

Muskoka Lakes Township Public Library  
LIBRARY BOARD POLICY

Policy Type: Governance Foundation	Policy Number: GF-05
Policy Title: Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration	Policy Approval Date: 12/14/21
Chairperson: V. Duke	Policy Review Date: 06/25

The Muskoka Lakes Public Library (herein after referred to as the Library) understands the need to recognize and embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's Indigenous population, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report.

### Section 1: Declaration

With this understanding, the Library acknowledges the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work. We believe that acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for Indigenous Peoples, both in the past and the present. We believe that the territorial acknowledgement is not simply a *pro forma* statement made before a meeting; but a vital *part* of the business. We believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

The Library Board will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all board meetings.

Long version:

"The Muskoka Lakes Public Library acknowledges that these lands and waters are the traditional homeland of the Ojibway (*Oh-jib-way*) Nation and the Huron/Wendat (*Huron/Whendat*) Nation, and now includes communities from the Mohawk Nation and the Metis Nation of Ontario.

Under the One Dish with One Spoon Treaty the Haudenosanee (*Haden-oh-show-nee*) Confederacy and the Anishinabe (*An-ish-i-no-boy*) peoples agreed to share and care for this territory for the benefit of future generations. We acknowledge their stewardship throughout the ages.

Short Version:

"The Muskoka Lakes Public Library acknowledges that these lands and waters are the traditional homeland of the Ojibway (*Oh-jib-way*) Nation and the Huron /Wendat (*Huron/When-dat*) Nation and now includes communities from the Mohawk Nation and the Metis (*May-tee*) Nation of Ontario. We acknowledge their stewardship throughout the ages."

## **Section 2: Collection**

The Library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio and video materials. Our collection will include titles by and about First Nation communities and will include titles presented in the First Nation Communities Read program. Our teen and adult materials will also include First Nations and Metis graphic novels, and a selection of DVDs on history, culture and native issues.

## **Section 3: Services**

The Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples, and share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons.

## **Related Documents**

MLPL GF-01 – Mission Statement  
MLPL GF-02 – Vision Statement  
MLPL GF-03 – Statement of Values  
MLPL GF-06 – Indigenous Reconciliation and Awareness  
MLPL OP-24 – Collection Development