

FN 05 Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration

Policy Type:	Foundation	Policy Number:	FN 05
		Policy Approval Date:	March 4, 2021
Policy Title:	Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration	Policy Review Date:	December 9, 2021
		Next Review Date:	December 2024

1.0 Overview

The Whitchurch-Stouffville 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. Declaration

With this understanding, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public 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 Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all Board meetings held at the Library.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville acknowledges this land is the treaty territory of the Williams Nations. It is also the traditional territory of other Anishinaabeg peoples, the Huron-Wendat, and the Haudenosaunee. We also recognize the contributions of all Indigenous peoples to this place and commit to a continued

dialogue and greater respect for the land we have come to share. This recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our community.

3. Collection

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio and video materials. Our collection will include titles by and about First Nation communities and will include titles presented in the First Nation Communities Read program. Our teen and adult materials will also include First Nations and Metis graphic novels, and a selection of DVDs on history, culture and native issues.

4. Services

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples and share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons.