

Examples of statements acknowledging treaty territory and traditional lands in Alberta

Background

With the [AMA Policy Statement on Indigenous Health](#), the Alberta Medical Association expresses its commitment to responding to the [seven health-related Calls to Action](#) of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report](#), through strategies including, but not limited to:

- Professional and educational development;
- Relationship-building with Alberta's Indigenous communities;
- Collaboration with health care stakeholders and Indigenous leadership;
- Community engagement;
- Gathering and sharing knowledge with Indigenous peoples; and more.

In addition to basing the *AMA Policy Statement on Indigenous Health* on the TRC report, the AMA incorporated concepts and principles contained in Articles in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (United Nations, March, 2008). The resulting policy statement "confirms the AMA's determination to be leaders in addressing past and current injustices to Alberta's Indigenous communities."

To aid AMA members in preparations for meetings and gatherings, speeches or lectures, etc., following are examples of **statements acknowledging treaty territory and traditional lands** suitable for each of Alberta's three numbered treaties and Métis audiences.

***NOTE:** See **Resources** (below) for additional examples of treaty territory and traditional lands acknowledgements and guidance regarding the composition of appropriate acknowledgements – AHS source – and to view maps of Alberta's and Canada's numbered treaties and other information.*

Treaty 6 - When in Edmonton and area:

1) "The Alberta Medical Association respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory; traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people."

2) "The Alberta Medical Association acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community."

Treaty 7 - When in Calgary and area (anything south of Red Deer):

1) "The Alberta Medical Association respectfully acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of Treaty 7 and the Métis people."

2) "The Alberta Medical Association respectfully acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Tsuut'ina (soot-ena) First Nation and the Stoney Nakoda as well as the Métis people."

Treaty 8 - When North of St. Paul:

1) "The Alberta Medical Association respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 8 territory; traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people."

2) "The Alberta Medical Association respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Métis, Nakoda Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community."

Source: AHS Guide

On First Nations Reserve:

"It is an honour to be on your "Nation" today. Thank you for the invitation to be in your community."

For Métis:

Treaties 6, 7 and 8 refer to First Nations. If there may be Métis present in the audience, it is important to acknowledge the Métis connection to the land, per the following example:

I am pleased to be here in the traditional territory of Treaty (6,7 or 8) and I acknowledge the Métis people of Alberta who share a deep history with this land."

Resources

1) [Alberta Health Services Guide for Indigenous Traditional Protocols](#) (pdf file)

This AHS document provides "guidance to Alberta Health Services staff for Indigenous protocol..." and includes "examples for acknowledging treaty territory and traditional lands in Alberta"; the phonetic pronunciations of Indigenous words included in acknowledgements; and an Alberta map of First Nations and Métis Settlements.

2) [This document](#) (from the [Empowering the Spirit: Educational Resources to Support Reconciliation website](#)) contains the following:

- Maps showing Alberta Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and the Numbered Treaties of Canada
- Historical information on Alberta's numbered treaties
- Myths and Facts about Treaties;
- Questions for Reflection; and
- Many valuable resources for further information