

Title	Indigenous Respect and Acknowledgement Policy
Policy Number	CPL-21-28
Policy Type	Operational
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Purpose

Caledon Public Library (CPL) recognizes and embraces the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario's Indigenous peoples and acknowledges the ninety-four (94) calls to action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. CPL believes that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

Guidelines

Land Acknowledgment

CPL acknowledges the First Peoples on whose traditional territories we live, learn and work. A territorial or land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. Acknowledgement of the traditional territory upon which we all live and work offers an opportunity to pay respect to ancestral and traditional territories; be mindful of our collective role as stewards of the land; and build awareness of present-day Indigenous culture in our community. These are first steps towards reconciliation.

To this end, the following land acknowledgment has been developed in consultation with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation:

As we gather, we are reminded that the Caledon Public Library sits on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation. In particular, we acknowledge the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples.

We acknowledge the cultural injustices of the past and express our collective hope for full truth and reconciliation in the future.

On this day our meeting place is home to many Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) from across Turtle Island (North America).

We are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land, and by doing so, we give our respect to its first inhabitants.

This language will be reviewed in consultation with the Library's Indigenous partners at least once during each term of the Board as a means of ensuring the accurate spirit and intent of the acknowledgement.

Use of Acknowledgement

A territorial acknowledgement is not simply a pro forma statement made before a meeting, but a vital part of the business. This territorial acknowledgement will be used by the Board Chair, Library CEO/Chief Librarian or designates at the start of public meetings, celebrations, or other official events and programs, whether hosted in person or virtually. The acknowledgement may be printed, spoken, or displayed. This acknowledgment is also shared on the Caledon Public Library website.

More specifically, the land acknowledgement shall be shared in the following instances:

- Following the call to order of a meeting of the Library Board;
- Within the welcoming statements of the following:
 - Large, formal public meetings or gatherings,
 - Special events, galas, fund-raising events,
 - Large scale programs,
 - Grand openings or ground breakings of new or refurbished facilities or when officially launching new services or spaces;
- When a Member of Parliament (MP) and/or Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) is in attendance;
- When the Mayor and/or members of municipal Council are in attendance; and
- When aware that an Indigenous person is present at a program or event.

The land acknowledgment should not be shared by Library representatives in cases where the Library is participating as part of a larger event and an acknowledgement has previously been shared as part of the agenda.

Collections and Services

Caledon Public Library provides collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including resources for all ages and in a variety of and formats. This collection will include titles by Indigenous authors and/or about Indigenous communities, cultures, history and issues. The Library's collection will feature titles presented in the First Nation Communities Read program, as well as First Nations and Metis graphic novels. CPL will also provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples, and share elements of Indigenous culture with non-Indigenous persons through programs and events.

CPL recognizes that traditional subject headings and existing library access standards reflect colonial naming practices and will work with library vendors and other related organizations in continuing to make use of respectful subject headings in all existing and future cataloguing practices.

Indigenous Engagement

Caledon Public Library will actively work with the Town of Caledon through the Indigenous Engagement Working Group to ensure that all Library engagement with Indigenous groups aligns with Town of Caledon protocols and adheres to the Indigenous Nation and Community Engagement Process and Checklist.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) Recommended Actions

Caledon Public Library also officially acknowledges and endorses the recommended actions outlined by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations - Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques's (CFLA-FCAB) Truth and Reconciliation Committee ([Appendix A](#)).

Related Documents and Resources:

- CPL-16-12 Caledon Public Library Collection Development Policy
- CPL-18-25 Caledon Public Library Programming Policy
- Town of Caledon Indigenous Nation and Community Engagement Process and Checklist
- [CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report](#)
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

Appendix A

Recommendations of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations- Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) Truth and Reconciliation Report.

1. As CFLA-FCAB is a national voice with the ability to influence national and international policy regarding issues of importance, we request the CFLA-FCAB create a permanent Standing Committee on Indigenous Matters utilizing the medicine wheel framework developed by the Truth & Reconciliation Committee;
2. The T&R Committee supports and endorses the CFLA-FCAB Position Statement on Library and Literacy Services for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Peoples of Canada;
3. Encourage libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 94 Calls to Action, several of which have been identified as having a direct impact on libraries and archives and are prioritized in this report, and to implement a status report on a yearly basis to monitor their implementation;
4. Ensure accessibility moving forward by continually reminding stakeholders that material produced and programming planned in the future should be accessible to all Canadians. CELA (the Center for Equitable Library Access) and NNELS (the National Network for Equitable Library Service) are positioned to support these efforts.
5. Decolonize Access and Classification by addressing the structural biases in existing schemes of knowledge organization and information retrieval arising from colonialism by committing to integrating Indigenous epistemologies into cataloguing praxis and knowledge management;
6. Decolonizing Libraries and Space by recognizing and supporting Indigenous cultures, languages and knowledges through culturally appropriate space planning, interior design, signage, art installations, territorial acknowledgements of geographic-specific traditional territories and public programming in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders;
7. Enhancing opportunities for Indigenous library, archival and information professionals as well as the inclusion of Indigenous epistemologies in the Canadian library and archives profession through culturally appropriate pedagogy, recruitment practices, professional and continuing education and cross-cultural training in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders and partners;
8. Recommend the implementation of Indigenous Knowledge Protection protocols and agreements with local and other Indigenous groups who have holdings in libraries, archives

and/or cultural memory institutions to respect the Indigenous cultural concept of copyright with regard to Indigenous history or heritage, which is often located in but not limited to oral traditions, songs, dance, storytelling, anecdotes, place names, hereditary names and other forms of Indigenous knowledges; recommend that CFLA-FCAB actively participate in reforming the Canadian Copyright Act to include protection of Indigenous knowledges and languages while advocating for changes to include traditional knowledge as outlined and recommended by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/>). We join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to call upon Library and Archives Canada to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #69 (Appendix D) by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf and the Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity (2005), more commonly known as the Joinet/Orentlicher Principles <http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/impu/principles.html>;

9. Establish an online database of “living documents” to highlight existing Best Practices of Indigenous Services in libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions that will serve as a foundation to help disseminate those best practices and for this “living document” to be updated preferably on a quarterly basis but minimally semi-annually;
10. Maintain a database of Indigenous organizations or groups committed to preserving cultural memory primarily, but not limited to, libraries, archives, language preservation, cultural history/museums to build relationships; to support the development of an Indigenous association of library, archives and cultural memory institutions; and to support in principle the National Aboriginal Library Association (NALA) regarding their stated intent of developing First Nations public libraries on reserves.