Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories.

Implementation

1. Training and Education

- All staff members and board members will receive training on the significance of land acknowledgements and the proper use of the Lake Country Food Assistance Society's statement.
- Volunteers will be encouraged to receive training, and we will direct volunteers to both in person and online training opportunities.
- Training sessions will be conducted regularly to ensure ongoing awareness and understanding of the organization's commitment to reconciliation.

2. Monitoring and Review

- Compliance with this policy will be monitored by the Lake Country Food Assistance Society's Executive Director.
- Regular reviews will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the policy and make any necessary revisions.



Application

1. Events

- The land acknowledgement statement will be included at the beginning of all official Lake Country Food Assistance Society events, including but not limited to:
 - Fundraising events
 - Board, staff, and volunteer meetings
 - Community outreach programs
- Event organizers are responsible for ensuring that the statement is read aloud at the start of the event.

2. Email Messaging

- The land acknowledgement statement should be included in the signature or footer of all outgoing Lake Country Food Assistance Society's emails.
- Staff members are encouraged to include the statement in their email communications with external stakeholders, partners, and community members whenever appropriate.

3. Other Communication

- The land acknowledgement statement should be prominently displayed on our website www.lakecountryfoodbank.org, along with information about the significance of land acknowledgements and resources for further learning.
- It should also be included in official materials distributed to clients, donors, and volunteers and should be posted in a visible location at our facility.

Conclusion

The Lake Country Food Assistance Society is dedicated to fostering a culture of respect, equality, and reconciliation. By incorporating our land acknowledgement statement into our events, email messaging, and other communications, we reaffirm our commitment to acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and working towards reconciliation.

Last Policy Approval

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Lake Country Food Assistance Society's Board of Directors on December 6, 2024.