



Protocols to acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Komoks First Nation in School District 71 (Comox Valley)

Updated September 2017

Important Protocols to Consider for school located in SD71:

- Acknowledging territory is a way of honouring and showing respect for a group of people who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.
- The only people who would **Welcome to the Territory** are the First Nations people who are traditionally/originally from (locally, Komoks First Nation). **NOTE: The majority of School District 71 personnel likely would Acknowledge Territory.**
- **Acknowledging territory** is performed at any important function such as a school assembly, awards night, graduation, a celebration including Aboriginal communities etc. It can also be performed before an important meeting or presentation.
- The host is the person who would acknowledge territory; you would usually not ask a guest to acknowledge territory as it is not his/her function/event. It is not necessary to have an Aboriginal person acknowledge territory.
- Acknowledgement/Welcome is usually the first item on the agenda. (If you forget, just quickly acknowledge then, and don't worry about it!)
- For **larger events** it is always respectful to have a member of the local First Nation, preferably an Elder, perform a welcome, if possible. This would require an honorarium to be given to this person, to acknowledge his or her knowledge and respect within the community. **NOTE: In SD71, there is an agreed up on protocol to provide a \$50.00 honorarium for an official welcome from the official Komoks First Nation representative.**
- These protocols would be generally the same between First Nations in Canada. If you are travelling to speak and work with people seek out the name of the traditional territory you will be on (keep in mind a First Nation member should not be asked to provide a welcome on a territory they are not from).

Adapted from document created by Laura Tait (SD68 - Nanaimo)

Acknowledging Komoks First Nation Territory:

The following acknowledgment of territory text was approved by Komoks First Nation Band Council on June 23, 2015.

Gila'kasla (*gay-la-kass-la*)

Welcome everyone. I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on the land and the gift of working with their children.

Gila'kasla (*gay-la-kass-la*)

School District 71 Acknowledgment and Welcome Protocols for;

District Wide Events (follow welcome protocol)

Example: Graduation ceremonies, Professional Development Days

Who provides the welcome? A welcome to the traditional territory will be provided by an official representative of the Komoks First Nation*.

An honorarium and special instructions will be provided by the host school to the Komoks Band member. Please arrange honorarium through AbEd District Office*.

***contact Aboriginal Education Services Sr. Administrative Assistant, Sue Cambrey, for assistance in arranging an official Welcome at least 14 days prior to your event.**

In SD71, there is an agreed up on protocol to provide a \$50.00 honorarium for an official welcome from the official Komoks First Nation representative.

School Wide Events (follow acknowledgment protocol)

Example: monthly assembly, special ceremonies, recognition events

Who provides acknowledgment? An acknowledgment of the traditional territory will be provided by (in order of priority);

1. If there is a Komoks First Nation Band member attending the meeting, they should be invited to welcome everyone to the event (could be a student or SD71 staff member)
2. Aboriginal student (could be with the support of a staff member)
3. Aboriginal education staff member (Aboriginal Support Worker / Teacher)
4. Principal / Vice Principal
5. Administrator designate

Regular Meetings / Events (follow acknowledgment protocol)

Example: Staff / Parents Advisory / School Board / Aboriginal Education Council / Management Team meetings

Who provides acknowledgment? If there is a Komoks First Nation Band member attending the meeting, they should be invited to welcome everyone to the meeting. Otherwise, an acknowledgment of the traditional territory will be provided by the person chairing the meeting.

** If there are any questions, please get in touch with me.

Gilakas'la,



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