



A painting on display at the Toronto Reference Library, gifted to TPL by Ojibway artist Sam Ash (1951-2021)

Indigenous Advisory Council

TPL's Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) was established in 2018. The IAC is comprised of community members from diverse Indigenous communities in Toronto and representatives from Indigenous service providers across the city. They provide feedback and guidance on the direction of Indigenous Initiatives at TPL.

Indigenous initiatives

As part of our response to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's \(TRC\) 94 Calls to Action \(PDF\)](#), TPL established [Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives \(PDF\)](#) in consultation with Indigenous communities. The strategies outline our commitment to Reconciliation through indigenizing our physical and online spaces, incorporating Indigenous content into our collections and programs, and educating our customers and staff on Truth and Reconciliation, residential schools and treaty relationships. TPL is a committed partner in helping the City of Toronto achieve the goals of its [Reconciliation Action Plan \(2022-2032\)](#).

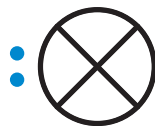
focus on Reconciliation:

TPL is committed to improved relationships with Indigenous communities to better understand our obligations and responsibilities, and to take active steps towards Reconciliation.

“The library can help through bringing in Indigenous leaders, writers, activists, artists for Indigenous folks and settlers to see and hear and learn from. Your library work matters extremely in the promotion of justice and knowledge of Indigenous people.”

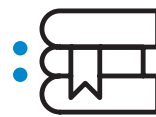
— Indigenous community member, Strategic Council Survey

2021 initiatives at a glance



2000+

participants attended 43 Indigenous programs



143%

increase in holds on 'Read Indigenous' titles



65%

of TPL staff completed Indigenous Cultural Competency Training

here's a look at some of what we've done, and what we've got planned over the life of our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

spaces

- Honouring Indigenous peoples and culture by activating branch spaces with displays, and online spaces with Indigenous content
- Recognizing our presence on Indigenous land and responsibilities to Indigenous communities by establishing TPL's Land Acknowledgement statements, including child-friendly and French versions



A poem by Marilyn Dumont (Cree and Métis) adorns the wall at St. Clair/Silverthorne branch; one example of our six branches incorporating Indigenous placemaking features.



A moccasin workshop hosted by one of TPL's first Elders in Residence.

programs

- Facilitating opportunities to build cultural awareness through year-round programming with Indigenous-led content and speakers

- Create welcoming and inclusive spaces for Indigenous communities by incorporating Indigenous names, design and placekeeping into new and renovated branches in collaboration with members of the Indigenous community in Toronto

- Include Indigenous voices across TPL program series (for example, featuring Indigenous speakers in the Environmentalist in Residence program)



A glance at must-read titles from our annual 'Read Indigenous' campaign

collections

- Helping customers discover Indigenous content by increasing collections in all 100 branches and improving their visibility
- Decolonizing TPL's cataloguing practices by adopting inclusive and Indigenous terms

staff

- Building staff awareness and capacity to support engagement with Indigenous communities through cultural awareness and training
- Advocating for Indigenous initiatives across the organization through the establishment of the Indigenous Initiatives Service Committee

what's planned

- Provide flexible and innovative learning opportunities (for example, virtual tours of Mohawk Institute Residential School)

what's planned

- Support Indigenous suppliers and grow our collections to recognize different Indigenous groups (for example, curating Anishinaabemowin collection at Spadina Road branch)

technology

- Making available Wi-Fi Hotspots and Internet Connectivity Kits to support digital access of Indigenous community members