



Land Acknowledgement Statement

Policy Number: 18-38

Policy Approval Date: April 9, 2018

Policy Review Date: April 2021

Background

The Town of Huntsville ratified the Land Acknowledgement Statement (GC-192-17) on December 19, 2017 (Resolution #321-17). Content and wording developed in consultation with Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Culture and Research Department, October 2017

The Ontario Public Library Guidelines Council released the Version 7 of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines (April 2018) which includes the mandatory *endorsement of a Respect and Acknowledgement Declaration for original Indigenous peoples of your territory.*

The Huntsville Public Library Board put forward a recommendation for a statement in 2017. At the meeting on April 9, 2018 they approved this motion:

The Huntsville Public Library Board accepts recommendation that the Board, Staff, and visitors to the Library are encouraged to use the Traditional Land Acknowledgement 2017 Statement when recognizing Indigenous territory at public gatherings of the Huntsville Public Library when appropriate (18-38).

Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement

We will begin this event (**Name the Event**) by acknowledging that we are meeting on land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning.

As settlers, we are grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land – for thousands of years.

Long before today, as we gather here, there have been Indigenous Peoples who have been the stewards of this place.

In particular, we acknowledge the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, specifically the Ojibway, Chippewa and Odawa peoples. This territory is covered by the Williams Treaty (of 1923) and the J. Collins land purchase (of 1785).

We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions First Nations, Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening this community in particular, and our province and country as a whole.

As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous people must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

NOTES: Anishnaabeg/Anishnaabek – this name covers Ojibway, Odawa, Algonquin (Huntsville), Potawatomi, Nipissing, Mississaugas, Sauteau etc. all the Algonkian/Ojibwa nations.

In Gravenhurst area: The Odawa people were in the area between Gravenhurst and Orillia. The J. Collins purchase area is Gravenhurst and south into North Simcoe. The people of Rama are Chippewa.

In Bracebridge area: Acknowledge the Ashnishnabeeg, specifically the Ojibway and Chippewa. The Treaty is the Williams Treaty

In Huntsville area, please name the Anishinaabe - Ojibway, the Chippewa - **and the Algonquin peoples.** The Treaty is the Williams Treaty.

In Bala and Muskoka Lakes, we acknowledge the Anishnabeeg (Ojibway and Chippewa) and the territory of the **Wahta Mohawk peoples.** The Treaty is the Williams Treaty.

Documents

Board Bylaws

Collection Development Policy

Planning Policy

History

Adopted by the Huntsville Public Library Board April 9, 2018 | Motion 18-38.

Town of Huntsville GC-192-17; ratified December 19, 2017, Resolution #321-17