

OAKVILLE GALLERIES' DECLARATION OF TRUTH & ALLYSHIP

We, the Oakville Galleries, recognize the Indigenous perspective of our shared Treaties and history of the land which makes up the Town of Oakville. We recognize that we must strive to honour our Treaty responsibilities and live in good relation with one another founded on the principles of reciprocity, respect, and renewal.

Treaties and treaty relationships can be part of the fabric of our society, but only if we respect them in the spirit in which they were intended: as agreements for friendship, peace and respect, renewal through all generations and with the purpose of protection of lands with benefits to all. The phrase, “we are all Treaty people”, includes us all – Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and it means that we all have a role to play.

This pledge represents the part Oakville Galleries will play on an ongoing basis from this day forward. Joining the Oakville Community Foundation and others we will work, each in our own way, and together build a much stronger and more inclusive Canada.

We, Oakville Galleries, will act by ...

- 1) Seeking opportunities to learn about the Treaty territories, including the traditional territories of First Nations;
- 2) Building relationships with Indigenous peoples upon whose traditional territories we live and work;
- 3) Sharing our voices and our resources to include and benefit Indigenous peoples;
- 4) Sharing our learnings and understandings within the context of our work, in policy and practice, to honour and respect these relationships;
- 5) Reviewing the works in our collection that have been created by Indigenous artists to better understand them and to share our learnings about them with others;
- 6) Exploring new opportunities, as they pertain to the work of Oakville Galleries as art exhibitors and educators, that can support the spirit and intent of Treaty relationships more broadly.

Our signature is a call to action inviting others to join in moving forward in an atmosphere of understanding, dignity and respect towards the shared goal of reconciliation.

Approved by the Board of Directors, Oakville Galleries, January 31, 2023