

Administrative Assistant

From: Evan Christensen <evanchristensen06@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:10 PM
To: Administrative Assistant
Subject: Proposal for a Land Acknowledgment for the Town of Canterbury

Dear Kal McKay,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Evan Christensen, and I would like to propose that the Canterbury Board of Selectmen consider adopting a formal land acknowledgment recognizing the Indigenous peoples who have lived on and stewarded this land for thousands of years.

A land acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of the land. It serves as a reminder of the historical and ongoing relationship between Indigenous communities and their ancestral lands. Many towns, institutions, and organizations have adopted land acknowledgments as a meaningful step toward education, recognition, and respect. While a land acknowledgment is not a solution in itself, it is an important act of truth-telling that encourages further engagement and action.

As Canterbury approaches its tricentennial in 2027, I believe it is important to acknowledge the full history of this land and its original inhabitants. I have drafted the following land acknowledgment for use at town meetings and events:

"This (event/meeting) takes place on N'dakinna (n-DA-ki-na), the traditional and unceded ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook (pen-uh-COOK), and Wabanaki (wah-buh-nah-kee) Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings, and the Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak), the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations."

Additionally, I have drafted a slightly modified version that could be posted in town buildings or included in official documents:

"The Town of Canterbury is located on N'dakinna (n-DA-ki-na), the traditional and unceded ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook (pen-uh-COOK), and Wabanaki (wah-buh-nah-kee) Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings, and the Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak), the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations."

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this proposal with the Board of Selectmen at an upcoming meeting. If possible, I would like to be added to the agenda to present this idea and explore how the town might implement it in meetings, documents, and public spaces.

Please let me know if this would be possible and if there are any steps I should take to move forward with this request. Thank you for your time and consideration—I look forward to your response.

Best regards,
Evan Christensen
evanchristensen06@gmail.com