

Respect and Land Acknowledgement Declaration

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Year of Next Review: **2029**

The Port Colborne 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 Port Colborne 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 the business. We believe that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

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

Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hattiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The City of Port Colborne and the Port Colborne Public Library stand with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

Section 2: Collection

The Port Colborne Public Library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples. Our collection will include titles by and about First Nation communities, and will include titles presented in the First Nation Communities Read program.

Section 3: Services

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

Section 4: Training

Training for personnel (staff, board, and volunteers) on Indigenous cultural awareness and reconciliation efforts will be shared throughout the organization.