



Policy Name:	Truth and Reconciliation
Policy Type:	Foundation
Policy Number:	FN-05
Original Adoption Date:	April 2024
Current Approval:	April 2024
Review:	April 2027
Motion:	2024:22

Truth and Reconciliation

1. Purpose

The Orillia Public Library acknowledges the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work. We believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation. The Library engages in meaningful dialogue with Indigenous people including the Chippewas of Rama First Nation.

2. Policy

The Orillia Public Library understands the need to recognize and embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's Indigenous population, this can be done in several ways: through a territorial acknowledgement, through collections that enable Indigenous authors and content creators to be included and highlighted, through the provision of services to Indigenous people, and through partnerships with Indigenous organizations that emphasize the exchange of knowledge and learning opportunities.

3. Background

a. Declaration

During the summer of 2021, the Board's Community Relations Committee met to establish a Territory Recognition Statement. Through extensive consultation with the Chippewas of Rama First Nation the Declaration was written. The committee wanted to ensure that the declaration was meaningful and did not impose the committee's views on the people the declaration was meant to respect.

b. Collections



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At the beginning of 2020, OPL began the process of implementing Indigenous Subject Headings on the Library’s catalogue. Subject headings can reinforce and perpetuate negative stereotypes and doing so is counter to what the Library is trying to achieve with regards to inclusivity.

c. Services

In 2023 the Library committed to honouring the holiday declared for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The Library also committed to book displays and programming with this day as the focus.

d. Partnerships

In 2021 the Library entered into a Service Contract with Rama which allowed people who live on reserve access to membership at the Library. Relationship building began with cultural endeavours undertaken on the reserve and by people from the reserve as a way of exchanging information and learning from each other.

4. Procedure

Section 1 - Territorial Acknowledgement

- a. The Orillia Public Library will use this Territorial Acknowledgement at the beginning of all Board meetings.
- b. The Orillia Public Library will use this Territorial Acknowledgement during activities held at the Library when deemed appropriate.

Acknowledgment

“We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, a member of the Three Fires Confederacy, which includes the Odawa, Potawatomi, and Ojibway people. We honour them for having lived here, and cared for this land, from time immemorial. We recognize the many contributions that the Original



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People have made, and continue to make, to this region. We appreciate the opportunity to live, work and play in this beautiful place.”

Section 2 - Collection

- a. The Orillia Public Library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio and video materials.
- b. The collection will include titles by and about First Nation communities and will include titles presented in the First Nation Communities Read program.
- c. Teen and adult materials will also include First Nations, Metis, and Inuit graphic novels, and a selection of DVDs on history, culture, and Indigenous issues.
- d. Our bibliographic database will use Indigenous subject headings and descriptors as they become available.

Section 3 - Services

- a. The Orillia Public Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples and share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons.
- b. Specific activities and programming will occur around the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) as well as other important commemorative or awareness days, ie. National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People (Red Dress Day).

Section 4 - Partnerships

- a. The Orillia Public Library will seek and engage in partnerships with Indigenous organizations and organizations that specialize in services for Indigenous Peoples.



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- b. The Library will participate in First Nations Public Library Week in cooperation with the Rama Public Library.
- c. The Library will ensure that Rama students are included in all school invitations. ie. Remembrance Day Exhibit

Related Documents

- Orillia Public Library: Code of Conduct (Public) (OP-03)
- Orillia Public Library: Collection Development (OP-04)
- Orillia Public Library: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (FN-06)
- Orillia Public Library: Freedom of Expression (FN-04)
- Orillia Public Library: Programming (OP-06)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action](#)