



## **Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration**

The Guelph Public Library believes that recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations and are key to reconciliation.

The Guelph Public Library will walk together with our Indigenous allies to learn about one another, to provide a welcoming and safe space for people and gatherings and to support the Indigenous community in matters relating to literacy and library services. The Library will arrange, when possible, for Indigenous cultural learning opportunities for both staff and patrons.

### **Declaration**

Acknowledgements are most well received when they are expressed in the speaker's own words, spoken with sincerity and reflecting an intention relevant to the event at hand. The territorial acknowledgement is not simply a pro forma statement made before a meeting but a statement of sincere intent.

The Guelph Public Library will use the statement below, or an equivalent Acknowledgement Statement spoken in one's own words, at the beginning of all meetings held at the Library.

"As we gather, we are reminded that Guelph is situated on land steeped in rich indigenous history and currently home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people.

"Today, we acknowledge the Dish with One Spoon and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation on whose traditional territory we are meeting.

"Let us be grateful to the many generations who have come before us, as we strive to walk together on a path of mutual respect and support. May the decisions we make, and the activities we pursue, be inclusive and mindful of the many generations yet to come."