TERRITORIAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MOIRA WILLIAMS AND RIAN CIELA HAMMOND



We acknowledge that a Territorial Land Acknowledgement is a starting point. We together acknowledge that the virtual landscapes we connect and navigate through, like the physical lands we occupy daily and simultaneously are equally contested lands. Built on continued legacies and practices of stolen lands, legacies of slavery and forced removals of Indigenous peoples by European settlers. Colonialism is a current ongoing process; it is a structure eroding Indigenous lands and culture. We commit to building our mindfulness about participation with lands both physical and virtual that uphold systemic practices and beliefs. These regimes of power harm all Indigenous peoples, Indigenous womxn, two spirited and disabled Indigenous people. These structures of power break treaties, erase and control access to ancient and contemporary knowledges, capital, technology, health care and the environment. Broken treaties exist and move between physical and virtual worlds. Our Territorial Land Acknowledgment is our commitment to working to center Indigenous peoples and knowledge as we grow together.

I, moira williams, am beaming in from my ancestral Secatogue (the black or dark colored land) people's unceded lands Suwanhackingh (Salty Land, Long Island, New York). The Secatogue people continue from time immemorial to live, love, and celebrate life along the tidal waterways flowing into the Shaonaxawësh Kitàn (South large body of water), currently known as the Great South Bay. We also continue to enrich the world in a multitude of ways.

I, rian ciela hammond, am beaming in from the swamps of Lenapehoking the ancient homelands of the Lenni-Lenape peoples, where wild yam thrives in multispecies constellations. The scenes of Root Picker were specifically filmed in the unceded territory of the Munsee Lenape, the caretakers of this land since time immemorial.

It is a place I am new to, as someone with Irish and Scottish ancestors who were colonial settlers in lands of the Waccamaw Siouan and Lumbee people (so called North Carolina), and Dutch, Bessarabian, Jewish, and Spanish ancestors who were colonial settlers of the unceded lands of the Quilmes, Qom, Mapuche, and Mocovi people (the pampas of so-called Argentina). This acknowledgement is my commitment to movement towards repair. It is a commitment not just to learning and unlearning, but also to supporting and participating in collective efforts to dismantle colonial structures that continue to harm.

We invite you into a call and response to answer; "Whose Native Lands are you on right now?"

Follow Grand-Spirit of the North in any way your body needs to move with your eyelashes, nose, elbow.

"Whose Native Lands are you on right now?"

Follow Grand-Spirit of the East in any way your body needs to move with your eyelashes, nose, elbow.

"Whose Native Lands are you on right now?"

Follow Grand-Spirit of the South in any way your body needs to move with your eyelashes, nose, elbow.

"Whose Native Lands are you on right now?"

Follow Grand-Spirit of the West in any way your body needs to move with your eyelashes, nose, elbow.

"Whose Native Lands are you on right now?"

Whose Native Lands are you on right now?

The following links take you to interactive maps to help you with our question.

landmarkmap.org native-land.ca

Lenape: Wèmi yu ta niluna ntëluxwenèn yu èlkikwixink haki

English: All of us here will walk on this part of the earth