



REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

Meeting: November 24, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

DESCRIPTION:

Administration has drafted a Land Acknowledgement to be used on the new Town of Claresholm website. The Mayor would like Council's direction regarding other applications for an Acknowledgement, including displaying in Council Chambers, possibly being read prior to Council meetings, or being incorporated into other settings where applicable.

Proposed Land Acknowledgement:

"The Town of Claresholm respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the ancestral and traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy including the Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika Nations, as well as the Tsuut'ina Nation, the Stoney Nakoda Nations, Ktunaxa Nation and Metis Nations. We honour and respect their culture, traditions, teachings, and enduring relationship with these lands and waters. We provide this recognition as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those on whose territory we reside."

Notes on Pronunciation:

Kainai is pronounced "Gigh-nigh"

Piikani is pronounced "Beh-gun-ee"

Siksika is pronounced "Sik-sik-ah"

Tsuut'ina is pronounced "Soo-tin-ah"

Ktunaxa is pronounced "k-too-nah-ha"

Métis is pronounced "May-tee"

BACKGROUND:

Land acknowledgements are a traditional protocol used by Indigenous people to give thanks and to pay respect to the people and the land you are a visitor upon. Following the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Final Report and 94 Calls to Action, land acknowledgments in non-Indigenous spaces delivered by non-Indigenous peoples became acts of reconciliation. The purpose is to acknowledge that we as non-Indigenous people, are guests upon many Indigenous people's traditional lands. They can be presented verbally or visually. They may also include calls to action that seek to motivate audiences (donating to Indigenous organizations and non-profits, forming meaningful connections with Indigenous people, supporting Indigenous owned businesses, furthering education on indigenous history, self-reflection, and much more).

In order to be meaningful, land acknowledgments should be the first of many steps in an ongoing process of reconciliation. It is important to keep in mind that Land Acknowledgement, particularly when spoken, should be personal, creative, and genuine. They should represent the speaker's connection to the land and what it means to be here, while paying respect to the land's traditional and ongoing caretakers and the contributions Indigenous people have made and continue to make. There is nothing wrong with reading from a script, but there is the risk that this might become sterile, obligatory, and lose meaning.

Administration reached out to several communities inquiring about if they have a Land Acknowledgement and how they use it. Our closer neighbour communities don't have one (Pincher Creek, Crowsnest Pass, and Fort Macleod), but a few further away who do:

- Blackfalds: Share the Acknowledgement at the start of events, council meetings, public hearings, etc., included in the agendas for various boards and committees to share as well. Just revamped it so are also printing out visuals and plaques to hang in facilities, will also be putting in documents like annual reports, census, budget, etc.
- Beaumont: State it at Council meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings and at events where Council members are present, also use it on the website and in corporate documents (Council Strategic Plan, Annual Reports, etc.).
- Olds: Feature the Land Acknowledgement on website, also have it displayed in council chambers, do not formally use it at all council meetings, events, or on planning documents, but do sometimes incorporate it where applicable.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:

Administration intends to use the above Land Acknowledgement on the new website. If Council is in favour of the acknowledgement, we would like a motion to approve it. If Council would like different wording, or specific usages such as prior to Council meetings, then we should get a motion accordingly. If Council would like an acknowledgement prior to Council meetings, it will require a change to the procedural bylaw.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) [Law Society of Alberta: Land Acknowledgment Guide](#)
- 2.) [Native Land Digital: Native Land Map](#)
- 3.) [United Way: What are land acknowledgements and why do they matter?](#)

PREPARED BY: Ali Hemmaway – Economic Development Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney – CAO

DATE: November 17, 2025
