

Trent Lakes Public Library

Policy Type: Foundation

Policy Title: Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration

Policy Number: FN-05

Initial Policy Approval Date: 12-April-2019

Last Review/Revision Date: 2024

Year of Next Review: 2030

Policy Statement

The Trent Lakes Public Library recognizes the need to honor and embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's Indigenous population, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. This policy affirms the Library's commitment to respect, recognition, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Section 1: Territorial Acknowledgement

The Library acknowledges that its facilities and services exist on the traditional territory of the **Anishinaabe Mississauga**, adjacent to **Haudenosaunee Territory**, and within the area covered by the **Williams Treaty**. We begin all meetings, and official gatherings with the following acknowledgment:

“We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Mississauga, adjacent to Haudenosaunee Territory, and covered by the Williams Treaty. We greet and honour the original inhabitants of this land, past and present.”

The Library recognizes that territorial acknowledgement is not a ceremonial formality, but a meaningful practice to build respect, establish healthy, reciprocal relationships, and support reconciliation.

Responsibility: Library staff are responsible for incorporating this acknowledgment into meetings, programs, and public events.

Section 2: Collection Development

The Library will maintain and expand collections relating to **Indigenous cultures, languages, histories, and communities**, including:

- Materials by and about Indigenous peoples and communities
- Titles included in the **First Nation Communities Read** program
- Ongoing acquisition of contemporary and historical works reflecting Indigenous experiences

The CEO and staff will ensure that collections are **inclusive, representative, and updated regularly** to reflect community needs and Truth and Reconciliation principles.

Section 3: Services and Programming

The Library will provide:

- **Welcoming spaces** for Indigenous users and all community members
- **Cultural programming** and services that share Indigenous knowledge and perspectives
- Opportunities for learning, engagement, and cultural exchange between Indigenous and non-Indigenous patrons

Library staff are expected to deliver services in a manner that is **respectful, inclusive, and culturally sensitive**.

Section 4: Accountability and Review

- This policy shall be **reviewed every three years**, or sooner if required by legislation, community needs, or library practices.
- Progress on Indigenous collections, services, and programming will be **reported annually to the Board**.

Related Documents

- **FN-03 – Values Statement** (Trent Lakes Public Library)
- **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report**
- **First Nation Communities Read Program Materials**

FN-04 Intellectual Freedom

FN-05 Indigenous Awareness

FN-06 Diversity and Inclusion