

Board Motion Number:	2022-32	Date of Review:	2023
Date Approved:	October 17, 2022	Chairperson's signature:	Original signed by: Chair, Marcus Ryan

## Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation Statement

### BACKGROUND

The Oxford County Library recognizes the unique knowledge, teachings, languages and cultures that have always existed on Turtle Island and the debt that Canadian settlers have to Indigenous Peoples. We wish to express our gratitude to Indigenous Peoples as fellow knowledge keepers and storytellers as well as our commitment to do the work involved in reconciliation.

Oxford County Library will seek to implement practices and policies that lead to understanding and inclusion. By doing so, the library aims to show respect to Indigenous Peoples and their cultural protocols. The library strives to decolonize library collections and services and to further the goal of reconciliation as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

### PURPOSE

Oxford County Library seeks to provide welcoming and inclusive spaces, services and collections to Indigenous peoples. The library will be mindful of Indigenous communities, individuals and the goal of reconciliation when writing policies, developing procedures and planning programs and services.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We (I) acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the ancestral lands of the Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga (Haudenosaunee), Anishinabewak, Attiwonderonk (Neutral) and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This land is shared with us through a treaty relationship governed by the Upper Canada Treaties.

As co-inhabitants of Turtle Island we are grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land. May we be careful stewards of the land like those who came before us.

### COMMITMENTS TO RECONCILIATION

Oxford County Library commits:

- To communicate with respect for Indigenous Peoples and for the land that we share
- To seek opportunities for cooperation and partnership that supports Indigenous wisdom, experiences and knowledge in the library
- To collect and organize materials that make Indigenous stories and knowledge accessible to all
- To engage staff in learning experiences that create a path for reconciliation

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- To embrace the principles as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report

Through the above expressions of recognition and respect the library seeks to endorse all treaty peoples (Indigenous Peoples and Settlers) to come to a place of reconciliation and understanding.

These statements reflect our best attempt to articulate the desire for reconciliation and will be updated as we learn and grow in the work of reconciliation.