

A land acknowledgement is a statement which offers recognition, and respect, for those who originally lived on the land where we now work and reside.

We acknowledge that the Bay County Library System sits on the unceded ancestral homelands of native peoples.

Sovereign Nations lived and flourished on these lands for thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived. After the establishment of the U.S. Government, many treaties were signed with Nations across the land. Sadly, these treaties were not honored or were reneged completely. Entire tribal lands were ceded to the U.S. government and Native people were forced to live on infertile land far away from their ancestral lands. Between 1776-1887 1.5 billion acres of land across the U.S. was stolen from Native people.

Specifically, the land upon which our library system sits was first set aside for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe by the Treaty of Saginaw, 1819. Chief O-ge-maw-keke-too, one of the signers of the treaty, said to commissioner General Lewis Cass and the government representatives, "You flock to our shores. Our waters grow warm; our land melts like a cake of ice; our possessions grow smaller and smaller; the warm wave of the white man rolls in upon us and melts us away." The land was valuable and the commissioners sent by the government were tasked to do anything to get the Chiefs to put their Totems on the treaties. The treaties themselves contained so many clauses and stipulations that were designed to nullify the agreements. The land was ceded back to the US government in subsequent treaties. Treaties signed in 1855 and finally in 1864 created the current Saginaw Chippewa Indian Reservation in Isabella County and the Saganing Reservation.

We express our deepest respect and gratitude to those people past and present, to the Anishinaabek, Mississauga, Sauk, Ojibwe, Odawa and Odawatomi. We are committed to acknowledging and honoring the human history tied to this land. As part of that commitment here are some of the ways we are working on it:

Steps we have taken so far:

- BCLS hosted An Evening with Angeline Boulley on May 17 2022. Angeline Boulley is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Nation of Ojibwe in the Upper Peninsula. Check out her award winning novel [Firekeeper's Daughter](#)!
- Building a relationship with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Mount Pleasant by hosting them for various programs to educate the community of Bay County.
- Purchasing books by Native authors for our branch collections. As well as informational books about Nations here in Michigan and across the country.

Steps we invite **you** to take:

- Check out the list of resources below and visit your local branch to learn about the Native experience yesterday and today.
- Read a book by a Native author, but take it a step further by learning about the author's Nation, their history and how they are part of our community today.

Learning Resources:

Anishinabewaki ᐱᓂᑦᑭᔪᕈᖅ (Territories)

[Mississauga - Native-Land.ca](http://Mississauga-Native-Land.ca)

oθaakiiwaki · hina · ki (Sauk)

Sac and Fox Nation (Sauk)

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

Michigan Native American Authors

https://vlc.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/bwp/search/results?qu=native+american&rw=12&lm=BC&isd=true&h=1

Tribal Nations & the United States: An Introduction | NCAI

[Native Reads](#) | [First Nations Development Institute](#)

[Read Native 2021 - American Indian Library Association](#)

[Honoring Indigenous Peoples: 20 Recommended Reads](#) | The New York Public Library

[Must-Read Books by Indigenous Authors](#) | Penguin Random House

Federally Recognized Tribes in Michigan

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Ojibwe.net

<http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/aboutus/brochures.htm>