

Category: Foundation FN-05
Policy Name: **Respect and Acknowledgment Declaration**
Date Approved: September 24, 2018

The Lake of Bays Township Public Library (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 acknowledgments 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.

This Respect and Acknowledgment Declaration will be read at the beginning of Library Board meetings and Library events. We will read this statement with our hearts and the intention to keep the process of reconciliation on everyone's mind.

'We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, which is acknowledged by Indigenous Peoples as unceded. We acknowledge that the Indigenous Peoples have been stewards of this land since time immemorial and as such we treat the land, its plants, animals, stories and people with honour and respect. Today, this land is still home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, and we acknowledge the shared opportunity to live and work within this beautiful territory. As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous Peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.'

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, traditions, stories and history.

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.

Signature of the Chairperson _____

Document Revision Record:

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