



Land Acknowledgment 2026

We recognize the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi as the original title holders of the lands we operate onⁱ, and Bkejwanong as the home of the Council Fire. We recognize the governing system of the Wampum Treatiesⁱⁱ; including the Dish with One Spoon Covenant between the Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We respect the rights of Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee and allied First Nations in caring for and protecting this territory. We commit to the work of being in good relation to Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation)ⁱⁱⁱ and Caldwell First Nation^{iv}.

Land Acknowledgment Background: This Land Acknowledgement is part of AWE’s UNDRIP Action Plan, underscoring that the work we do must be rooted in an understanding of where we are, and a respect for the original, legal titleholders of these lands. For thousands of years before colonization, the area that we operate on was the homeland of Indigenous Peoples governed by First Nations Law, and Nation to Nation treaty agreements negotiated at council fires and recorded in wampum.^v Treaty 2, also known as the McKee Treaty or McKee Purchase was written by the British and signed in 1790^{vi} at L’Assomption by *Potawatomi, Chippewa, Odawa, and Huron* representatives.^{vii} We recognize that the treaty agreement that formed Treaty 2 territory had been shaped by colonial agreements dating back to the Montreal Peace Treaty in 1701.^{viii}

This statement is prepared, in part, with research from *Naagan ge bezhig emkwaan: A Dish with One Spoon Reconsidered* by Dean M. Jacobs and Victor P. Lytwyn, published in *Ontario History* in Fall, 2020. They write:

“In 1801, Captain Thomas McKee, who was in charge of Indian Affairs at Amherstburg, explained: “altho the Hurons reside upon the Land the other nations are the original proprietors of the Soil, and the Hurons originally settled therein by the permission of these nations when arrived from the Lake above [Lake Huron].” The Wyandot settlement in Anishinaabe territory was an example of how the Dish with One Spoon operated. The Wyandots were permitted to live in the territory (the Dish) and share in the resources (using the Spoon) but were not given “ownership” of the land.”^{ix}

“Although the Dish with One Spoon was not specifically mentioned in the text of the 1790 Treaty, Chief Egoucheway’s words suggest that he had the Dish in his mind



when he drew his dodem mark on the parchment. British colonial administrators, on the other hand, viewed the 1790 Detroit Treaty as a land sales contract agreement. They had no intention of sharing control over the land and resources except for a few small reserves that were set apart in the Treaty. The British and later Canadian government officials gradually wrested jurisdiction away from Anishinaabe leaders.”^x

We recognize the historical and ongoing sovereignty and authority of Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples over their lands. The mention of Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation) and Caldwell First Nation in our Land Acknowledgment signals our commitment to be rooted in the region we operate on and maintain good relationships with our closest Nations. We understand that an acknowledgement is a small part of the work we must carry forward, and the relationships we must build and maintain to do our work.

ⁱ <https://www.whose.land/en/treaties/treaty-2-1790>

ⁱⁱ McNabb, David. “Sovereignty, Treaties and Trade in the Bkejwanong Territory”. *The Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 52-66.

<https://jaed.ca/index.php/jaed/article/view/166/144>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.walpoleislandfirstnation.ca/>

^{iv} <https://www.caldwellfirstnation.ca/>

^v Jacobs, D. M. & Lytwyn, V. P. (2020). *Naagan ge bezhig emkwaan: A Dish with One Spoon Reconsidered*. Ontario History, 112(2), 191–210.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/1072237ar>

^{vi} <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1370372152585/1581293792285>

^{vii} Palmer, D. *The McKee Treaty of 1790: British-Aboriginal Diplomacy in the Great Lakes*.

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<https://harvest.usask.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/0d8047b0-baa5-4baf-b4e8-5f4621b66488/content>

^{viii} Jacobs, D. M. & Lytwyn, V. P. (2020). *Naagan ge bezhig emkwaan: A Dish with One Spoon Reconsidered*. Ontario History, 112(2), pg190-210.

<https://doi.org/10.7202/1072237ar>

^{ix} Jacobs, D. M. & Lytwyn, V. P. (2020). *Naagan ge bezhig emkwaan: A Dish with One Spoon Reconsidered*. Ontario History, 112(2), pg195-196.

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^x Jacobs, D. M. & Lytwyn, V. P. (2020). *Naagan ge bezhig emkwaan: A Dish with One Spoon Reconsidered*. Ontario History, 112(2), pg190-210.

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