



Land Acknowledgement

Take a moment to notice where you are seated and feel your connection with the earth. Consider this land that we work on here in the Rochester and Finger Lakes region and let us begin by acknowledging that this land is the seized territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy which is made up of the [Mohawk](#) (Kanien'kehá:ka), [Oneida](#) (Onʌyoteʔa·ká), [Onondaga](#) (Onoñda'gega'), [Cayuga](#) (Gayogohó:nə'), [Seneca](#) (Onödowa'ga:') and [Tuscarora](#) (Skarù·rə?).

The truthful history of the colonization of this land must be told, and the displacement, erasure, invisibility, and dehumanization of the Indigenous communities must be known, if we are to begin making things right.

Given that our work is conflict resolution and peacemaking, we take this moment to honor the Great Peacemaker, who arrived on the shore of Lake Ontario and taught the laws of peace to each nation in this region. The Great Law created by the Peacemaker governs the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and was incorporated into the Constitution of the United States. We honor Indigenous peacemakers along with Circle keepers and mediators who work to create strong communities, foster dialogue, and repair harm.

As an organization, we pledge to do our part to begin making things right in our continuing efforts to:

- Acknowledge the truthful and painful history of the colonization of this continent, known as Turtle Island
- Support efforts to incorporate this history into public educational settings
- Advocate for schools and other institutions to fly the Hiawatha Belt (Haudenosaunee) flag
- Advocate for the removal of offensive mascots and slogans

As part of our community of peacemakers, we invite you to:

- Support efforts to combat climate change and to honor the Earth and her natural resources
- Explore ways to support the LandBack movement, such as the recent return of 1,000 acres of forest from New York State to the Onondaga Nation
- Advocate for the celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day across our region

Thank you.