

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, as we gather on this land, it is important for us to pause and acknowledge its original custodians. We stand on the land of the [specific Indigenous group's name], who have nurtured and cared for this land for generations. Their deep connection and longstanding stewardship remind us of a history that stretches far beyond our own.

In honoring their legacy, we must also confront the truths of the past--the displacements, the struggles, and the ongoing impacts of colonization. This moment calls for reflection and a commitment to learning and understanding, to listen earnestly to Indigenous voices, and to respect their enduring culture and wisdom.

It is through recognition, respect, and sincere dialogue that we can foster reconciliation and aspire to a just and inclusive future. Let us carry this awareness with us, not just today, but every day, as we walk forward on this shared journey.

Thank you.