

Honoring Statements

Some places honor the contributions of indigenous peoples by reading statements at the beginning of public meetings. A good example is the statement developed by the group Reconciliation Australia:

Reconciliation Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.



This statement could be adapted for the introduction of any kind of civic or religious gathering. In the case of our organization, Healing Minnesota Stories:

Healing Minnesota Stories acknowledges the Dakota peoples on whose land we meet. We thank them and their relatives for their care of the land, and we recognize their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their culture; both past and present.

This could be adapted to your faith community, religious group or workplace. For instance:

[Your organization name] acknowledges the [name of indigenous peoples] on whose land we meet. We thank them and their relatives for their care of the land, and we recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.