

	THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON LAMBTON COUNTY LIBRARY POLICY MANUAL			
	Subject:	Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation Policy	Section R02	Index #11
	Effective Date:	October 5, 2023	Approved By: Lambton County Council	
	Revision Date:	October 5, 2023		
	Drafted on:	August 2, 2023		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the Library recognizes and embraces the principles of Truth and Reconciliation with Ontario’s diverse Indigenous population.

POLICY

Lambton County Library will engage in meaningful dialogue with Indigenous people and First nation bands. Further, the Library will ensure that its services and programs are reflective of the needs of Indigenous people.

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Manager, Library Services.

REGULATIONS

1. Lambton County 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.
2. Lambton County Library makes the following declaration: Lambton County 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.

Lambton County Library will post the following acknowledgement of ancestral lands in all of its libraries and read this acknowledgement at the beginning of its meetings with external parties, all-staff meetings, and special events:

Preamble:

We acknowledge that the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg, inhabited these lands at the time of transfer to the Crown by treaty. Lambton County was part of the Huron Tract Purchase, which was transferred under Treaty #29 in 1827, and also includes lands associated with the Sombra Township Purchase transferred under Treaty #7 in 1796, and Long Woods Purchase transferred under Treaty #21 in 1819. We also acknowledge the earlier Indigenous people who travelled these lands in the time of the Wampum treaties.

We acknowledge that we are all treaty people, with our own set of rights and responsibilities. Treaties are a foundational part of our society, and the settlement of Lambton County within a treaty area was made possible through the treaty process. The existence of treaties is proof that the first settlers of what is now Canada acknowledged First Nations as sovereign people and negotiated Nation to Nation. By understanding the colonial history of Canada we can renew our relationships with each other and move towards meaningful reconciliation.

Further, it is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Today, we are part of this same land that sustains all life, and it is the sacred responsibility of all people to ensure that the environment remains protected. Finally, we acknowledge that the inherent languages of the Anishinaabeg preclude any English/French meaning.

Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands:

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Language Pronunciations:

Anishinaabeg (ah-nish-i-nah-beg)
Chippewa (chip-uh-wah)
Odawa (o-dah-wah)
Potawatomi (pot-uh-wah-tuh-mee)

3. Lambton County 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, and about, First Nation communities and will include titles presented in the First Nation Communities Read program. Teen and adult materials will also include First Nations and Metis graphic novels and a selection of DVDs on history, culture and Indigenous issues. Employees engaged in collections work will continue to be guided by Lambton County Library’s Collection Development Policy (R02.03).

4. Lambton County Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples and share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons. Employees engaged with all aspects of library services will continue to be guided by Lambton County’s Programming Policy (R06.01) and Circulation Policy (R02.02). Library spaces will be designed in accordance with the Library’s Facility Standards Policy (O04.01).

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Lambton County Library Circulation Policy (R02.02)
 Lambton County Library Collection Development Policy (R02.03)
 Lambton County Library Facility Standards Policy (O04.01)
 Lambton County Library Programming Policy (R06.01)

POLICY HISTORY

REVISION	DATE	PREPARED BY
Created	August 2, 2023	Manager, Library Services