

Muskoka Lakes Township Public Library
LIBRARY BOARD POLICY

Policy Type: Governance Foundation

Policy Number: GF-05

Policy Title: Respect and Acknowledgement
Declaration and Indigenous People

Policy Approval Date: 06/10/25

Chairperson: V. Duke

Policy Review Date: 06/29

Intent:

The Muskoka Lakes Public Library (herein after referred to as the Library) recognizes and embraces the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's diverse Indigenous population. The Library is committed to providing Library services that are accessible to Indigenous people and that recognize and promote the value of Indigenous materials and authors.

Regulations:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada identified the need to educate all Canadians about Indigenous peoples to prepare them for the important work of reconciliation.

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 Nation and the Huron/Wendat Nation, and now includes the Wahta Mohawks Nation and communities of the Metis Nation of Ontario.

Under the One Dish with One Spoon Treaty the Haudenosanee Confederacy and the Anishinabe 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 Nation and the Huron /Wendat Nation and includes the Wahta Mohawks Nation and communities of the Metis Nation of Ontario. We acknowledge their stewardship throughout the ages.”

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.

Services

The Library will:

1. provide welcoming spaces and Library services to Indigenous people, and share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons
2. engage in dialogue with the local Indigenous community to identify how to provide Library services in a meaningful way to members of the Indigenous community, including identifying opportunities to partner with Indigenous people and their community
3. ensure that the Collection Development Policy (OP-24) addresses the value of Indigenous collection materials and enables Indigenous authors and content creators to be included and highlighted.

Related Documents

MLPL GF-01 – Mission Statement
MLPL GF-02 – Vision Statement
MLPL GF-03 – Statement of Values
MLPL OP-24 – Collection Development
MLPL OP-29 - Smudging

