

## Land Acknowledgement - December 2024



### Turtle Island by Patrick Hunter Indigenous Art Print

*The following statements are based on a land acknowledgment created by Rebecca Cuddy and Julie McIsaac, as inaugural participants in the Canadian Opera Company's Land Acknowledgement Commissioning Program.*

As women of CFUW, it is our responsibility to recognize the history of this land, and to explore and challenge our relationship to that history.

We are in Tkarón:to, which in Kanien'kéha means 'the place in the water where the trees are standing.' We recognize, support, and celebrate the enduring presence of Indigenous Peoples on this land. It is a privilege for us to be here, on the traditional lands of the confederacies of the Wendat 'People of the Island,' the Anishinaabe 'Original People,' and the Haudenosaunee 'People of the Longhouse.' We acknowledge this land as the home of the Mississaugas of the Credit, 'River of the north, of many mouths.'

We extend our gratitude to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people across Turtle Island for their stewardship of this land. We commit to ongoing dialogue and respectful co-existence on this land.

There cannot be reconciliation before there is truth. We recognize the historical and continued oppression of lands and cultures. We witness the ongoing confirmation of mass and unmarked graves of Indigenous children at the sites of Residential Schools across Canada. We acknowledge the national crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Two-Spirit, and Girls. We commit to doing our part to protect the land and to uphold the values and voices of the Indigenous people of Turtle Island.

We respect the strength of Indigenous Nations in Canada. We commit to listening to Indigenous voices and to focus on learning and healing together through music and stories. We believe in the power of women to move us forward in right relations.

**Interested in Learning More? Check out:**

1. The Art Gallery of Ontario Indigenous Art Collection - <https://ago.ca/collection/indigenous>
2. The National Art Gallery of Canada - Indigenous and Canadian Art - <https://www.gallery.ca/whats-on/exhibitions-and-galleries/indigenous-and-canadian-art>
3. Jeremy Dutcher - Indigenous composer and opera singer - <https://www.rootsmusic.ca/2018/04/06/jeremy-dutcher-where-indigenous-tradition-meets-opera/>
4. Deantha Edmunds - Inuit Opera Singer - <https://deantha.ca/>
5. Indigenous Singers rising to fame in Canada - <https://www.cbc.ca/music/8-indigenous-musicians-to-know-2024-1.7212556>
6. Juno Awards - Indigenous Musicians you should know - <https://junoawards.ca/blog/10-indigenous-artists-you-should-know/>