

Ontario Public Library

Guidelines

Fourth Edition

For First Nation Public Libraries

Ontario
Public Library
Guidelines
Monitoring and
Accreditation Council



Conseil de l'agrément
et du contrôle des Lignes
directrices pour les
bibliothèques publiques
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Ontario Library Service-North

334 Regent Street

Sudbury, Ontario

Canada P3C 4E2

Telephone (705) 675-6467

Fax (705) 675-2285

<http://www.olsn.ca>

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Contents**Page**

I.	Introduction	1
II.	How the Guidelines May be Used	4
III.	Guidelines Checklist	7
Appendix A	Support and Resources	
Appendix B	Aids to Measurement	
Appendix C	Core Reference Tools	
Appendix D	Meeting the Community Analysis Requirements of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines	

Background

The Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council is pleased to present the Fourth Edition of the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines* on this tenth anniversary of the first publication in 1997.

The guidelines presented represent community-based norms for public libraries and public library development in Ontario. They are developed, monitored and revised by a broadly-based group, representative of the Ontario public library community.

The *Guidelines* aim to assist public libraries in developing and maintaining consistently strong public library service. They provide public library boards, managers and staff and local governments with up-to-date public library guidelines on policies, resources and services.

The *Ontario Public Library Guidelines* program provides an accreditation process to recognize the achievement of public libraries that meet the program's requirements. The *Guidelines* offer voluntary standards that individual public libraries can choose to follow or exceed, regardless of whether or not they decide to pursue accreditation.

With the publication of the Fourth Edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines, a version has been produced for the first time specifically for use by Ontario's First Nation public libraries. This new version is a response to requests from the First Nation public library community in Ontario for library guidelines that better reflect a First Nation public library context. Differences between the original version of the Guidelines, for municipal and county libraries, and the First Nation version relate primarily to terminology and governance structure. Changes have been kept to a minimum in order to preserve the guidelines' original weight and value.