

## Three Simple Actions

There are some fairly simple things that each of us can do in our schools and our classrooms to inspire students to seek truth and live reconciliation.

### 1. Verbally Acknowledge Traditional Territory

Work with students to seek out the best way to acknowledge the traditional territory where they live and upon which their school stands. Start every morning by making a statement of acknowledgement in the classroom and have students take turns doing the acknowledgement.

Better yet, have students request that the daily school announcements begin with an acknowledgement of the people of the territory. School assemblies, gatherings and staff meetings should all begin with this verbal acknowledgement.

### 2. Fly the Flag

Every school has at least one flagpole in front of its buildings. For the most part, the flags that are honoured are those of Canada and the province. Every school in Alberta is located on Treaty 6, Treaty 7 or Treaty 8 territory.

As a start, fly the flag of the respective treaty area. From there, your school may decide that it should also fly the flag of the Métis Nation, a local First Nation or a neighbouring Inuit community if you are in the Canadian North.

### 3. Visually Acknowledge Truth, Territory and People

At the entry to a Canadian school, it should be clearly indicated that the members of that school community acknowledge the wrongs in our history perpetrated through education, and that they recognize the people of the territory.

This could be done by displaying [Canada's statement of apology](#) to former students of Indian residential schools, along with a visual representation of the Aboriginal people upon whose traditional territory we live.

These “little things” open the door to what may lie ahead. They are things we experience every day as we spend our time together in schools. They begin conversations, and from there the journey to reconciliation will grow.

*With gratitude to **Charlene Bearhead***

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