



410 -700 Industrial Avenue
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Our commitment to truth, reconciliation and decolonization

Veterinarians Without Borders board members, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters live and work on the traditional territory of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples—from coast to coast to coast.

Our office is situated in the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial.

With our Northern Animal Health Initiative, VWB/VSF staff and volunteers travel extensively through the Inuit homelands of Nunavut and Inuvialuit, as well as those of Dene and Decho First Nations, and Metis peoples. We are thankful for the opportunity to work and collaborate on these lands through sustained relationships with Indigenous peoples based on mutual respect, dignity, trust, and cooperation, in the process of advancing truth and reconciliation.

Much of our work also takes place in other parts of the world. We work with various communities in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe to respond to pressing needs on the ground. Through our work, we are committed to better understanding colonial histories, and present-day colonial legacies and realities, within the international cooperation sector and in the areas where we work. Together with our partners, we aim to embrace local and Indigenous knowledge and create space for participatory approaches to development. As an international development organization, operating within Canada and around the globe, we strive to decolonize our understandings and approaches as we work to create lasting and positive change.

We believe it is critical to decolonize our mindset and practices. In all of our program areas, we are guided by the communities we work with and we are committed to participatory and inclusive approaches to development. Through listening and partnership, we are guided by these relationships and aim to continue on the path towards reconciliation. As an organization, we are committed to learning and to taking seriously the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and other decolonial frameworks that are relevant to our work.

We are committed to:

- Ensuring Indigenous stakeholders, including community members, organizations, and Indigenous government bodies, are part of the conversations and planning in a meaningful way.
- Seeking to remove barriers to participation for Indigenous peoples and communities to use and participate in our programming.
- Valuing local and Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and allowing diverse perspectives to influence program activities and directives.



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- Improving organizational and programmatic frameworks that embrace Indigenous knowledge and that encourage active partnership and participation.
- Remaining in conversation with Indigenous communities to move toward reconciliation in our work

Next steps

We have a long way to go, and we are committed to the journey. Please note that this acknowledgement will evolve over time. VWB/VSF will continue to update this page as we learn, reflect, and remain accountable.

This land acknowledgement was developed with the support of Evan Matchett-Wong, a member of Cold Lake First Nation in Treaty 6 Territory and local community resource on land acknowledgement development.