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Policy Type: Foundational	Number: LIB-FS-3	Approved: June 17, 2020
Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation Statement		Next Review: 2024

Purpose

The Huron County 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.

Declaration

With this understanding, the Huron County 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 acknowledgements 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 Huron County Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of special library events.

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land we stand upon today is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Neutral peoples. We recognize the First Peoples’ continued stewardship of the land and water, and that this territory was subject to the Dish with One Spoon wampum, under which multiple nations agreed to care for the land and resources by the Great Lakes in peace. We would also like to acknowledge and recognize the Upper Canada Treaties signed in regards to this land, which include Treaty #29 and Treaty #45 1/2, and our roles as treaty people, committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, gratitude, and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

Collection and Services

In order to offer welcoming spaces, services and collections to Indigenous peoples, the Library will be mindful of indigenous awareness and reconciliation when writing policies, developing procedures and planning programs and services.