

# Acknowledging Place

## Kwikwetlem



Indigenous people of this region of the Pacific Northwest are often referred to as Coast Salish Peoples. Kwikwetlem (**pronounced Kwee-kwet-lem**) are founding Coast Salish Peoples of Kwikwetlem lands which generally includes Coquitlam Lake and the Coquitlam Lake watershed. These lands have sustained and supported the Kwikwetlem to live and thrive, enjoy their families and draw deep long-term spiritual and cultural connections since time immemorial. (Nicole Oakes, Personal Communication, Feb. 2020)

All of Kwikwetlem Lands (like most B.C. First Nations) are unceded lands, meaning these lands were taken up in colonization without treaty or agreement. Hence the term unceded ancestral territory. Which is exactly why we "Acknowledge Territory".

Seen here is one way to acknowledge territory

## Territory acknowledgement place names

I/We respectfully acknowledge that I live and learn on the unceded core traditional territory of the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem) First Nation, which lies within the shared territories of the Səl̓ílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), s̓q̓əciyaʔtəməxʷ (Katzie), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), qiqəyt (Qayqayt), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and 'stɔ:lɔɔ (Sto:lo) First Nations.



1 - Acknowledgement inspired by Gleneagle Secondary

Place:

'Place is any environment, locality, or context with which people interact to learn, create memory, reflect on history, connect with culture, and establish identity. The connection between people and place is foundational to First Peoples perspectives of the world.' BC Ministry of Education

Place is about relationships: relationship with self; self with others; and self with nature.

What is your relationship to this place?



**Use the following questions as inspiration for discussion, art, story or reflective journalling with your class.**

**Within Coast Salish Territory to which you live:**

- What is your favourite memory?
- What is your favourite outdoor space?
- What might your responsibility be in caring for this land?
- Can you identify some non-human relations? (winged, four-legged, swimmers, crawlers, rooted etc.) Do you have a favourite, or a curiosity about one, or some of them?
- What moon cycle are we in? What might a Coast Salish term be for this moon?
- Where do we get our drinking water from?
- What salmon cycle are we in?
- Have you visited a local hatchery?
- What happens to our garbage? Where does it go?
- Can you think of any other questions or inspirations for discussion, art, story or reflective journalling related to this place?

hay ce:p qə (Thank you)

Go [here](#) for more information about the Kwikwetlem.

CBC Kids is a great website for resources. [Go here](#)

This [website](#) discusses terminology. (Good for kids)