

Policy Type:	Foundation	Policy Number: FN – 05
Policy Title:	Indigenous Awareness and Respect Policy	
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FN – 05 Indigenous Awareness and Respect Policy

Purpose:

The Hanover Public Library Board (the board) and Hanover Public Library (the library) understand the need to recognize and embrace the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario’s Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report* and *The Journey Together: Ontario’s Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples*. This policy addresses the need to be aware of, and give due respect to, Indigenous Peoples.

The board and library acknowledge the Canadian Federation of Library Associations and Ontario Library Association’s Truth and Reconciliation Committee recommendations.

Definitions:

First Nations means Indigenous Peoples in Canada who are not Métis or Inuit. First Nations people are original inhabitants of the land that is now Canada.

Indigenous Peoples means First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Section 1: Territory Acknowledgement:

With this understanding, the board acknowledges the Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work. The board believes that acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for Indigenous Peoples, both in the past and the present. The board believes that a Territory Acknowledgement is not simply a *pro forma* statement made before a board meeting, but a vital *part* of the business. The board believes that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

Accordingly, the board will use a Territory Acknowledgement at the beginning of all its board meetings.

- Note 1.** Notes do not form part of this policy. Consequently, notes in this policy can be administratively revised, omitted or added without the necessity for approval by the Hanover Public Library Board (the board).
- Note 2.** After several months of internal discussion, and consultation with representatives from our First Nations and Métis communities, the board commenced using a Territory Acknowledgement at the beginning of its board meetings on and from June 24, 2021. Wording recommended by Saugeen Ojibway Nation forms the foundation of the Territory Acknowledgement. The wording of the Territory Acknowledgement may vary over time; for that reason, the wording is not set out in this policy.

Section 2: Collection:

The library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio, and video materials. The library's collection will include titles by Indigenous authors about Indigenous issues and communities, and in various formats and for all age groups. The library's collection will include titles presented in the 'First Nation Communities Read' program.

Section 3: Services:

The library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous Peoples and share elements of Indigenous culture with non-Indigenous persons. To reduce barriers to membership, First Nations people with a status card or band membership of a local First Nation, and who are living in the traditional Saugeen Ojibway Nation lands, including Treaty 45 1/2, will be entitled to free library membership (see OP-04 *Membership Policy* for more details).

The library will support Indigenous national and local events. The library strongly believes it has a critical role in educating, celebrating, and sharing information, history, culture, and issues by providing informative and educational displays, events, and activities.

Section 4: Access and classification:

The library acknowledges that there may be structural biases in library catalogue access and classification, and as new standards are developed nationally, the library will implement them (e.g. revised subject headings for Indigenous Peoples of Canada in the catalogue).

Section 5: Copyright:

The library acknowledges and respects 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 knowledge.

Section 6: Best practices:

The library commits to researching and adopting best practices in services to Indigenous Peoples in libraries as they are determined and disseminated by the national library community.

Related Documents:

Hanover Public Library, *OP-07 Collection Policy*.

Hanover Public Library, *OP-04 Membership Policy*.