

Land Acknowledgement used for 2019 AGM at the OLA Superconference:

As we, public libraries from across Ontario, gather together, we acknowledge this sacred land on which we operate. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years starting with the traditional custodians of this land, the indigenous people, known and unknown, ceded and unceded. We'd also like to remind and reaffirm, as Canadians, our accountability to these Indigenous nations, and to all Indigenous peoples and communities living in Ontario.

This land we stand on is also part of the Dish with One Spoon territory, a treaty between the Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-sho-nee) Confederacy (aka. The Six Nations Confederacy), the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-nah-bek) and allied nations, to peaceably share and care for this land, its waters, and all of the biodiversity in the Great Lakes region. All those who come to live and work here are responsible for honouring this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

The "Dish" or sometimes it is called the "Bowl" represents what is now southern Ontario. We all eat out of the Dish – all of us that share this territory – with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty; which includes, taking care of the land and the people and creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace. The dish is graphically represented by the wampum pictured. The use of the metaphor also predates the arrival of Europeans and was used by the [Great Peacemaker](#) and referenced in the [Great Law of Peace](#).

We are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. FOPL acknowledges the indigenous lands and treaties upon which our public libraries across Ontario prosper.

