
St. Marys Public Library



Policy Type: Foundational

Policy Number: FN-05

Policy Title: **Respect and
Acknowledgement
Declaration**

Policy Approval Date: July 2019

Policy Review Date: July 2023

1. Objective

The St. Marys 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. The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate respect for the traditional custodians of the St. Marys and area territory and region.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1 This policy acknowledges the custodians of the traditional land of which the St. Marys Public Library resides on; and
- 2.2 This policy outlines the implementation of the acknowledgement, including the impact to collection and services of the St. Marys Public Library.

3. Declaration

- 3.1. In the spirit and intent of Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, the St. Marys Public Library Board and its employees acknowledge the traditional indigenous territories on which we gather;
- 3.2. Recognizing the work of both the Board and employees takes place on traditional Indigenous territories in Perth County, the Board and its employees affirm that acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for Indigenous People, both in the past and the present;
- 3.3. Further to 3.2, the Board and employees believe that territorial acknowledgements is not simply a *pro forma* statement, but rather a vital part of business to emphasize the importance of inclusion and establishing healthy, reciprocal relations that are key to reconciliation; and
- 3.4. In accordance with this policy, the St. Marys Public Library Board acknowledges with gratitude and respect the traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki and Attiwonderonk nations.

4. Collection Development

- 4.1. In accordance with the Collection Development Policy, all acquisitions, whether purchased, donated or leased, are selected to meet high standards in quality, content, expression and format. Criteria include:

- a. Suitability and quality of physical form, layout and construction;
 - b. Suitability of subject and style for intended audience;
 - c. Timeliness and accuracy of the information;
 - d. Present and potential relevance to community needs;
 - e. Strengths and weaknesses of the current collection;
 - f. Demand in the community for a certain subject or title;
 - g. Purchase price and other budgetary considerations; and
- 4.2. The St. Marys Public Library, when able, will provide materials relating to indigenous cultures, languages and peoples in the library-selected formats through either the direct collection or Perth County Information Network's collection.

5. Services

- 5.1. The St. Marys Public Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples and sharing elements of First Nations cultures with non-Indigenous persons.

6. Related Documents

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, <http://www.trc.ca/>
Native Land Digital, <https://native-land.ca/territory-acknowledgement/>
Collection Development Policy, St. Marys Public Library Board

7. History

Date of Latest Board Approval: July 15th, 2019

Date(s) of Revision(s): N/A

Date of next scheduled review: July 2023