



Midland Public Library

Policy Type: **Operational**
Policy Title: **Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation**

Policy Number: **OP- 21**
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Last Review/Revision Date: 2024
Year of next review: 2026

The Midland Public Library recognizes that our community exists on lands that previously belonged to Indigenous peoples. In acknowledgement of this rich history, and when appropriate the Midland Public Library Board encourages the use of the following Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement when recognizing Indigenous territory at public gatherings of the Midland Public Library, when appropriate.

The Midland Public Library Board (the Board) and Midland Public Library (the Library) understand the need to recognize and embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. This policy addresses the need to be aware of, and give due respect to, Indigenous Peoples.

Definitions:

1. First Nations means Indigenous Peoples in Canada who are not Métis or Inuit. First Nations people are original inhabitants of the land that is now Canada.
2. Indigenous Peoples means First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Commitment

With this understanding, the CEO, board and staff acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work, and;

- a) believe that acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for Indigenous Peoples, both in the past and the present.
- b) believe that a Territory Acknowledgement is not simply a pro forma statement made before a board meeting, but a vital part of the business.
- c) believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

Collections:

The library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio, and video materials. The library's collection will include titles by Indigenous authors about Indigenous

issues and communities, and in various formats and for all age groups. The library's collection will include titles presented in the 'First Nation Communities Read' program. (*collections supporting policy*)

Best Practices

The library commits to researching and adopting best practices in services to Indigenous Peoples in libraries as they are determined and disseminated by the national library community.

Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement

We're gathered on the land of the Anishinaabek, especially the Ojibwe of Beausoleil First Nation and the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, but also and traditionally the Ouendat and Haudenosaunee. We recognize the Métis nationhood, currently represented in our community by the Georgian Bay Métis Council.

We recognize what has been taken, to give us what we have. We commit to listening to and amplifying Indigenous stories and experiences, and to exercising our duty of care to each other and the land and water.