

	BOARD POLICY	Approved Motion: 2021-58
		Review Date: Oct. 21/21

Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration Policy

The Ramara Township 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.

Declaration

With this understanding, the Ramara Township 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 recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are a key to reconciliation.

The Ramara Township Public Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of special meetings, events and programs held at the library:

Ramara Township Public Library Board acknowledges that our libraries are situated on land subject to the Williams Treaties of 1923 and Lake Simcoe Treaty No. 16. This land is the home and traditional territory of the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-in-nah-bay) and is steeped in rich Indigenous history. We thank the Anishinaabe for generations of dedicated stewardship and for recognizing the importance of honouring Indigenous history and culture. The Library is committed to moving forward in the spirit of respect and reconciliation with all First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples.

Collection

The Ramara Township 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.

Services

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