



<b>Policy Name:</b>	Land Acknowledgment		
<b>Section:</b>	Foundation	<b>Effective Date:</b>	September 23, 2021
<b>Motion Number:</b>	21-41	<b>Reviewed Date:</b>	September 23, 2021
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## Purpose

The Barrie Public Library believes in collaboration, inclusion and diversity and is committed to a journey of reconciliation by bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together. As a repository of knowledge and natural gathering place, both in person and virtually, the Library plays an important role in facilitating awareness and public education on the history and ongoing impacts of colonialism on this land, and the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples, nations, and cultures in the face of colonial violence.

Our journey of reconciliation will be guided by [the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#) and the [CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations](#).

Recognizing the land we stand on is an Indigenous protocol that has been practiced for many centuries. Researching and creating a land acknowledgment, to be shared before events, meetings, or gatherings, is an act of decolonization, gratitude and respect that recognizes the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and who are currently hosts to the gathering space.

## Land Acknowledgment

The Barrie Public Library is a gathering place where community comes together; to share stories, to explore new ideas and to consider fresh perspectives. It is through this unique position in our community that we support and promote truth and reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

The Library, and we as individuals, have a deep desire to bring about change in our community and move forward together as diverse and inclusive peoples.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg [Ah-nish-NAH-beg] people. The Anishnaabeg [Ah-nish-NAH-beg] include the Odawa [Oh-DAH-wah], Ojibwe [O-jib-we] and Pottawatomini [pow·tuh·waa·tuh·mee] nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. This land is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

The Library has a responsibility to raise awareness of the history and ongoing impacts of colonialism on this land, and to help celebrate the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples, nations, and cultures. In our shared spaces, inside and outside the Library, we will listen to and amplify Indigenous voices, inspire greater understanding, and connect people to one another and to this land.

We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect.