



Land Acknowledgement Policy & Declaration

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The Lincoln Pelham 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 Lincoln Pelham 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 is not simply a pro forma statement made before a meeting; but a vital part of being an inclusive community gathering place. We believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

The Lincoln Pelham Public Library will use this Land Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all meetings held at the library.

"We acknowledge these are the traditional lands and territories of the Hatiwendaronk, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties (No. 3) and by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement.

Lincoln Pelham Public Library recognizes the contributions and stewardship of all Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. We are committed to celebrating and sharing stories from Indigenous communities and creating space for education and dialogue as we collectively acknowledge hard truths and work toward reconciliation."

Section 2: Collection

The Lincoln Pelham Public Library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio and visual materials. Our collection will include titles by and about First Nations communities and will include titles presented in the *First Nations 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: Programs and Services

The Lincoln Pelham Public Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples and invite the partnership of First Nations partners to share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons under the advisement and guidance of Indigenous member of our communities.