



Stouffville
Library

RESPECT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DECLARATION

Policy Type: Foundation **Policy Number:** FN05 **Reviewed:** February 12, 2025

1.0 Overview

The Stouffville 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 Stouffville 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 acknowledgement 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 Stouffville Library will use the Town of Stouffville's Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all Board meetings held at the Library.

3. Collection

The Stouffville 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.

4. Services

The Stouffville Library will share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons.