

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: May 17, 2021	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: B. Payette, CAO
Re: Territorial Land Acknowledgement	

BACKGROUND:

As reported at the May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, the practice of a territorial land acknowledgement was discussed where it was reiterated that external partnerships and reconciliation is a priority to the District of Barriere. Acknowledgement of the territorial lands on which local governments meet, is an important step in fostering relationships with Indigenous communities and strengthening our partnerships with Simpcw First Nation.

Opening meetings with an acknowledgment of Indigenous ancestral territories is a very common practice within BC public sector organizations and local governments. Acknowledgement statements must be respectful, representative, and provide a meaningful intent to honour local Indigenous peoples while being considerate of complicated histories and overlapping territories. The land on which the District of Barriere meets, does business and provides services encompasses Simpcw First Nation territory.

DISCUSSION:

There are several options for the wording of an acknowledgement statement. There is no one correct wording for acknowledgement statements, but the general consensus is that they should be intentional, accurate and meaningful.

SUGGESTED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WORDING OPTIONS:

1. *“We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Simpcw First Nation peoples.”*
2. *“We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of Simpcw First Nation within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.”*
3. *“We would like to acknowledge that we are conducting our business today on the traditional territory of the Simpcw First Nation.”*

Recommendation: THAT, Council advise staff on the specific wording of acknowledgement chosen and that the chosen acknowledgement be added to Meeting agenda and minute documents from this day forward.

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

Reviewed by: B. Payette, CAO