

Statement on Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

Adapted from a revised statement by the *Elders Circle* (Council of Aboriginal Initiatives)
from November 6, 2014

As we gather together (at Emmanuel College), we acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the *Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant*, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations¹ to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island² and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

¹<http://indiantime.net/story/2010/08/05/cultural-corner/the-dish-with-one-spoon/7510.html> and <http://indiantime.net/story/2010/08/12/cultural-corner/the-dish-with-one-spoon/7546.html>

² North America is known as Turtle Island