

FOR INFORMATION**PUBLIC****OPEN SESSION**

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Professor Meric Gertler, President
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PRESENTER: See above.
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 16, 2021 for April 28, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:***ITEM IDENTIFICATION:***

Revision to the *Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Land*

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under Section 5.2.5.(a.) the Terms of Reference of the Academic Board, with regard to Convocations, "...authority concerning decisions on procedures is delegated to a committee of the Chancellor, the President, the Chair of the Academic Board and the Secretary of the Governing Council."

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Ceremonials Committee [for approval] (April 5, 2021)
2. **Academic Board [for information] (April 28, 2021)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On May 16, 2016 the Ceremonials Committee approved the *Statement on Acknowledgement of Traditional Land*. The [Statement](#) was provided to the Academic Board on May 30, 2016 for information.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The *Statement on Acknowledgement of Traditional Land* that was approved in 2016 is as follows:

I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Since its adoption, the *Statement* has been used at institutional events¹, including Convocation, ground-breaking ceremonies, and building openings. The *Statement* has also been used widely by members of the University community at other University events as appropriate.

Further to a recommendation from the Director, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, the Ceremonials Committee has approved two revisions to the *Statement* – the removal of the words “most recently” and “River”. This recommendation reflects feedback that was provided by the Mississaugas of the Credit. The words “most recently” imply that the Mississaugas of the Credit have a new relationship with the land upon which U of T operates when instead they have a long-standing relationship and history with this land. The word “River” is being removed in recognition of the fact that they refer to themselves as the Mississaugas of the Credit and do not use the word “River”.

At its meeting on April 5, 2021 the Ceremonials Committee approved the recommended revisions.

On a motion duly moved, and seconded and carried

It was Resolved

THAT the following University of Toronto Land Acknowledgement Statement be approved effective immediately, replacing the Statement approved by the Ceremonials Committee on May 16, 2016.

“I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

¹ Institutional events are those which include as presiding officers the Chancellor, Chair, and/or President.