Land Acknowledgement

We would like to take the time to acknowledge that the land on which we are gathered here today, and the next few days, is the traditional land of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg, and Attawondaron (or Neutral) peoples. The Haudenosaunee peoples are also known as the “People of the longhouse”. Anishinaabeg has multiple meanings, one of which is “Beings Made Out of Nothing” and another is “Spontaneous Beings”. Attawandaron comes from the Huron-Wendat people and means “People of a slightly different language”.

The University of Waterloo is located on the Haldimand Tract, which includes 10 kilometers of land, on each side of the Grand River, as granted to the Six Nations under the Treaty of Haldimand. The Six Nations of the Grand River is currently the only First Nation community that includes all six Haudenosaunee nations and unifies these peoples under what is known as the Great Tree of Peace. Although the entirety of this land was promised, extending from the source of the river to Lake Erie, only a 5% of this land is currently owned by the Six Nations.

We express the utmost awe and respect for the longstanding, strong relationship these Nations have with the land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge the deep and meaningful traditions of knowledge, law, society, nature, and philosophy of the Indigenous people of this land. We recognize the historic and ongoing injustices that Indigenous people endure across Canada and affirm our commitment to honour indigenous voices, traditions, and cultures for the future of reconciliation.