

# Madawaska Valley Public Library Policy Manual

**Policy Type:** Foundational

**Policy Number:** FN-04

**Policy Title:** Indigenous Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration

**Initial Approval Date:** September 2019

**Review Date:** 2023

**Next Review Year:** 2026

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## **Objective:**

The Township of Madawaska Valley 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 and The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

## **Acknowledgement:**

With this understanding, the Library acknowledges the Indigenous 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 are 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.

## **Policy:**

The Library will use the following Indigenous Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all library board meetings:

*"We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. We recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all Indigenous peoples whose presence continues to enrich our communities."*

## **Related Documents:**

Policy Number OP-05 Collection Development

**CFLA Library & Literacy Services for Indigenous (First Nations, Métis & Inuit) Peoples of Canada Position Statement**