



# Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board

## Policy

<b>SECTION: FOUNDATIONAL</b>	<b>NO: FO-05</b>
<b>TITLE: Indigenous Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration</b>	<b>Date: October 2021</b>
	<b>Next Review Date: October 2024</b>

### 1.0 Policy Statement

**1.1 1** The Leeds and the Thousand Islands 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.

### 2.0 Acknowledgement of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

2.1 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library acknowledges the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and the Reconciliation Commission and will endeavor to provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples, and facilitate opportunities for sharing Indigenous culture.

### 3.0 Declaration

- 3.1 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library acknowledges the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work.
- 3.2 We believe that acknowledging territory shows recognition of, and respect for Indigenous Peoples, both in the past and the present.
- 3.3 We believe that the territorial acknowledgement is not simply a pro forma statement made before a meeting but a vital part of the business.
- 3.4 We believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.
- 3.5 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library will develop a Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration for use at library meetings or events.
- 3.6 The following Respect and Acknowledgement Declarations will be used by the Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library:

For use during normal Library business:

*"I [we] would like to begin by acknowledging with respect that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee People."*

For use at large events or special ceremonies:

*"I [we] would like to acknowledge we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee People. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land - for thousands of years. Long before today, as we gather here, there have been aboriginal peoples who have been the stewards of this place. In particular, we acknowledge the traditional territory of the Anishnabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Oneida and Haudenosaunee (St Lawrence Iroquois) peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place.*

**Related Documents:**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Calls to Action (2015).

History			
<b>Approval Date:</b>	October 20, 2021	<b>Approved by:</b>	B. Lolley
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