

# Cultural Protocol: Fraser Salish Territory Acknowledgement



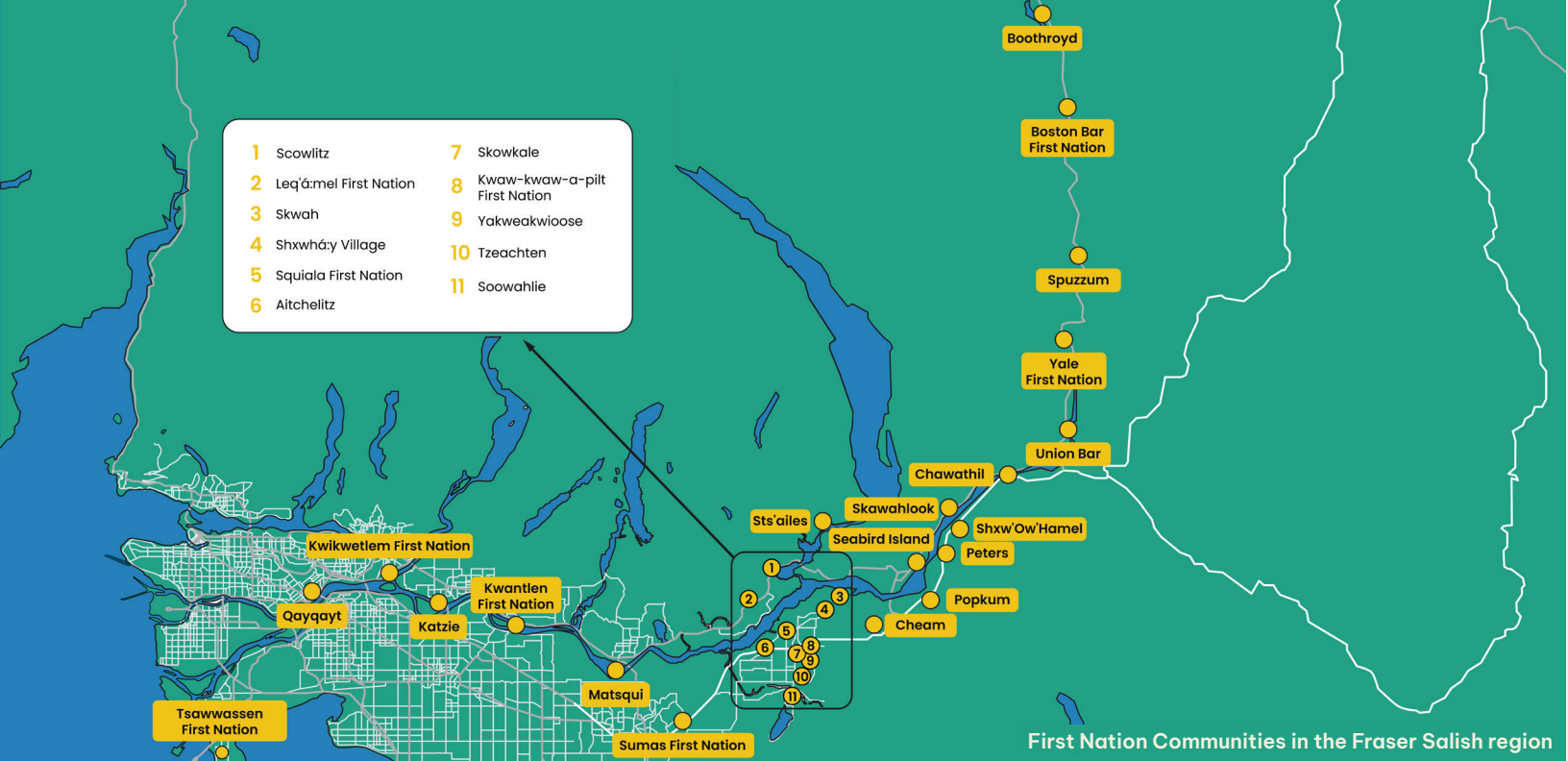
## The Fraser Salish Region

The Fraser Salish region is grounded in the beauty and power of its namesakes, the Fraser River and the Salish Sea. Composed of 32 diverse and vibrant First Nation communities, the region stretches from the coastal “Land Facing the Sea” of the Tsawwassen people up through the Fraser Canyon heading north. These 32 communities are associated with four language families: Hul’q’umi’num, Halq’eméylem, Nlaka’pamux and SenĆoten. The region is also home to six Métis Chartered Communities, as well as many Indigenous individuals living away from their home territories.

## Why do we recognize traditional territory?

Territorial acknowledgements are grounded in Indigenous protocol and are an important gesture of respect to the host community or communities. It is also an important part of reconciliation. Learning about Indigenous Peoples, places and experiences is a step towards building a new and better relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Territorial acknowledgements help create a safe and welcoming environment for the Indigenous communities we serve. As part of Fraser Health’s commitment to embedding cultural safety and humility into patient and staff experiences, we recommend that an acknowledgement occur at the beginning of meetings, events and presentations.



## What do territorial acknowledgements mean?

Territorial acknowledgements refer to the land as traditional, ancestral and unceded. The word ‘traditional’ recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have lived on the land since time immemorial. ‘Ancestral’ recognizes that the land was cared for and stewarded from generation to generation. ‘Unceded’ recognizes that the land has not been signed over to the Crown by treaty or other agreement.

When done with respect and intention, a territorial acknowledgement can demonstrate a willingness to learn the truth about the shared past of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. To learn more about the importance of territorial acknowledgement protocols, watch Fraser Health’s [Territory Acknowledgement video](#).

## How can I perform a territorial acknowledgement?

Below you will find recommended language you can use to perform a territorial acknowledgement. Remember, this language is a guide and not a script. Territorial acknowledgements are a sign of respect and intentionality and should not be done without reflection and understanding.

This guide was developed by Fraser Health in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority and land-based First Nations. This guide will be reviewed regularly with First Nations Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members, recognizing that we are always learning.

### Regional territory acknowledgement

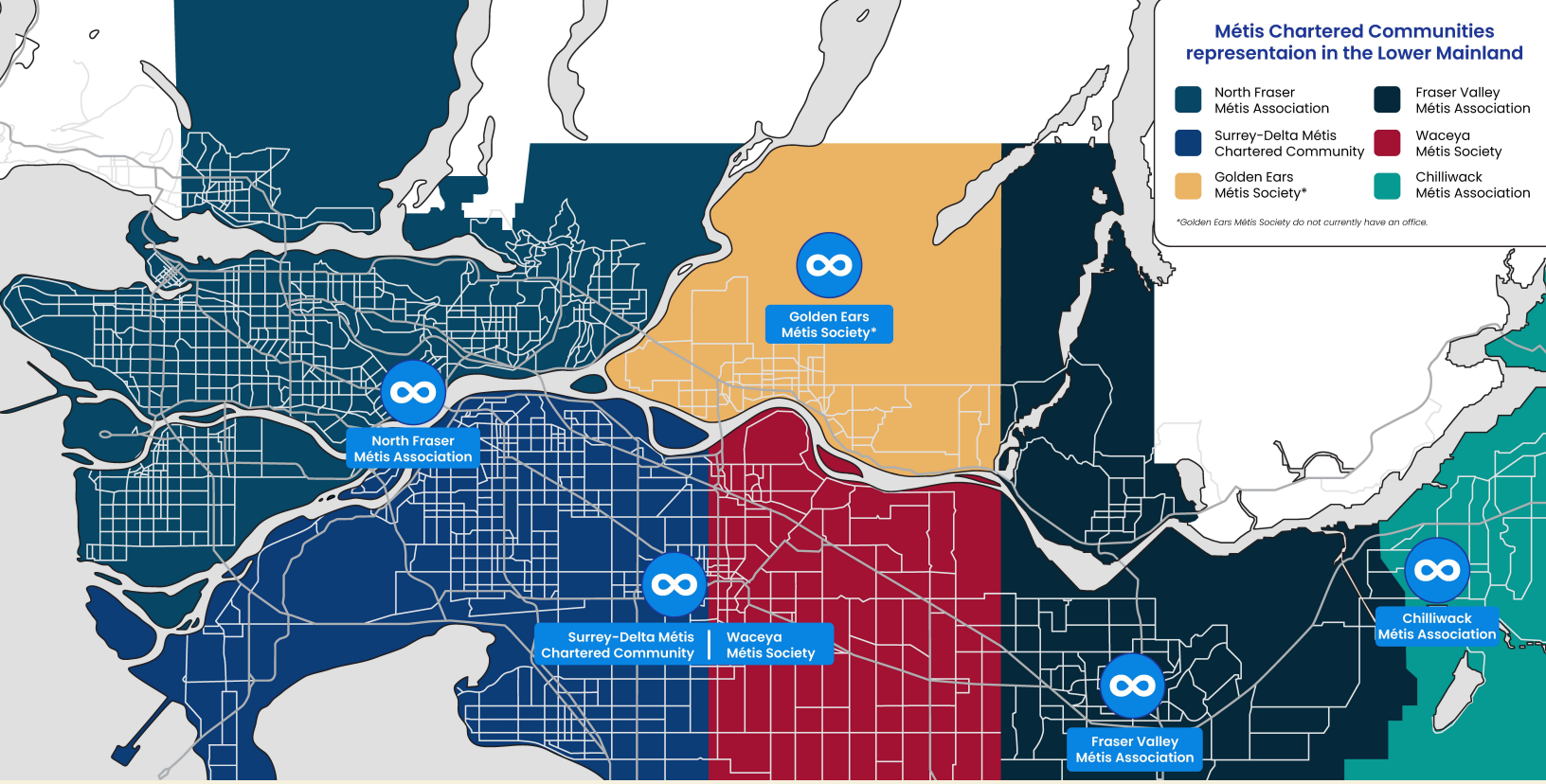
“I would like to acknowledge that Fraser Health provides care on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Nlaka’pamux Nations, and is home to six Métis Chartered Communities.”

For community-specific territory acknowledgements see page 5-7

### Métis Chartered Communities representation in the Lower Mainland

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  North Fraser<br>Métis Association          |  Fraser Valley<br>Métis Association |
|  Surrey-Delta Métis<br>Chartered Community |  Waceya<br>Métis Society           |
|  Golden Ears<br>Métis Society*             |  Chilliwack<br>Métis Association   |

\*Golden Ears Métis Society do not currently have an office.





## How can I make my acknowledgement more meaningful?

While a brief acknowledgement may work for some situations, other situations may require something more substantial. Thoughtfully preparing an in-depth acknowledgement requires time, care and introspection. You may find it helpful to reflect on questions such as:

- Why is this acknowledgement happening?
- How does this acknowledgement relate to the event or work I am doing?
- What is the history of this territory? What are the impacts of colonialism here?
- What is your relationship to this territory? How did you come to be here?

Add the following territorial acknowledgement at the end of your e-mail signature:  
“We recognize that Fraser Health provides care on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Nlaka’pamux Nations, and is home to six Métis Chartered Communities.”

## Did you know?

According to the 2016 Census of Canada, 62,000 people in the Fraser Salish region identified as Aboriginal (Statistics Canada uses the term ‘Aboriginal’ and we follow their usage here), which represents 3.6 per cent of the total population Fraser Health serves. Of these 62,000 Aboriginal Peoples, 56 per cent identified as First Nations, 40.5 per cent identified as Métis and 0.5 per cent identified as Inuit.

While many Indigenous Peoples are represented by the 32 First Nations or six Métis Chartered Communities who call the Fraser Salish region home, this region also includes many Indigenous Peoples who live away from their home territories.



# How can I include an Indigenous representative in my event?

It is respectful to include Indigenous representation and involvement, but not always possible. You can complete a territorial acknowledgement as a meeting or event organizer. If a Chief or Councillor is present, it is protocol to offer them time for either a traditional welcome or opening prayer at the beginning of an event. It is important to confirm the following details below when connecting with an Elder or Knowledge Keeper to lead the welcoming or closing of an event.

## Checklist

- Confirm the availability of an honorarium and/or gift for the Indigenous representative(s) before making requests or extending an invitation.
- Consider if the representative(s) requires travelling arrangements (parking, gas, etc).
- Provide a gentle reminder to the representative(s) a couple days prior to the event.
- Have an event chaperone to greet the Indigenous representative when they arrive.
- Confirm the spelling and pronunciation of their name and how they prefer to be introduced.
- Determine if the representative would like to provide a welcome, opening prayer or traditional ceremony (e.g. smudging, drumming, song, etc).
- Offer the representative a quiet space to prepare for any ceremonies.



# Territorial acknowledgements for Fraser East

## Abbotsford

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Stó:lō [staw-low] people, particularly the Semá:th (Sumas) [sue-mass] and Matsqui [mats-sqwee] First Nations, and home of the Fraser Valley Métis Association.”

## Agassiz/ Harrison

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Stó:lō [staw-low] people, particularly the Xwchíyò:m (Cheam) [chee-am], Seabird Island and Sts’ailes [sta-ay-liss] First Nations, and home of the Fraser Valley Métis Association.”

## Chilliwack

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Stó:lō [staw-low] people, particularly the Aitchelitz [a-che-leetz], Xwchíyò:m (Cheam) [chee-am], Kwaw-kwaw-a-pilt [kwa-kwa-plit], Shxwhá:y [shwhy], Skwah [skwah], Squiala [skwai-all-a], Soowahlie [soo-wall-e], Skowkale [skow-cale], Tzeachten [chee-ack-ten], and Yakweawkwoose [ya-kweek-we-oos] First Nations, and home of the Chilliwack Métis Association.”

## Hope

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Stó:lō [staw-low] people, particularly the Chawathil (sha-wah-thul), Peters, Shxw’ow’hamel [shwa-ham-ul], Sq’ewá:lxw (Skawahlook) [skow-look] Union Bar and Yale First Nations. We are also on the unceded and traditional lands of the Nlaka’pamux [ing-khla-kap-muh] people, particularly the Boothroyd [booth-roid], Boston Bar and Spuzzum [spuz-zum] First Nations and home of the Chilliwack Métis Association.”

## Mission

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Stó:lō [staw-low] people, particularly the q̓w̓a:ḥ̓əḥ̓ [Kwantlen], Leq’á:mel [la-cam-el] Matsqui [mats-sqwee], the Scowlitz [scow-litz] First Nations, and home of the Fraser Valley Métis Association.”



# Territorial acknowledgements for Fraser North

## Burnaby

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) [mus-kwee-um], Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) [Squ-HO-o-meesh], and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) [slay-wha-tooth] First Nations, and home to the North Fraser Métis Association.”

## Coquitlam

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the ǵícəy̓ (Katzie) [kut-zee], kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem) [kwee-kwet-lum], the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) [mus-kwee-um], Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) [Squ-HO-o-meesh], and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) [slay-wha-tooth] First Nations, and home of the Golden Ears Métis Society.”

## Maple Ridge

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the ǵícəy̓ (Katzie) [kut-zee] and ǵʷa:ńłəń [Kwant-len] First Nations, and home of the Golden Ears Métis Society.”

## New Westminister

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the ǵʷa:ńłəń [Kwant-len] and Qayqayt [key-kite] First Nations, and home to the North Fraser Métis Association.”

## Port Coquitlam

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the ǵícəy̓ (Katzie) [kut-zee], kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) [mus-kwee-um], Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) [Squ-HO-o-meesh], and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) [slay-wha-tooth] First Nations, and home to the North Fraser Métis Association.”

## Port Moody

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of ǵícəy̓ (Katzie) [kut-zee], kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem) [kwee-kwet-lum], xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) [mus-kwee-um] and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) [Squ-HO-o-meesh] and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) [slay-wha-tooth] First Nations, and home of the North Fraser Métis Association.”

# Territorial acknowledgements for Fraser South

## Delta

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam) [mus-kwee-um] and s<sup>c</sup>əwaθən məsteyəx<sup>w</sup> (Tsawwassen) [tsa-wah-sen] First Nations, and home to the Surrey-Delta Métis Association.”

## Langley

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the q<sup>w</sup>a:n<sup>h</sup>ə<sup>h</sup> [Kwantlen], Matsqui [mats-sqwee] and q<sup>i</sup>cəy (Katzie) [kut-zee] First Nations, and home to the Surrey-Delta Métis Association.”

## Surrey

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded shared territories of the q<sup>i</sup>cəy (Katzie) [kut-zee], q<sup>w</sup>a:n<sup>h</sup>ə<sup>h</sup> [Kwantlen], k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>ə<sup>h</sup>əm (Kwkwetlem) [kwee-kwet-lum], Semiahmoo [semi-ah-moo] and s<sup>c</sup>əwaθən məsteyəx<sup>w</sup> (Tsawwassen) [tsa-wah-sen] First Nations, and home to the Surrey-Delta Métis Association.”

## White Rock

“I would like to recognize that we are conducting our business today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Semiahmoo [semi-ah-moo] First Nation, and home to the Surrey-Delta Métis Association.”