

Policy Manual

Operational Policy

Operational Policy 31 (OP-31): Territorial Acknowledgment

Adopted by: Board of Directors

Adopted on: July 2, 2019

Amended on:

Summary:

The Union operates on the unceded traditional territory of the Secwépemc (suh-Wep-muhc) people. This territory, Secwepemc'ulew (suh-Wep-muhc-oo-lew), is a vast area in the Interior of British Columbia stretching from the Columbia River valley along the Rocky Mountain, west to the Fraser River, and south to the Arrow Lakes and has never been ceded to Canada through treaty. Publicly acknowledging this fact is not only important to recognize the history of colonialism in the Kamloops region, but also to commit the Union to ongoing action ensuring the equitable and respectful treatment of Indigenous people in its work.

Policy:

- I. The Union shall, whenever possible, acknowledge the Secwépemc (suh-Wep-muhc) people and the Secwepemc'ulew (suh-Wep-muhc-oo-lew) territory at every Annual General Meeting, Board of Directors meeting, Student Caucus Meeting, and event of the Union that takes place in Kamloops:
 - a. The acknowledgment shall read;
 - i. We would like to begin by acknowledging that this gathering is taking place on Secwepemc'ulew, the unceded traditional territory of the Secwépemc people. Let us be reminded of our ongoing commitment to equity for the Secwépemc people and respect for their lands that we share here in Kamloops;
 - b. For a TRUSU activity that takes place outside of Kamloops, the acknowledgement shall read;
 - i. We would like to begin by acknowledging that this gathering is taking place on _____, the unceded traditional territory of the _____ people. Let us all be reminded of our ongoing commitment to equity for the _____ people and respect for their lands that we share here in _____;
- II. It is the responsibility of the TRUSU representative giving the acknowledgement to use the following resource and others available to ensure that the territory the gathering is taking place on and its stewards are correctly identified;
 - a. <https://native-land.ca/>