

Personalizing Your Land Acknowledgment: Building from the Medicine Wheel

Talking Circle Workshop led by Bonnie Jane Maracle
Co-facilitators: Yaseen Ali & Ellyn Kerr

**OHEN:TON
KARIHWATEHKWEN**

~ Thanksgiving Address ~
~ Opening Address ~

“The words that come before all else”

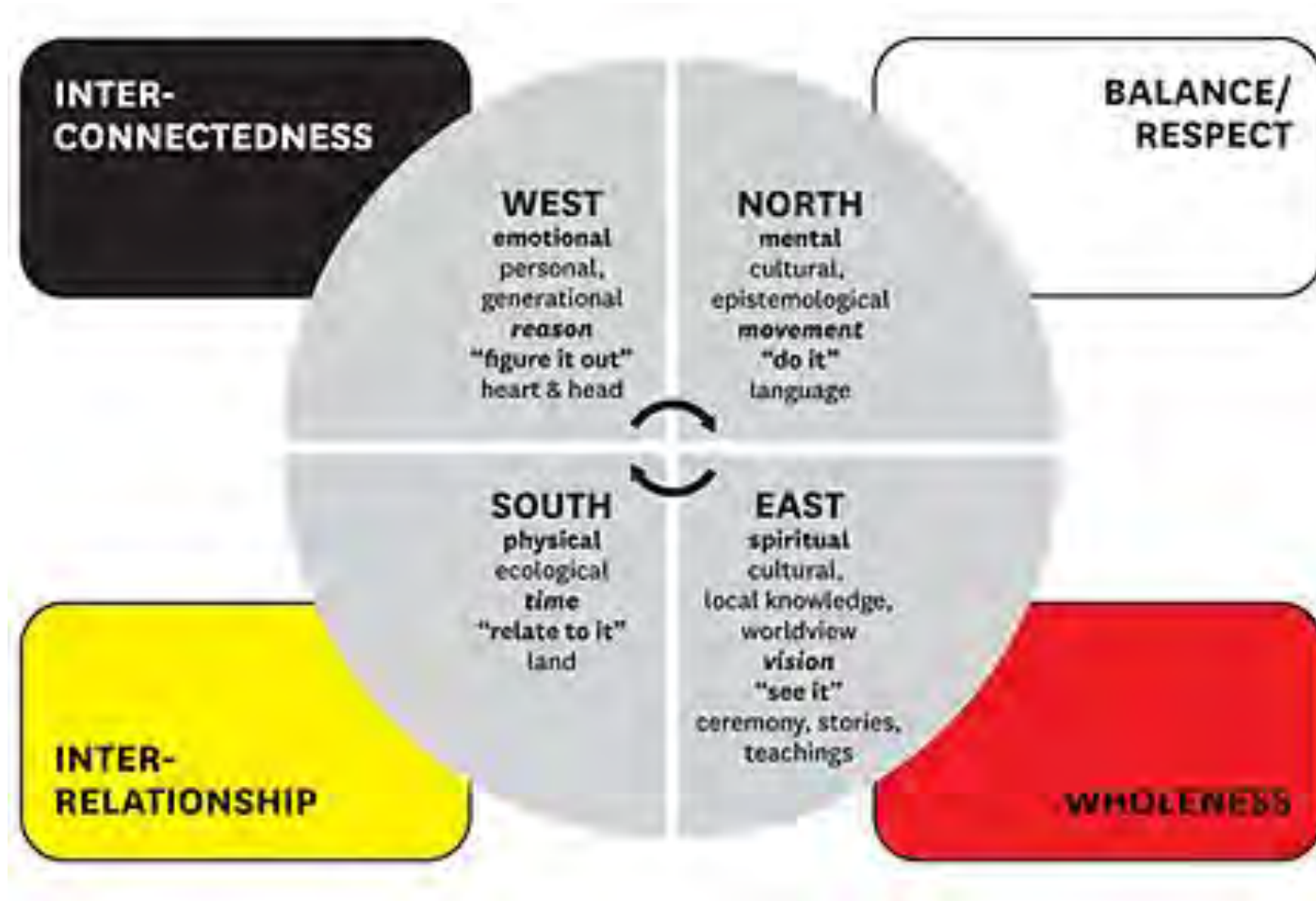
Goals for this Talking Circle:

- To inform our learning from an Indigenous pedagogical framework with the Medicine Wheel's four quadrants:
 - *Awareness*
 - *Feeling*
 - *Understanding*
 - *Action*
- To appreciate that there is a relationship between identity and land – and that layers of identity can exist within one space.
- For each participant to draft their own personalized land acknowledgment, while also appreciating that these can also be dynamic and context-specific.

For today's session, please note:

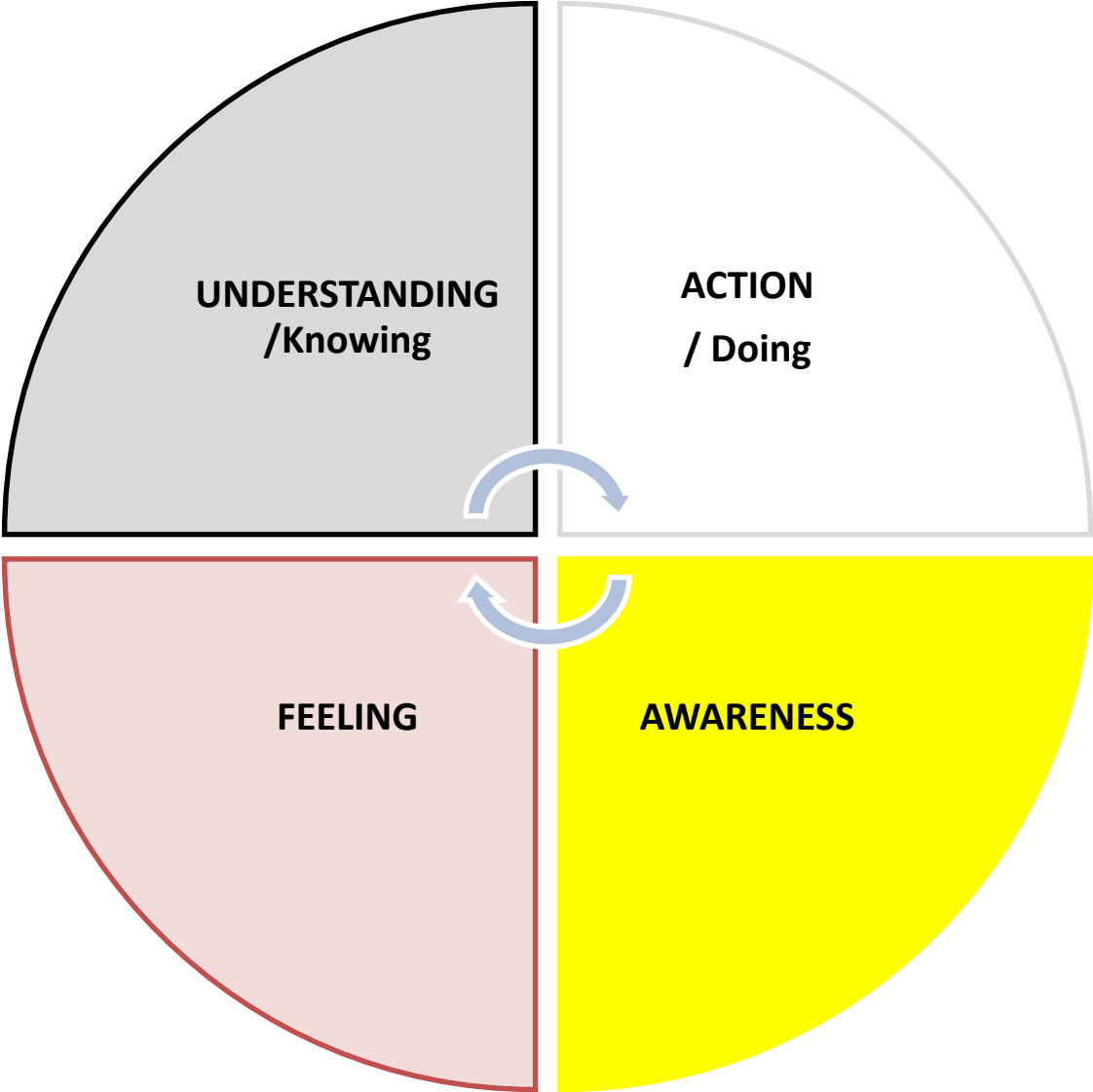
- Feel free to share your experiences and feelings, but also to offer deep listening to others.
- There will be no evaluation, judgment, or assessment of your learning.
- There will be time for individual contemplation and journaling.
- There will be opportunities for follow-up discussions with Bonnie Jane.

Medicine Wheel Teachings Model



*Teaching by the
Medicine Wheel: An
Anishinaabe
framework for
Indigenous education*
by Nicole Bell

Medicine Wheel Model: The Learning Process



The Purpose of an Acknowledgment



All education
happens on
indigenous land

For you, what does it mean to ***acknowledge*** land?

Please share your thoughts in the chat or use the “raise hand” function if you would prefer to speak.

Statement developed by First Nations House & the Elders' Circle

We would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for over 15,000 years.

This land is the territory of the Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the *Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant*, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

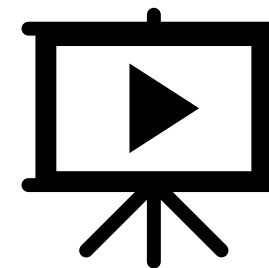
- Developed by the First Nations House Elders Circle

U of T's Statement of Acknowledgment of Traditional Land

I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Watch Video: Reflect & Discuss

Next, please watch the Baroness von Sketch short called “Land Acknowledgment” (2:14 min) individually.



- Click on the YouTube link shared in the chat.
- After watching, take another two minutes to write down what you felt while watching it.
- Also note any other reflections or questions you might have.

Then in your breakout room discussions, please share your experiences and thoughts about land acknowledgments based on the video and what we have discussed. Also free to go in other directions that are interesting to you as a group!

Sharing Back

DEBRIEF



Personalization and Permissions

- *Appropriation?*
 - *Do I have a right to?*
 - *Is it respectful?*
 - *Is it okay to be context-specific?*
 - *Can I do something short/small?*
-
- Personal: our personal connection to the land
 - Mutable/adaptable
 - Relevant to context, space
 - Simple: "an *acknowledgment*"

Some Things To Know About Acknowledgements

- The person giving the acknowledgement should be the host or the presenter themselves.
- Include a formal thank you to the host nation (if known) whenever making a presentation or holding a meeting, whether or not Indigenous individuals are part of the meeting or gathering.
- It should be rooted in whose land [or space] you are honoured to stand on and should guide how you move forward in both conversation and actions.
- A land acknowledgement is not something you "just do" before an event. Rather it is a reflection process in which you build mindfulness and intention.

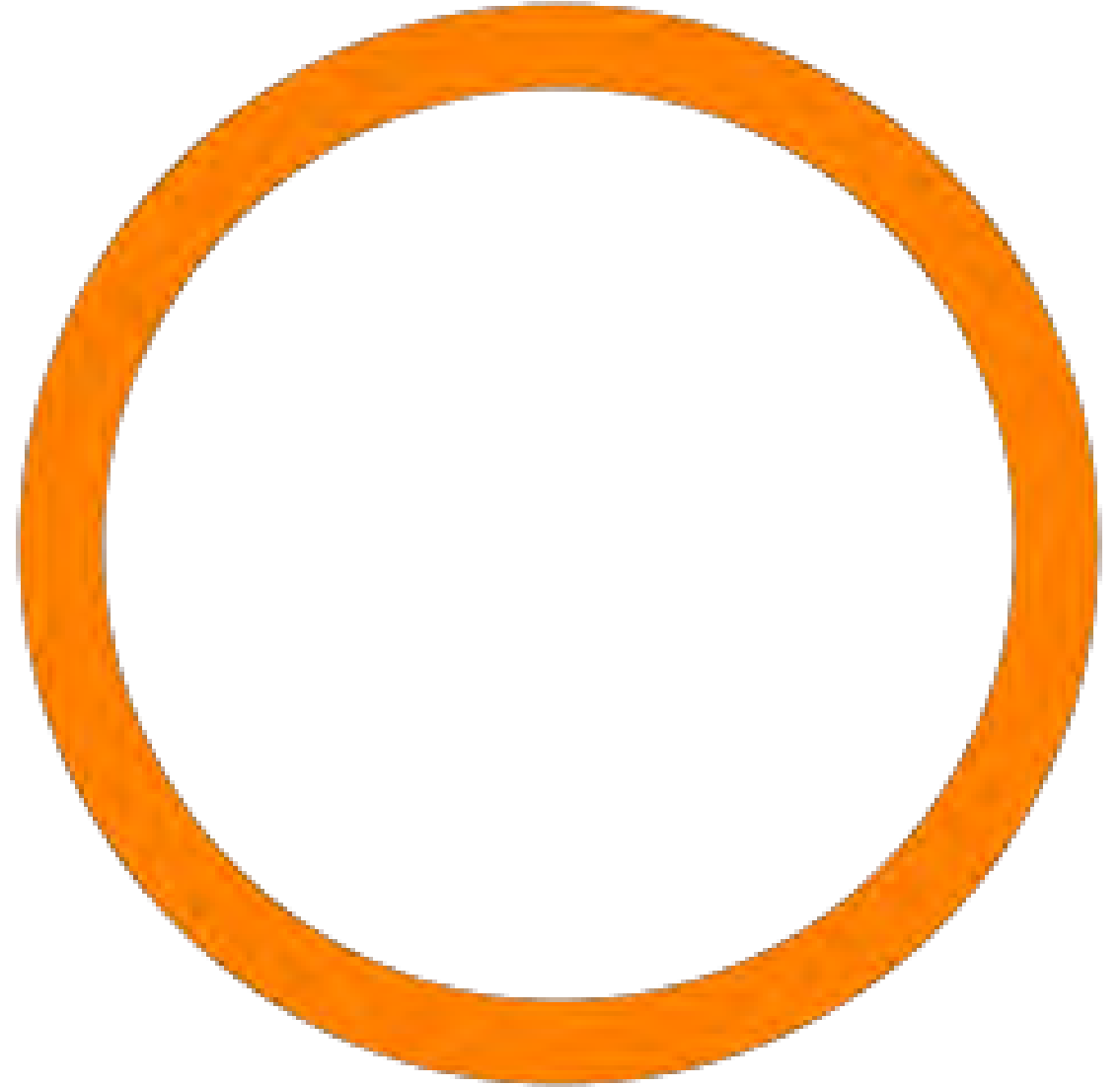
More information on Land Acknowledgements @ [Ispirg.org/knowtheLand/](https://www.ispirg.org/knowtheLand/)

Time for Writing: Reflect & Practice



Sharing Circle

- Does anyone want to share what they have drafted?
- Note that this does not need to be a completed acknowledgment.
- “Messy” and/or short thoughts are welcome!
- Please use the “raise hand” function to indicate your interest.



Wrap Up

- Please share any takeaway thoughts and comments in the chat.
- October 21st: Follow-up sharing circle with Bonnie Jane
- Follow-up questions?
 - Reach out to Bonnie Jane at bj.maracle@utoronto.ca