

# Ciena Solutions Challenge: Indigenous Land Recognition



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**Project Name: Ciena Solutions Challenge Project**

**Big Idea: Reducing inequalities in our community**

**Essential Question: Why is Indigenous land recognition so important?**

**Team Members: Mara D., Emma C., Kareem G. and Bryce C.**

**School Name: Ridgemont High School**

**Location: Ottawa, ON, Canada**

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# Engage:

## What challenge does your project address?

We are addressing reducing inequalities in our community. We want to recognize that our school and the Ottawa community is on Algonquin land and by making a website that can share more information that will hopefully spread more awareness about this topic.

## Why did your team select this topic or challenge?

Our team chose this topic because it is relevant to what is going on in Canada right now. It is important that the Indigenous community is recognized for their unsundered land in Ottawa and Canada.

## How is it a real world problem or concern?

We know this is a real world problem as it is connected to the history of our country. Especially because of colonization and recently learning about the history of Canada and how the Indigenous community was mistreated.

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# Investigation (Research):

We discovered that during the colonization of Canada, Indigenous natives would be negatively impacted for generations to come. A total of 290 languages were spoken by the natives, one of many examples of unique diversity. This would be simplified massively through residential schools, forcing children to abandon their cultures, lifestyles, languages, or face heavy repercussions. Even to this day, schools teach children inaccurate information about Indigenous populations. Orange Shirt Day was centered around acknowledging the negative effects of residential schools and raising awareness to the Indigenous population. Currently, most people see Orange Shirt Day as a way to bring light to a topic centuries old for one day, and forget about it until the next year, rinse and repeat. Some Indigenous descendants currently view many memorials to the native population as meaningless and non-genuine, entirely as a way for the government to gain a good reputation with them and completely ignore it when they have no need for it anymore.

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# Investigation (Google Meet):

Our group participated in a Google Meet with Kyl Morrison, OCDSB's Indigenous support teacher. We knew that our school and school board wanted to produce sincere and genuine Indigenous land acknowledgments, but we weren't 100% sure how to achieve that and how to do it respectfully at Ridgemont, so we asked Kyl Morrison. Kyl Morrison widened our perspective on Indigenous land recognition and gave us many tips on how we can portray it. Including, making your own personal land acknowledgements that reflect your own personal knowledge that you understand and not something you don't. Acknowledging that we are connected to more than just land, like food, water and many more resources that we take for granted. As well as knowing that this topic is always changing, everybody is learning and everybody should be open to learning.

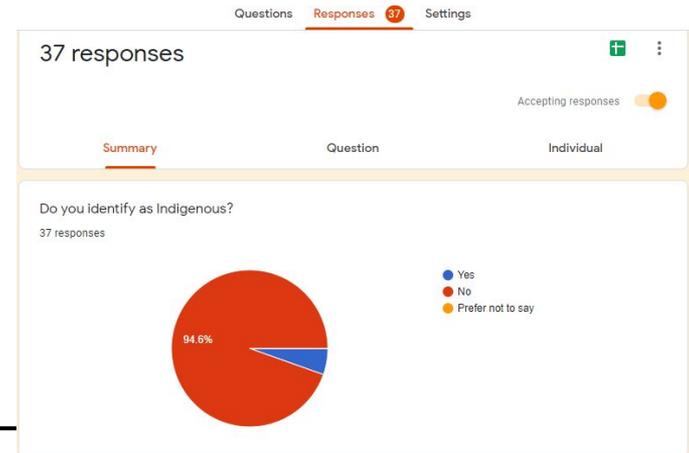


Kyl Morrison

# Investigation (Survey):

During our investigation, we created a survey for various students in the school to answer. It featured multiple choice questions and two long-answer questions. It was a short, simple form designed to avoid discomfort in anybody looking through the form, entirely optional. This form would grant us some much needed data to help with our investigation. As of right now (December 6th, 2021), there has been a total of 37 responses. Thankfully, all questions were answered by all of the 37 of those who took the time to fill it out, with the exception of optional long answer questions. Many people had great suggestions as to how the school board could improve upon their efforts in Indigenous land recognition by explaining what they did to honor land (if they did so in the first place).

Multiple survey participants stated that they believed the school partook in land acknowledgement in the morning on announcements, through discussions around the schools, and in online assemblies/staff meetings.



# Investigation (Team Interview):

A few days after the interview with Kyl Morrison, the team was brought into the room to have a short conversation about what we learned from speaking with Kyl. It was relatively short and everybody took turns speaking about various topics that they were informed about. This meeting was recorded and we were given this recording to use in our website to help us double-check some information if needed. It was very helpful in ensuring that at everybody at least somewhat understood the task. This video will also be available on the website alongside what was recorded of the interview with Kyl.



# Team Interview (Video)



# Action (Website):

Our team had collected data to use on our website. We have put out an anonymous google form to survey our school. We then put this data on our website including other information from our meeting with Kyl Morrison. We have five pages to the website, that we will fill with information as we work and gather more from the survey. These pages are as follows:

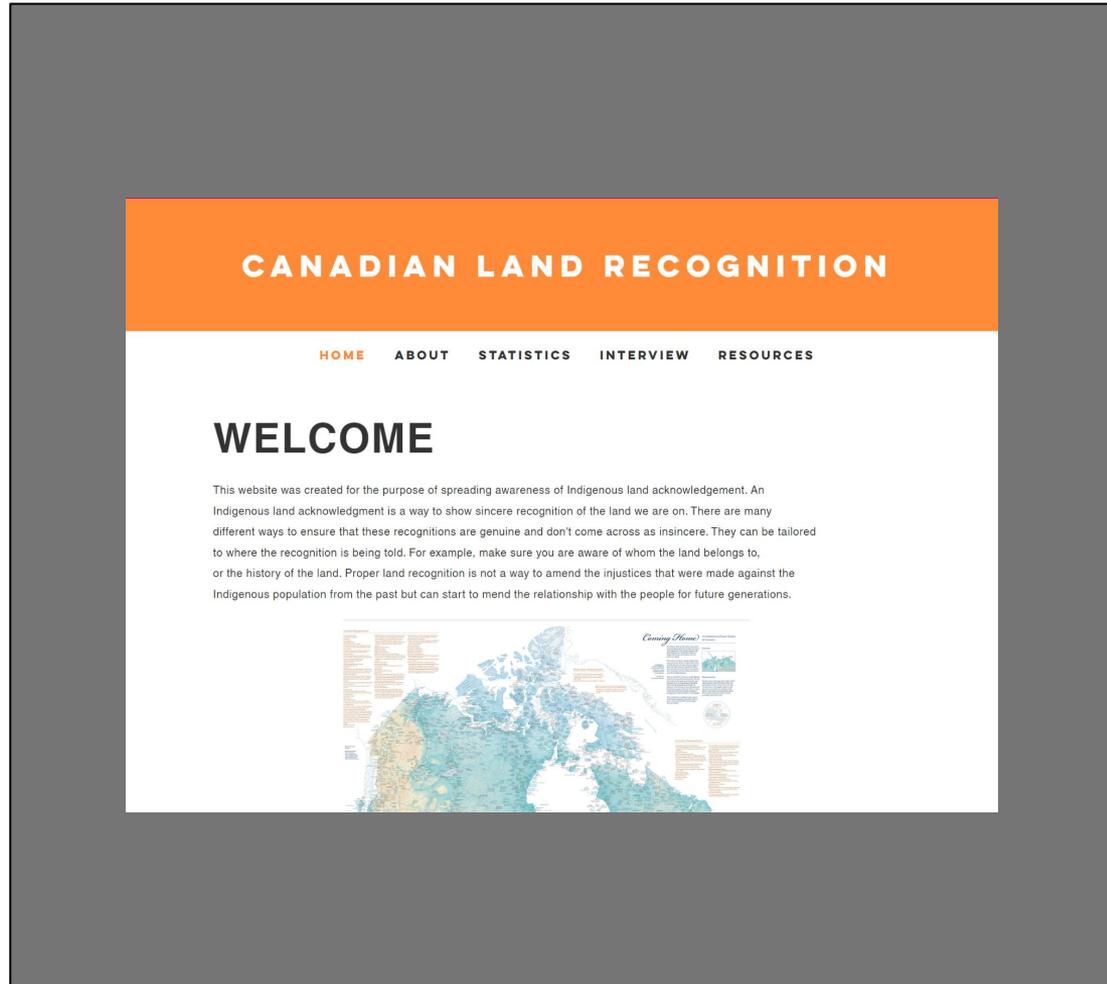
1. Home Page
2. About
3. Statistics
4. Interviews
5. Resources

The link to the website: <https://echac19.wixsite.com/land-recognition>

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# (Website/Home Page):

The Home Page to the website is very self explanatory. It simply serves as a page that allows you to freely navigate to other pages, and is accompanied by a short summary to the website's purpose.



# (Website/Statistics):

There are three pages on the website that feature the information. The first of these is the statistics page. This page simply features the statistics most recently obtained from the survey and requires manual updates whenever a chunk of data is introduced through multiple people answering this survey..

## About

Our school, Ridgemont High School was given an opportunity to participate in the Ciena Solutions Challenge where we could help our community in some way. For our Ciena Solutions Challenge, the big idea our class chose was to reduce inequalities in our community. From then, our group decided to focus on our essential question; why is Indigenous land recognition so important? The reason our group chose this question to focus on was because at the time of starting this project it was Truth and Reconciliation Week, this topic was on our minds. We felt that after the week had passed, the topic was no longer spoken about in our school and community. We want to share students' opinions on how to land recognition should be portrayed and how we can improve our school. In this website, we have included statistics from a survey that some of the Ridgemont High School students and teachers have taken. A summary of an interview with Kyl Morrison, OCDSB's Indigenous support teacher and extra resources that can provide even more information about Indigenous land recognition.



**Ciena  
Solutions  
Challenge**  
by Digital Promise



# (Website/Interviews):

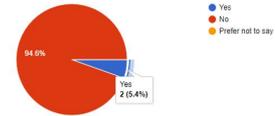
The next page on the website is the interviews page where information obtained from our interview with Kyl Morrison is summarized in an easy to understand way. We managed to write down everything important and put it together on this interview page.

## Statistics

The following information has been taken from a survey that some of the students and teachers at Ridgemoor High School have completed. The graphs show the different opinions that people have about Indigenous land recognition. We wanted to show visually how people feel about this topic and with this information, we can share it and improve our school and community.

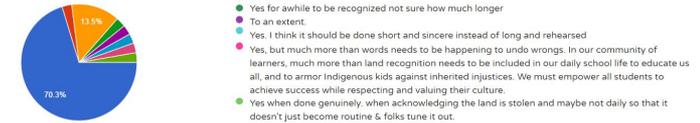
Do you identify as Indigenous?

37 responses



Do you think land recognition is important for our community?

37 responses



Have you seen/heard any land acknowledgments around the school?

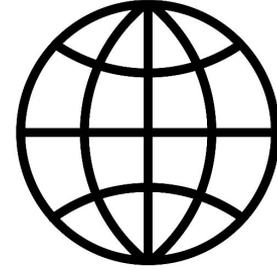
37 responses

## (Website/Resources):

The resources page on the website is the most important page, as it helps the team ensure that the information is reliable and can be trusted. It also includes some land recognitions that a class of Ridgemont students produced over the morning announcements.

### Resources

- [Interactive map of Indigenous land](#)
- [Acknowledging Territory](#)
- [What's wrong with Land Acknowledgements](#)
- [Why land acknowledgements are important](#)
- [Guide to land acknowledgement](#)
- [Why do we acknowledge land](#)
- [City of Ottawa reconciliation plan](#)



### Example of Indigenous Land Acknowledgements

▶ 00:00 / 00:40

