



## Otonabee – South Monaghan Public Library

Policy Type: **Foundational**  
Policy Title: **Respect and Acknowledgement  
Declaration**

Policy Number: **FN – 05**  
Initial Policy Approval Date:  
Last Review/Revision Date: **Dec. 2023**  
Year of Next Review: **2027**

Chair Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Otonabee – South Monaghan 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.

### Section 1: Declaration

With this understanding, the Otonabee – South Monaghan 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 the territorial acknowledgements are not simply a *pro forma* statement made before a meeting; but a vital *part* of the business. We believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation. We acknowledge the Treaty 20 and Williams Treaty Land.

The Otonabee – South Monaghan Public Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all meetings held at the Library.

*“We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nation, which include: Alderville, Beausoleil, Curve Lake, Georgina Island, Hiawatha, Rama, and Scugog Island First Nations.*

*The Otonabee – South Monaghan Public Library respectfully acknowledges that the Williams Treaty First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.”*

### Section 2: Collection

The Otonabee – South Monaghan 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.

### Section 3: Services

The Otonabee – South Monaghan Public Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples and share elements of First Nations culture to non-Indigenous persons.