

Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration Policy

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Policy Title: Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration	Policy Approval Date: April 2024
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The Norfolk County Public 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 Norfolk County Public 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 Norfolk County Public Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration on agendas of all meetings held by the library board. The chairperson of events and meetings may also choose to read it aloud.

“We acknowledge the many nations who call this land home. We acknowledge the Indigenous and non-Indigenous brothers and sisters who walked this land in the past and to those who walk it today, this the traditional and treaty lands of the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-nah-bay), Neutral, and Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-show-nee) peoples.

Section 2: Collection

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