



Meaford Public Library
Land Acknowledgment Declaration
Policy-41
January 2022

The Meaford 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. It is committed to recognizing First Nations Peoples on whose traditional lands we work and live. Recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations. These relationships are key to reconciliation, a process to which the Meaford Public Library is committed.

Section 1: Definitions:

"First Nation Peoples" and "Indigenous Peoples" means the original inhabitants of the land that is now Canada and who were the first to encounter sustained European contact, settlement, and trade.

"Métis" means people of mixed European and Indigenous ancestry and one of the three recognized Aboriginal People in Canada.

Section 2: Declaration:

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.

The Meaford Public Library will recite the Land Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all special events conducted by the Library and at any general public meetings held by the Library. In addition, a copy of the Land Acknowledgement Declaration will be permanently displayed in the Library for all to see.

The following statement has been developed following consultation with local Indigenous communities:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional lands and treaty territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, which includes the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and the Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation. We also recognize the Métis whose ancestors shared this land and these waters. We extend our gratitude to all Anishinaabe and Métis peoples and their descendants, past, present and future, who continue to care for and inhabit these lands and tend these waters.

Approved: January 2022

Related Documents:

Municipality of Meaford Corporate Policy: *Land Acknowledgement October 2021*