



<b>Policy Title:</b> <b>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT POLICY</b>		<b>Policy Section:</b> Governance Process	<b>Policy Number:</b> GP IV-20
<b>Approved By:</b> Board of Directors	<b>Date Approved:</b> April 14, 2023	<b>Date Reviewed/ Revised:</b>	<b>Chair's Signature:</b>

## BACKGROUND

Land, territorial or treaty acknowledgements have been adopted by many organizations in Canada following the publication of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission report in 2015. A territorial, treaty or land acknowledgement makes a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people(s) who called the land home before the arrival of settlers, and in many cases still do call it home. These acknowledgements demonstrate the recognition and respect for Indigenous peoples, both in the past and the present and the contributions they have made to our communities.

While there is no standard wording for these acknowledgements, the guiding principles should be for the acknowledgement to be genuine, with a commitment to recognize and educate people on the complex history of Indigenous peoples. These acknowledgements are an opportunity to recognize the enduring presence and resilience of Indigenous peoples.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority's (the "Authority") "Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement" Governance Process Policy (GP #IV-20) is for the Authority to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples with a land acknowledgement that is meaningful and sincere.

## POLICY

The Authority does not have a physical office, nor does it usually hold its Board meetings in a physical location. It is an organization that operates mainly electronically, but at the same time is responsible for regulating its registrants within the geographic boundaries of Ontario.

The Authority will use the Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement in the following circumstances:

- Board and committee meetings;
- Special events, such as public consultation sessions;
- Any other event where the Authority deems it appropriate.



In the interest of ensuring this land acknowledgement is meaningful, the policy does not mandate specific land acknowledgement language. Nonetheless, the following language is approved by the Authority for use by the Authority and in keeping with the Authority's commitment to reconciliation:

*The Authority acknowledges, with respect, that there are at least 46 treaties and other agreements that cover the territory now called Ontario. We are grateful that we can work and live in these territories. We are thankful to the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who have cared for these territories since time immemorial and who continue to contribute to the strength of Ontario and to all communities across the province. May we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples.*

Individuals giving a land acknowledgement should speak in their own voice and may use language that shows their respect for and pays homage to the Métis, Inuit, or First Nation communities.