

## **Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration (FN-05)**

Initial Policy Approval Date: **Nov. 2019**

Last Review/Revision Date:

Year of Next Review: **2022**

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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 Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration:

*The Port Colborne Public Library acknowledges that the land on which the library is situated is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples.*

### **Section 2: Collection**

The Port Colborne Public Library will provide collections relating to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples. The 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.