



*Lac La Biche County*  
welcoming by nature.

# **LAC LA BICHE COUNTY OFFICIAL GUIDELINES FOR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**An educational resource for  
Lac La Biche County Council  
and Administration, to enable  
meaningful, respectful Land  
Acknowledgements.**

**As we move along the path  
towards true reconciliation,  
it is everyone's responsibility  
to educate themselves about  
Indigenous peoples, histories,  
lands and Treaties.**

# LAC LA BICHE COUNTY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



*We respectfully acknowledge the traditional and ancestral lands of the First Nations peoples of Treaty 6, Treaty 8 and Treaty 10 territories and the Homeland of the Métis people. Lac La Biche County continues to be home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, and we recognize the vital contributions of Indigenous culture, history and perspectives in our shared past, present and future.*

## PLAINS CREE

*Nimanācitānān naskwēyasihtamōwin nēhīyaw ōtipamakan askiya ēkwa ōtipimiso askiy. Wāwāskēsiw sākahikanihk kiyāpic nēhīyaw isiyiniw ēwīkiw aspin ohci kakiskisihk ēkwa nisitawēyitīnan nēhīyaw kayas pimacihowin ēkwa ēwāpatamahk asonamātōwin pīci ōtahk, anohc mēkwac, ēkwa ōtīnīkan.*

## FRENCH

*Nous reconnaissons respectueusement les terres traditionnelles et ancestrales des peuples des Premières Nations faisant partie des territoires visés par le Traité n° 6, le Traité n° 8 et le Traité n° 10 ainsi que la terre natale des Métis. Le comté de Lac La Biche abrite les peuples autochtones depuis des temps immémoriaux, et nous reconnaissons l'apport essentiel de la culture, de l'histoire et des perspectives autochtones à notre passé, notre présent et notre avenir collectifs.*

## DENE

*Translation coming soon.*

## NORTHERN MICHIF

*Neyanān meyo totumakew'iyahk nusk'wesihāmāyhk anihi kayās ochi kākē itotumihk mēna wāhkomākunak uskēa ochi First Nations āyisēniwahk ochi Treaty 6, Treaty 8 mēna Treaty 10 ooma uskēkana mēna anima Neginān'uskē ochi li Metis āyisēniwak. Lac La Biche County āhkume'yihta neginān kichi Indigenous āyisēniwak isko kēsikāw tipahikun namoya wekāch pooni'payiw, mēna neyanān nistāwi'namahk anihi kēchi'towun pukitinih'towina ochi Indigenous kayās'pimātsowin, kayās'āchimowin mēna meskwēhtu'mowina oma keyanāw pāhkwe'numawewin kayās'ochi, āyāw mekwach mēna nekān ote.*

A version of this Land Acknowledgement was first developed in collaboration with the Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre. It was subsequently reviewed and then endorsed by the Lac La Biche County Indigenous Collaboration Committee and endorsed by Indigenous partners, a necessary step in support of true reconciliation and ongoing respectful relations.

# WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?



A Land Acknowledgement is a statement, verbal or in writing, that recognizes the land as the traditional territory of the Indigenous peoples who call it home, especially before the arrival of non-Indigenous peoples (settlers) and colonization.

**A Land Acknowledgement recognizes the enduring, spiritual relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories.**

It also recognizes the Treaty relationships that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Much of Western Canada, including what is now Lac La Biche County, is covered by Numbered Treaties. These are nation-to-nation agreements intended to last “as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the river flows.”

Land Acknowledgements have become common since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 94 Calls To Action were released in 2015. The commission urged all levels of government to change policies and programs to help repair the harm caused by Canada’s residential school system, and to move the cause of reconciliation forward.

**Do not change the County’s Land Acknowledgement.**

It has been developed specifically for Lac La Biche County, after careful research and engagement with Indigenous partners.

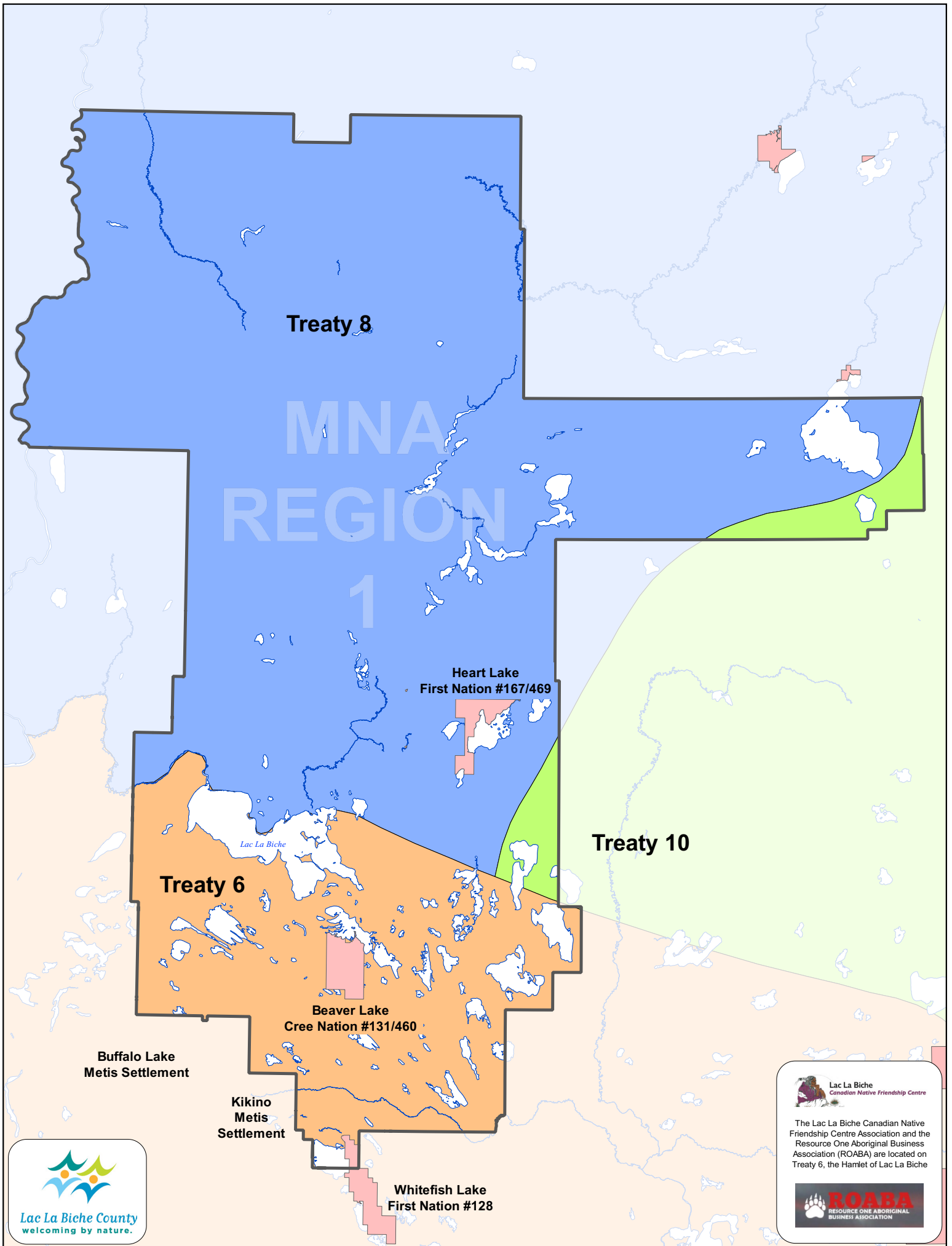
## WHY SHOULD I ACKNOWLEDGE LAND?



Lac La Biche County is unique because it is situated on the lands of three different Treaties and Region One of the Métis Nation of Alberta. The County directly neighbours three First Nations reserves and two Métis Settlements (*see map on next page*).

It’s important to remember traditional territory does not end at the reserve or Settlement boundary. It covers entire regions, and many Indigenous peoples in what’s now Alberta historically led nomadic lifestyles. That is why our Land Acknowledgement speaks to Treaty areas and the Homeland of the Métis people.

**A proper Land Acknowledgement is one action every person can take to support healthy, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous peoples.**



**Treaty 8**

**MNA  
REGION  
1**

**Heart Lake  
First Nation #167/469**

*Lac La Biche*

**Treaty 6**

**Treaty 10**

**Beaver Lake  
Cree Nation #131/460**

**Buffalo Lake  
Metis Settlement**

**Kikino  
Metis  
Settlement**

**Whitefish Lake  
First Nation #128**



The Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre Association and the Resource One Aboriginal Business Association (ROABA) are located on Treaty 6, the Hamlet of Lac La Biche





# WHEN IS IT APPROPRIATE TO DELIVER A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?



Essentially, a Land Acknowledgement can be delivered any time you feel it is fitting. In theory, a Land Acknowledgement can be included in any type of County business.

The following are examples of when it's appropriate to include a Land Acknowledgement. This is not an exhaustive list but provides a starting point.

## VERBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (Active)

- County Council and Committee meetings (after the Call to Order or at the start of the meeting)
- Official County ceremonies (e.g. Council swearing-in, awards presentations)
- Public meetings and gatherings (e.g. open houses, town halls)
- Internal meetings and gatherings

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN WRITING (Passive)

- County website and affiliated websites and microsites
- County publications (e.g. Visitor Guide, Year In Review)
- Employee email signatures
- Job advertisements
- County master plans and strategies
- Bylaws, Area Structure Plans and other official documents, especially those that pertain to land and water bodies



Shawl dancers at Beaver Lake Cree Nation's traditional Pow Wow.



# HOW TO INCLUDE A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



## VERBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recite the Land Acknowledgement at the start of your meeting agenda, event program, etc. or as close to it as possible. At public events, the MC should deliver it, before the Mayor or other dignitaries speak. However, if an Indigenous Elder is providing an opening prayer, let them do so first and then deliver the Land Acknowledgement.



Learning about Treaties and Indigenous worldviews at Portage College Museum of Aboriginal Peoples' Art & Artifacts.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN WRITING

Include the Land Acknowledgement in a prominent place that makes sense, like the introduction section of a master plan or strategy. In publications like the Community Activity Guide that use messages from the Mayor, include the Land Acknowledgement on the same page as the Mayor's statement.

On County websites and Facebook Pages, include the Land Acknowledgement in an "About Us" section or Page description.

**You don't need to get fancy with it. Simply including a Land Acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation and gesture of respect.**



(Left) Making bannock at Hideaway Adventure Grounds in Kikino Métis Settlement.

(Right) Learning about the iconic traditional Métis sash at Métis Crossing.

The Métis are a distinct Indigenous people, descended from the children of European fur traders and First Nations women.



# INTENT AND PURPOSE



Use of the County's Land Acknowledgement is **encouraged but not mandatory**. The County has taken this stance because including a Land Acknowledgement in County business should not be done just to "check a box" or fulfill a requirement.

## **True reconciliation requires genuine intent, not just saying words because it's expected.**

It's important to understand what a Land Acknowledgement does and does not mean. Misunderstandings can and do happen, and they can get in the way of healthy, constructive relationship-building.

### **IT DOES:**

- Acknowledge that Indigenous peoples have inhabited the lands we know today as Lac La Biche County since time immemorial.
- Remind us of the Treaty relationships that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
- Show respect to Indigenous peoples whose cultures, lifeways and perspectives have frequently been disrespected and suppressed since colonization.

### **IT DOES NOT:**

- Mean any nation or group of people is better or more important than any other.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### **Indigenous Canada, a free online course offered by the University of Alberta**

[ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html](http://ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html)

### **Reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada**

[nctr.ca/records/reports/](http://nctr.ca/records/reports/)

### **Native Land, an app to identify and map Indigenous territories, Treaties and languages**

[native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca)

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**

[un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html](http://un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)



Canada was one of four United Nations members to vote against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

