

# **Indigenous Acknowledgement**

**Studying  
Communications on  
Algonquin Territory**

The Communications Students' Association office and events are located on Algonquin Anishinaabeg traditional territory. We acknowledge that this land was forcibly taken from the Algonquin, unceded and unsundered.

As a result of the continued colonial processes that were put in place to erase all aspects of Indigenous existence, the Algonquin have been relegated to small plots of land. There are ten federally recognized communities made up of registered status members: one in Ontario, and nine in Quebec.

The same land where Indigenous people struggle to find clean water, are subject to unsafe living conditions and to poverty is the same land where we study, find employment, and where we host our networking events. And while land acknowledgements are important to show respect and recognition to the past and present Algonquin and Indigenous peoples - on its own, it does very little to reconcile relationships with those communities. It is not enough to make a land acknowledgement at the beginning of an assembly or a meeting. An acknowledgement does not excuse us from doing the hard work of learning about the history and treaties of the territory. An acknowledgement does not give us permission to ignore our part in Canadian history, which is happening right now.

As students of communications, we learn all about how a message is crafted, the influence of political, social and cultural symbols, we learn about misinformation and how meaning and relationships are constructed. It's our responsibility to look for patterns in the events, inventions, and scholars that we study frequently and which we do not. What cultures, values and who's history are we learning about and who is being ignored? And importantly, what does that reinforce?

The original storytellers and communication professionals of this land; preserved entire cultures and stories through words alone. The Anishinaabeg also inscribed stories, knowledge, and important messages within the land and waterscapes of their territory. The history of Communications in Canada is completely linked to its Indigenous people.

When it comes to allyship, there is a time to reflect and a time to be loud and it is always the time to create space for those whose stories and experience have been silenced. Please join us in staying educated and continuing to work together in the spirit of reconciliation.

In addition to acknowledging and learning about the history of this land, here are some local Indigenous non-profit organizations you can support:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/52987>

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/23755>

<https://wabano.com/donate/>