

The Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association, in the spirit of reconciliation, acknowledges and honours that the 500 km Ganaraska Hiking Trail passes through the traditional and territorial lands of the Anishinaabek, Wendat-Huron, and Haudenosaunee nations. Over the millennia, these nations provided stewardship of the lands and lived sustainably in a relationship of long-lasting respect and balanced connections with the land, which became an integral part of their identities.

The Association also acknowledges that some of the practices and policies of settlement on Indigenous lands did not and presently do not adhere to a sustainable and respectful relationship with the natural environment. In addition, we recognize that the resolution of land and treaty claims by Indigenous nations is necessary for healing and establishing a close and harmonious relationship with Indigenous peoples.

As hikers, Association members are privileged to walk the same paths, enjoy the same vistas, and tread upon the same rocky outcrops as Indigenous peoples have done prior to and since settlement. We are grateful to Indigenous peoples for their caretaking of the land, which was mutually beneficial to themselves and all lifeforms within the environment.

Sharing the experience of enjoying the landscape, and its flora and fauna with past and present Indigenous generations, challenges hiking members to be leaders in practicing respectful and sustainable use of the natural environment. Learning to live with respect for our natural world is a step toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.