

Administrative Procedure 159 – Appendix A

Appendix A – SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Board of Trustees, School Councils and Principals may use one of these versions or a variation that has the same intent and that speaks from the individual's heart, as they deem appropriate at any or all of the following special events:

- Board meetings
- Assemblies
- Ceremonies
- Awards
- Graduations
- School Council meetings
- New school openings
- Welcome Back Ceremony
- Student leadership conferences
- Other gatherings as appropriate

Version 1:

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route for many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We would also like to acknowledge the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

Version 2:

Black Gold School Division would like to acknowledge that we are located within the boundaries of Treaty 6. This land is the ancestral and traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples of this area, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, and Nakota Sioux. We would also like to acknowledge the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

**Pronunciations:*

Saulteaux – Soe (long 'o') toe

Dene – Den ay

Nakota Sioux – Na (short 'a') Ko (long 'o') Ta (short 'a') Soo

If there is a First Nations, Métis or Inuit Elder/guest in the audience, then it is appropriate to honour them:

We are honoured to have (NAME of the person) with us today (and then choose either)

- a member of the (name, ex Alexander) First Nation OR
- from the (name, ex Alexander) First Nation OR
- a member of the Métis Nation.

Thank you for being with us today (Acknowledge their role in the event, if any).

Treaty information can be used to inform/instruct/educate students on the use of the acknowledgement statement.

K-6

A treaty is a promise made between two equal groups of people. Indigenous people signed treaties with the government when people from Europe came to Canada to find a new home. Indigenous people promised to share the land with the new Canadians. The government promised to pay Indigenous people for the land the new Canadians needed. They also promised they could still hunt and fish on the land.

7-9

Treaties are legal agreements that set out the conditions for peaceful co-existence between the signing nations. They are negotiated in good faith so that each party benefits. The British and the Canadian government later made many treaties with Indigenous peoples in Canada. These documents recognize that Indigenous peoples are sovereign nations and have the rights to their traditional lands. Indigenous peoples gave up parts of their land for financial and other benefits and the protection of their hunting and fishing rights. There are eleven numbered treaties across Canada, with Treaties 6, 7 and 8 covering most of Alberta. Treaties and treaty obligations do not end. Treaties last *“as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.”*

10-12

Treaties are constitutionally binding agreements between sovereign nations that set out the conditions of a peaceful alliance. Treaties reflect the worldviews and understandings of the identity of the signing peoples. They outline the rights, obligations and benefits of the signing parties to each other. The treaties in Canada are between the Crown and the signing of First Nations. From the perspective of Indigenous people, treaties are built on the assumption of the respectful, cooperative, bilateral relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. There are eleven numbered treaties across Canada, with Treaties 6, 7 and 8 encompassing most of Alberta. The intent and provisions of the treaties do not end. Treaties last, *“as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.”*