

## TREATY 6 TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCEDURE

This procedure is governed by its parent policy. Questions regarding this procedure are to be directed to the identified Procedure Administrator.

<b>Functional Category:</b>	Operations
<b>Parent Policy:</b>	College Communications Policy
<b>Approval Date:</b>	June 30, 2021
<b>Effective Date:</b>	June 30, 2021
<b>Procedure Owner:</b>	Vice President, Learner Experience
<b>Procedure Administrator:</b>	Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations and Support

### Overview:

NorQuest College (college) has established the following Treaty No. 6 and Indigenous land acknowledgement procedure, recognizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (#10-vii). As the college is located within Treaty No. 6 Territory, we adopt the principle of acknowledging Indigenous Peoples as stewards of the land, along with the Treaties as well as the recognized territories of the Metis of our province at all internal and external college wide events.

Authority to establish this procedure is derived from the [NorQuest College Board of Governors Policy No. 5](#), which delegates authority to the President and CEO to establish policies and procedures for the college's management and operation.

### Procedures:

Organizers of all internal and external college wide events are to ensure that there is an acknowledgement of Treaty No. 6 and Indigenous lands of the Indigenous Peoples of Alberta at the beginning of the event. The Treaty No. 6 and Indigenous land acknowledgment should be spoken as follows:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on the traditional lands, referred to as Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of Metis Region #4. This land is home to many diverse groups of Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Inuit, and Métis. I also acknowledge that the City of Edmonton and all the people here are beneficiaries of Treaty No. 6. which encompasses the traditional territories of numerous western Canadian First Nations as well as the Métis people who have called these lands home since time immemorial. NorQuest acknowledges the treaty, the land and the territories of Indigenous peoples as a reminder of:

1. Our responsibility and obligations to the land and to Indigenous peoples,
2. Our accountability to addressing the ongoing impacts of colonization that are distinct to Indigenous peoples and communities,
3. To work together in remembering the spirit and intent of the Treaty towards right relations."

For guidance at remarks in other Treaty areas of Canada, please contact the Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations and Support.

**Definitions:**

**Indigenous Peoples:** Indigenous peoples are defined in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their historical ties to a particular territory, and their cultural or historical distinctiveness from other populations that are often politically dominant. In what is now known as Canada, Indigenous Peoples are defined as First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

**Treaties:** Treaties are agreements made between the Government of Canada, Indigenous groups and often provinces and territories that define ongoing rights and obligations on all sides.

These agreements set out continuing treaty rights and benefits for each group. Treaty rights and Aboriginal rights (commonly referred to as Indigenous rights) are recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and are also a key part of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which the Government of Canada has committed to adopt. (Government of Canada, 2020.)

Treaties with Indigenous peoples include both:

- historic treaties with First Nations
- modern treaties (also called comprehensive land claim agreements) with Indigenous groups.

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:** The TRC is a component of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in Indian Residential Schools (IRS). The Commission will document the truth of survivors, families, communities and anyone personally affected by the IRS experience.

This includes First Nations, Inuit and Métis former Indian Residential School students, their families, communities, the Churches, former school employees, Government and other Canadians. (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2021)

The Commission completed its five-year mandate in 2015 and released its final reports and 94 Calls to Action.

**Related NorQuest College Information:**

- [College Communications Policy](#)
- [Indigenization Strategy](#)
- [Recording of the acknowledgement](#)

**Related External Information:**

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
- [Constitution Act \(section 35\)](#)

**Next Review Date:**

October 2025

**Revision History:**

October 2016: new  
 December 2017: revised  
 October 2018: revised wording and link updates  
 August 2019: Compliance Office template and reorganization update  
 June 2021: updated by business area