

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: Opening and Closing Exercises
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The following procedures have been developed to assist school administrators when implementing legal expectations for Opening and Closing Exercises as outlined in Regulation 298 s.4. In consultation with Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Delaware First Nation, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation, the language for the Traditional Territory Preamble and Acknowledgement is provided as well.

Opening and/or closing exercises must include the singing of 'O Canada' and the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

English Language Version

Short Version:

We acknowledge that the land on which we are gathered is part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations.

OR

Long Version:

We acknowledge that the land on which we are gathered is part of the traditional territory of the **Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi** and Delaware Nations.

These Indigenous Nations, known as the **Anishinaabeg** and **Lunaapeew**, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment.

Today these responsibilities and obligations extend to all Peoples.

French Language VersionShort Version

Nous reconnaissons que les terres sur lesquelles nous sommes rassemblés font partie du territoire traditionnel des nations des Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi et Delaware.

Long Version

Nous reconnaissons que les terres sur lesquelles nous sommes rassemblés font partie du territoire traditionnel des nations des Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi et Delaware.

Ces nations autochtones, connues sous les noms Anishinaabeg et Lunaapeew, promouvaient, par leurs langues ancestrales, le partage mutuel de la terre, avec des obligations et des responsabilités inhérents pour l'environnement.

Aujourd'hui ces responsabilités et obligations s'étendent à tous les Peuples.

Language Pronunciations / La prononciation des langues:

Chippewa	Odawa	Potawatomi	Anishinaabeg	Lunaapeew
(chip-pi-wuh)	(ō-duh-wuh)	(pot-uh-wuh-tuh-mee)	(ah-nish-i-nuh-beg)	(le-nuh-peow)

Opening or closing exercises **may** include:

- the pledge of citizenship
- the singing of God Save the Queen
- readings that impart social, moral or spiritual values and that are representative of Ontario's multicultural society (these may include scriptural writings, prayers, and secular writings)
- acknowledgement of the site's (shared) Traditional Indigenous Territory
- a period of silence.
- Traditional Territorial Preamble

The following is the pledge of citizenship:

"I affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, and to her heirs and successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen."

The following is the Traditional Territorial Preamble:

*“We acknowledge that the **Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi** known as the **Anishinaabeg** and the Delaware known as **Lunaapeew** inhabited these lands at the time of the written treaties, these being: Treaty #2; Treaty #7; Treaty #29.*

We also acknowledge the earlier Indigenous people that travelled these lands prior to 1790 in the time of the Wampum treaties.

It is through their connection with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique culture, traditions, and values. It is their belief that they are part of the land that sustains all life, and it is the sacred responsibility of all people to ensure that the environment remains protected.

Finally, we acknowledge that their inherent languages preclude any English/French meaning.”

Procedures

1. The principal can determine whether to use the short or long version of the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement with or without the Traditional Territory Preamble.
2. The principal must consult with the School Council before making a decision regarding the reciting of the pledge of citizenship and must review the decision annually at the beginning of the school year.
3. The principal must exempt a student from the singing of O Canada or reciting the pledge of citizenship if:
 - The parent or guardian of a pupil under the age of 18 requests the exemption. or
 - The pupil who is at least 18 requests the exemption.

Implementation Date: October 11, 2000

Revised: May 1, 2017, September 11, 2017, October 29, 2018

Reference: Education Act