Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

Title:	Statement on Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation	
Policy Type:	Commitment Statement	**Policy Number:** CS-03
Approved By:		
Approval Date:	September 28, 2026	
Revised Dates:		

COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library acknowledges the enduring presence, histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples. Our library recognizes that we live, work and operate on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and historic Metis Council (see Appendix A). We are committed to advancing truth and reconciliation by fostering respectful relationships, promoting Indigenous voices and stories, and creating inclusive spaces for learning, reflection, and dialogue. Through collaboration with Indigenous communities, we strive to honour their knowledge systems and support ongoing education and awareness within our library and the wider community.

To this end, the Library shall:

- Consult with and invite Indigenous partners to participate in relevant projects or initiatives to ensure planning and implementation are done "in a good way" with intention and sincerity, through reciprocal and respectful relationships.
- Provide collection materials relevant to Indigenous cultures, languages, and peoples, including books, audio, and video materials as part of the Library's Anishinaabe Nowewin/Indigenous Voices project.
- Provide welcoming services to Indigenous Peoples and share elements of Indigenous culture with non-Indigenous persons. Library spaces, programs, and services will reflect truth and reconciliation efforts and calls to action.
- Support learning opportunities for the public, staff, volunteers, and the Board to foster understanding and contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

RELATED POLICIES

CS – 02 Statement on Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and accessibility
200-04 Strategic Alliances Policy
300-03 Collection Development Policy
300-05 Membership Policy
300-14 Children's Services Policy
300-20 Information Services Policy
300-21 Programming Policy
400-01 Hiring Policy
400-09 Human Rights Policy; Anti-Harassment/Discrimination/Violence

APPENDIX A

Land Acknowledgment Statement

The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library is a gathering place where community comes together; to share stories, to explore new ideas and to gain knowledge of the past. It is through this unique position in our community that we support and promote truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

We acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and is known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Ketegaunseebeee (Garden River) First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

The Library, and we as individuals, have a deep desire to bring about change in our community and move forward together as diverse and inclusive peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect.