



# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Toronto Public Library Board

January 27, 2020





# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

- 1. Respond to the TRC Calls to Action**
- 2. Inform the direction of Indigenous Initiatives at TPL**

# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Key Messages

- TPL has a role to play in the Reconciliation process by:
  - Bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in a culturally safe and relevant space
  - Helping facilitate public education and awareness on Truth and Reconciliation, residential schools and treaty relationships
- TPL's Indigenous Initiatives are relevant to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Toronto
- TPL has a responsibility for ensuring that the Library is a culturally safe and relevant space for members of Toronto Indigenous communities

# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Recommendations

1. Publicly endorse and support the TRC's 94 Calls to Action.
2. Approve and support, in principle, TPL's Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives.
3. Commit to the process of Reconciliation through long-term relationship-building and ongoing consultation with Toronto's Indigenous communities.
4. Share TPL's Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives widely with TPL staff and the library profession at large to support Reconciliation efforts of Library communities on a national scale.
5. Consider additional recommendations that emerge after these strategies have been put forth and/or implemented.



# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

1. Breaking Down Organizational Barriers
2. Indigenizing Library Spaces: Physical and Virtual
3. Incorporating Indigenous Content into TPL Programming
4. Improving Access to Indigenous Content through TPL Collections
5. Enabling and Empowering Indigenous Communities
6. Building Capacity and Staff Competency

# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Breaking Down Organizational Barriers

- Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC)
- Land acknowledgement statements
- Elder-in-Residence
- Ongoing community consultation

# Elders in Residence: Frances Whiskeychan & Patrick Etherington



# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Indigenizing Library Spaces: Physical & Virtual

- Land and treaty acknowledgment statements in public service locations
- Remove barriers to smudging
- Providing spaces for Indigenous communities
- Indigenous design and consultation in new construction projects or branch renovations
- Dedicated space on [tpl.ca](https://www.tpl.ca) for Indigenous content

# Community Consultation Albert Campbell Branch



# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Incorporating Indigenous Content into Library Programming

- Year round programming
- Indigenous-led programming
- Annual Read Indigenous campaign
- Indigenous language revitalization

# Moccasin Making Workshop led by Frances Whiskeychan



# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Improving Access to Indigenous Content through TPL Collections

- Expansion of Native Peoples' Collections to more locations
- Indigenous content in all branch collections
- Indigenous content labels
- Update cataloguing and classification practices

# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Enabling and Empowering Indigenous Communities

- Library membership to people living on reserve
- Access to e-resources to people living on reserve
- Longer loan periods

# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Building Capacity and Staff Competency

- Compulsory Indigenous Cultural Competency training
- Ongoing learning opportunities
- Staff resource portal and online discussion group
- Guidelines for engaging with Elders and Indigenous communities
- Recruitment of Indigenous staff

# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

## Contacts

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# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

Questions??



# TPL Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives

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Niá:wen  
(Thank you)