



Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement

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October 16, 2024



Background



American Indian Advisory Council

- Meeting since March
- Advising and holding the Council accountable in taking meaningful action to support and partner with Tribes and the American Indian communities in the region
- Presented Land, Water, and People Commitments to Committee of the Whole in September

Commitment to Acknowledge



One of the recommended commitments from the Advisory Council addressed public acknowledgement:

1. As a responsible government agency, the Council will lead in publicly recognizing the genocide and displacement that American Indian communities survived and continue to endure.
 - a) *The Advisory Council is drafting a Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement for the Met Council and to include in Imagine 2050.*
 - b) The Advisory Council encourages the Met Council to understand the value of a statement is to increase recognition of the seven-county region as Dakota land and promote action.

Land, Water, and People Acknowledgement Statement

Short Statement

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.



Recommendations for Use

Short Statement

- Read at the start of every Council meeting and meetings of the Council's Committees
- Include in public facing planning documents and adopt as part of Imagine 2050
- Include in new employee onboarding/orientation and all employee continuing education
- Adapt for use at Council buildings and facilities including Robert Street, Heywood, and the Metro Plant.

Long Statement

- Create a Council webpage about American Indian and Tribal relations that includes the long statement.
- Use the long statement where recognition or moments of reflection are appropriate and needed, and in organizational education.
- Include as part of educational resources for employees, residents, and local governments.



Dakota Language Session



Reflections from June 10 Meeting

Next Steps

- Incorporating Acknowledgement Statements into Council work following Advisory Council recommendation
- Developing a work plan for the Advisory Council based on areas needing further support and engagement
- Working internally to integrate recommended commitments into Imagine 2050 and organizational work plans





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