

## **Journalists for Human Rights Land Acknowledgement**

We wish to acknowledge the land on which the Journalists for Human Rights' head office operates and recognize the longstanding relationships Indigenous nations have with these territories. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Tkaronto (Toronto) is in the Dish with One Spoon Territory and is home to Indigenous peoples from many nations across Turtle Island who continue to care for this land today.

We are all treaty people. For JHR, this means acknowledging the responsibilities that we all bear to uphold treaties that, misunderstood and neglected as they have been for generations, still govern the land we are on, to this day. JHR also recognizes and supports the importance of truth, storytelling, and accurate and respectful coverage of histories and current day events as essential to decolonization and reconciliation. The organization's Indigenous Reporters Program is committed to working to increase the quality and quantity of Indigenous stories and voices in media.

## **Why Do We Acknowledge?**

We acknowledge the land to not only recognize the territory we are occupying, but also the connection to the land, the diverse histories of the land, and knowledge shared upon it. To actively contribute to a process of reconciliation, it is important to both honour the original occupants and recognize Indigenous peoples' innate relationships to the land which, historically, have been restricted.

For JHR specifically, Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) reads "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination." In the era of truth and reconciliation in Canada it is imperative that Indigenous voices are amplified, peoples and communities are the custodians of their own stories, and non-Indigenous media more frequently, effectively and respectfully cover Indigenous topics to be representative of the audience they serve.