

Feature Articles - Truth and Reconciliation Initiatives

Reconciliation Initiative at the Annapolis Royal Library

Michelle De Agostini, Branch Manager of the Annapolis Royal Library

The Beyond Oqwa'titek Reconciliation Pledge and Signature Register were created by **Bill MacDonald**, who is a former mayor of the Town of Annapolis Royal.

Mr. MacDonald has had extensive experience leading initiatives which promote diversity and inclusiveness. During his time as mayor, Mr. MacDonald worked in partnership with Bear River First Nation to develop the Oqwa'titek Amphitheatre, marking it as a place of Mi'kmaw history and heritage, and from which the Beyond Oqwa'titek reconciliation initiative was inspired. As part of the Town of Annapolis Royal's reconciliation initiative, the Beyond Oqwa'titek Reconciliation Pledge and Signature Register was created as an opportunity for people in the community to begin their own journey of reconciliation by pledging to increase their cultural awareness, and Mr. MacDonald personally asked the Annapolis Royal Library if they would host the Reconciliation Pledge and Signature Register.

In his own words about this initiative, Mr. MacDonald stated:

People often ask what they can do as individuals to support reconciliation. As a personal act of reconciliation, you can pledge to become a change maker by increasing your cultural awareness and understanding - to become a better ally and deepen your relationships with indigenous people.

The Beyond Oqwa'titek Reconciliation Pledge and Signature Register are now available for signing at the Annapolis Royal Library. A postcard 5x7 copy of the Reconciliation Pledge is provided to every person who signs the pledge.

