

## **Why do we include an Indigenous statement in our email signatures and open meetings with Indigenous land acknowledgements?**

Our strategic plan, [\*Imagine: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities\*](#), has a foundation built upon reciprocity and *kwayskahsatsowin* (conciliation) is one of our main principles. These concepts are part of the foundation of which Indigenous knowledge and relationships are formed. Athabasca University is committed to learning from and working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, nations, and communities.

When we include these statements within our email signatures and carry out land acknowledgements, it creates an inclusive and welcoming environment for our Indigenous colleagues, learners, alumni, and community members. We acknowledge that the land we work on is a vital component of Indigenous culture.

These statements are a formal and institutionalized acknowledgement of the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. It is also in response to *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* that demonstrate respect and honouring of Treaty relationships from our past to our present and to our future. We are acknowledging our shared histories and futures.

It allows us, individually and as a university, to recognize and pay respect to the traditional keepers and stewards of this land.