



## **Cohort #1: Mid-point meeting (March 5, 2022) – Halifax, NS**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we gather today *on Mi'kma'ki*, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

I've been thinking about this land acknowledgment and how to make it more than just words.

Earlier this week I watched a YouTube video... Kenya's Martin Kimani was delivering an emphatic plea to Russia to pursue diplomacy, citing its own history. He said, "This situation echoes our history. Kenya and almost every African country was birthed by the ending of empire. Our borders were not of our own drawing... (But) Rather than form nations that looked ever backwards into history with a dangerous nostalgia... we chose to follow the rules... not because our borders satisfied us, but because we wanted something greater, forged in peace."

I started thinking about how that echoes the Indigenous history here.

When the European settlers arrived here, Indigenous Peoples had been thriving here for thousands of years with their own distinct cultures, languages, and ways of knowing. Most of what we now know as Canada was always Turtle Island. But the colonizers imposed their own borders, their own names for landmarks, and water ways, their own values, religions, and laws.

There were many ways that history was rewritten to exclude Indigenous Peoples contributions and presence...

So those of us here today are invested in equity, and as settlers we have a responsibility to acknowledge, understand and appreciate the reasons and truths why this land no longer belongs to our Indigenous peoples.