

Why Land Acknowledgements are Important in Healthcare

ICON-VCH INDIGENOUS HEALTH ROUNDS

The interCultural Online health Network (iCON) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) Aboriginal Health hosted a virtual Indigenous health round on September 22, 2020. The topic was "Why land acknowledgements are important in healthcare" and we were honoured to have Xalek'/Sekyu Siyam, Chief Ian Campbell from the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation as the guest speaker. The full recording is available at <https://youtu.be/g7IKXK-I-DM>. Below are key messages from his talk.

WHY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT IN HEALTHCARE

- Acknowledges that Indigenous peoples have something valuable to share in welcoming all settlers to their lands and building a future together.
- Recognizes and acknowledges that the territory we live and work in belongs to a group of peoples who occupied it far before settlement.
- Demonstrates our understanding of the diversity and connectedness of the Indigenous peoples across North, Central and South America.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

Celebrates that Indigenous history is all Canadians' history.
"Our history is your history"
- Chief Ian Campbell

Moves beyond stigma and stereotypes towards compassion for the generations of trauma that Indigenous people have been subjected to.

Acknowledges the history of marginalization, alienation and legislative oppression of Indigenous peoples that has occurred under Canadian regimes. Acknowledges that Indigenous people did not give consent to settlement nor the development of Indigenous Residential Schools.

When we change the narrative, we can correct the behaviour. Let us collaborate towards a shared, prosperous future for all. Let us work to sustain and revitalize Indigenous cultures and languages and pass them to the next generations.

Contributes to the continuous work of Reconciliation and Reconcili-action:
Listen --> Understand
--> Develop and Take Actions.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Department of Emergency Medicine
Faculty of Medicine



This event was organized by VCH Aboriginal Health and UBC iCON (Department of Emergency Medicine). Thank you to the B.C. Ministry of Health Patients as Partners Initiative and the Vancouver Physician Staff Association for their support.

Why Land Acknowledgements are Important in Healthcare

ICON-VCH INDIGENOUS HEALTH ROUNDS

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN YOUR PRACTICE

If you are not sure, keep it simple. As a base rule, acknowledge the territory in which you reside/work.

Learn, practice, and use every word or phrase you can, when you can. You are helping keep the culture and language alive.

Show gratitude. Give thanks to the land of Indigenous peoples.

Include Indigenous language signs, artworks, and others that celebrate the land in healthcare settings.

RESOURCES

1. The following maps of Indigenous territories will help you identify where you are located:
 - www.whose.land/en/
 - www.native-land.ca/
 - www.bcafn.ca/first-nations-bc/interactive-map
2. First Peoples Council website provides language revitalization and pronunciation assistance: www.fpcc.ca.
3. BC Assembly of First Nations represents and advocates for the 203 First Nations in BC, in relation to Treaty Rights: www.bcafn.ca.
4. Resource Rulers by Bill Gallagher is a book which provides a legal perspective on Indigenous history, including land and title recognition.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Department of Emergency Medicine
Faculty of Medicine



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



An SSC Initiative
Vancouver Physician Staff Association

This event was organized by VCH Aboriginal Health and UBC iCON (Department of Emergency Medicine). Thank you to the B.C. Ministry of Health Patients as Partners Initiative and the Vancouver Physician Staff Association for their support.