LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GUIDING NOTE: The Land Acknowledgement was discussed and approved at the Council of Priests. It is important to have a land acknowledgement. It would likely be too much for it to be recited at every Mass or every meeting. It can be published on websites and offered at Mass seasonally and at meetings as appropriate. It should not become formulaic and it needs to be retained as meaningful.

A land acknowledgement recognizes the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples and is an appropriate way to show respect to Indigenous people of the region, their ancestors, and communities. Here are two versions of the Land Acknowledgement for use in the Diocese of Peterborough. Use one of them. Additionally, you may consider making connections with the Indigenous peoples in your parish area to localize the references more specifically or to use a land acknowledgement they offer to you.

VERSION 1

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnaabeg.

We offer our gratitude to the First Nations for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations.

May we honour those teachings.

(Taken from MICHI SAAGIIG Protocol Guide Book, First Peoples' House of Learning, Trent University)

VERSION 2

We acknowledge that the Williams Treaty and the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory on which we stand is the ancestral home of the Indigenous peoples of Mississauga Anishnaabeg and is common home to everyone by virtue of God our Creator's gracious gift.

(Adapted from the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops)