

Grand Valley Public Library Policy

Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation Statement

The Grand Valley Public 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.

Grand Valley Public 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.

Declaration

With this understanding, the Grand Valley 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 are 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 Grand Valley Public Library will use this Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration at the beginning of all Library Board meetings.

We [I] would like to acknowledge that we are on the the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Haudenosaunee (**HOE day na shun ay**) people of Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. This territory is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg (**On ish KNOB eck**), and Haudenosaunee (**HOE day na shun ay**)Peoples.

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

Grand Valley Public 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
- 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.

Revised/Approved: September 2024

Revised/Approved: September 2022 (Respect and acknowledgement Declaration)

Reviewed/Approved: September 2018

Next scheduled Review: September 2028