Policy Type: **Governance**

Policy Number: GOV - 13

Policy Title: **Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation / Land Acknowledgement**

Policy Approval Date: June 2021

Policy Review Date: May 15, 2023

SEVERN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Severn Township 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.

Declaration

With this understanding, the Severn Township 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 acknowledgement is 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 a key to reconciliation.

The Severn Township Public Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all meetings held at the library.

"Good evening. We would like to start our meeting off this evening acknowledging the traditional and unceded territories of Indigenous peoples, who are stewards of these lands.

We acknowledge the Chippewas of Simcoe and Huron and the village of Gis-se-nau-se-bing (Cold River), the Ouendat, the Haudenesaunee and the Anishinaabek. We also acknowledge the Chippewa of Beausoleil First Nation and Rama First Nation.

We also recognize the Métis nationhood that also exists in the area of Tiny, Tay Penetanguishene and parts of Baxter and Byng Inlet, currently represented in our community by the Georgian Bay Métis Council.

We recognize and deeply respect their ongoing connections to these lands. These connections need to be clearly and overtly related to our collective agreement as a Nation, to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities."

Collection

The Severn Township 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.

Services

The Severn Township Public Library will provide welcoming spaces and library services to Indigenous peoples, and share elements of First Nations culture with non-Indigenous persons.