



**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

**London Diocesan Council**

To: All Parish Presidents, Recording Secretaries  
CC: London Diocesan Council, Anna Tremblay, OPC Recording Secretary  
From: Denise Masse, Recording Secretary  
Date: January 2023  
**Directive # 4**

**We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing.** - Justice Murray St. Clair Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

After completing the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course offered by the First Nations University of Canada, I thought it was important to share some of what I learned. In our role as Recording Secretaries, it is important that we use the correct terminology in our minutes and communication. Please also make sure you have and are using a Land Acknowledgement in meetings. You may wish to add a land acknowledgement to your emails as well. Here is a link to the Association of Ontario Municipalities you may find helpful when creating an acknowledgement. This site has helpful resources, <https://www.amo.on.ca/advocacy/indigenous-relations/guidance-traditional-land-acknowledgement-statements#:~:text=%E2%80%9CWe%20would%20like%20to,territory%20of%20the%20Algonquin%20nation.%E2%80%9D>.

I have created a resource that goes along with this directive to assist with using proper terms.

*“We are people Indigenous to our territories, so Indigenous is the term to be used.”*

*- World Council of Indigenous Peoples.*

I hope you find this resource helpful.

Blessings,

Denise Masse

Written on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. Grateful to be living on this land.

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Indigenous Relations

**Aboriginal People**- was popular in the 20th C, is included in the Canadian Constitution of 1982 Sec. 35(2),

Problem: “Ab-” means “away from” or “not” in Latin, therefore can imply “not original”. The term “Indigenous” is used instead.

**Indigenous**- is used by many First Peoples and is the preferred term, however NOT blanket acceptance.

It is a collective noun for First Nation, Inuit and Metis.

Indigenous should be capitalized at all times - *Canadian Press Style Book, adopted 2017.*

**Inuit**- is plural and means people. Inuit are Indigenous inhabitants of the North American Arctic. Inuit share a common cultural heritage and culture. There are ~40, 000 in Canada. **Inuk** is the term used for an individual.

**First Nation**- describes an Indigenous Person who is not Metis, or Inuit, a tribal grouping or the people who live in them; a band; a reserve-based community; or a single Indigenous Person.

-*Definition in part from Indigenous Foundations; Arts UBC <https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/terminology/>*

**Metis**- 1 of 3 distinct Indigenous peoples recognized under Canada’s Constitution. Metis are the offspring of a First Nation person and a European person, who possess mixed ancestry that resulted in a new genesis of Indigenous People with a distinct identity, culture and consciousness. The Metis nation is in nearly every province. *-provided in part by the Metis Nation of Canada*

*“Metis means a person who self-identifies as Metis, is distinct from other Indigenous peoples, is of the historic Metis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Metis Nation.” - Metis Council*

Statements of Acknowledgements

It is important to identify traditional and/or treaty lands your organization resides on. Showing respect for Indigenous peoples happens when we show respect and acknowledge their traditional territories. This also acknowledges the nation-to-nation relationship that is shared and the treaties that bind Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples together. **This can be called a Statement of Acknowledgement.**

Many organizations have guides to help with Acknowledgements. If you are interested in these resources, please email me. These are different than the one within my directive.

## Protocol

When having a presentation or inviting an Indigenous person to speak, acknowledge the host Nations, their peoples and their lands at the start of any function. This honours the relationship and spiritual governing.

When inviting an Elder or Knowledge Keeper you may wish to ask what protocols should be followed, rather than assume. Be respectful and use a partnership and collaborative approach. Remember you are learning from or collaborating with the Indigenous person.

Whenever possible, consult an Indigenous Nation or community whose territories an organization resides on and make visible items such as flags, heroes, vets, stories, symbols, and artistic innovations.

The best presentations are face-to-face for Indigenous peoples to share and impart their knowledge and perspectives. Direct learning from Indigenous peoples is critical. Active listening should be practiced.

How can you take action and work towards Reconciliation?

## Important Dates

January 4th National Ribbon Skirt Day

<https://ipsociety.ca/2023/01/happy-national-ribbon-skirt-day-2023/#:~:text=Skirts%20express%20identity%20and%20reflect,%2C%20today%20January%204%2C%202023.>

February 14th Have a Heart Day

Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are. <https://fncaringsociety.com/events/have-heart-day>

May 5th Red Dress Day, A National Day of Awareness

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/red-dress-day>

May 11th Moose Hide Campaign Day

Moose Hide Campaign Day is a day of ceremony. It's a day where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation. <https://moosehidecampaign.ca/get-involved/moose-hide-campaign-day>

June, Month of Indigenous History Month and June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1466616436543/1534874922512>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/celebrate-canada/indigenous-peoples-day.html>

September 30th Orange Shirt Day, Truth and Reconciliation Day

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>