

GRAND VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY

RESPECT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DECLARATION

Date of Review/Approval: September 12, 2018 Motion #: 7

Date of last Review:

Chairperson's Signature:

The Grand Valley 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 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 meetings held at the Library.

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.

Section 2: Collection

The Grand Valley 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.

Section 3: Services

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