

Dear friends of Biblioterre,

This is a call-out to Settler-Canadians (non-Indigenous peoples living in Canada who benefit from settler colonialism) who wish to participate in a tangible action to acknowledge Indigenous rights to their traditional land. Biblioterre is a land library cooperative aspiring to demonstrate ecologically sustainable and equitable ways of living, with respect for inherent Indigenous sovereignty and cultural revitalization, and with responsibility towards all life on earth. We aim to provide a land base for projects that are aligned with our vision while helping people to explore their role in nature. To achieve this, Biblioterre is working to purchase 709 acres of arable and forested land in Algonquin Anishinaabeg territory, near the Te-nagàdino-zìbi (Gatineau River) in 2020. In order to do so, we need your help.

In acknowledgement of unceded Algonquin traditional territory, and in gratitude for the land on which Biblioterre hopes to reside, Biblioterre intends to make available one half of our future land for Algonquin leadership and use (with openness to people from other Indigenous backgrounds), while Biblioterre provides a supportive role and responsibility for all land fees and taxes. As the land is being purchased through a long term mortgage, Biblioterre will technically “own” the land. However, it will be considered sovereign in spirit, practice, and, potentially in the future, legally. This means that any Biblioterre policies or agreements will not apply to this space, and that Settler-Canadians, including members of Biblioterre, may only access this space given explicit invitation by the Indigenous people involved in the land return project.

Biblioterre has been consulting with Indigenous advisors and friends, and has issued an ongoing call-out for project leaders and participants who are interested in accessing this land and building a trusting relationship with members of Biblioterre. We intend to facilitate a team of people who wish to prioritize the revitalization of their traditional culture, values, languages, and land-based relationships, and who could make decisions together and guide the direction of the project moving forward.

Once the land is purchased, Biblioterre will involve the above mentioned collaborators in the consenting decision over how the land will be divided, and discuss the boundaries of this land as necessary over time. Biblioterre will also maintain an “Allyship Circle” that may facilitate the scheduling and access to the sovereign space and/or will support the formation of an independent governance group of project leaders who may make decisions around land access, scheduling and more.

We believe that this project has the potential to be a model for Settler-Canadians to move from words into actions when it comes to Indigenous traditional land acknowledgements, towards returning what has been taken; and, supporting healing and celebration of Indigenous individuals, communities and cultures through connections to the land.

The asking price for the 709 acre property that Biblioterre is interested in is \$1,356,600. The buildings onsite, which Biblioterre needs to use in order to make this project functional, have been assessed at \$233,400. Thus the asking price for the “sovereign space”, half the raw land (354.5 acres), is \$561,600. We are asking for donations from Settler-Canadians so that we may purchase this property. In order to make donations symbolically reflected by the price of the land, we are asking that they be made in the following increments:

- 1/4 acre: \$396
- 1/2 acre: \$792
- 1 acre: \$1,584;
- 2.5 acres: \$3,960;
- 5 acres: \$7,921;
- 10 acres: \$15,842;
- 25 acres: \$39,605.

Your donation will come with a letter of acknowledgement of your donation, honorable mention on our website (if you so choose), and immense gratitude. You may send your donation via e-transfer to coop.biblioterre@gmail.com, PayPal on our website (www.biblioterre.ca), or write a cheque to Cooperative Biblioterre. Please note that should the purchase of this particular piece of land not go through, we will offer donors the options of either being reimbursed (minus transaction fees) or putting their donations toward another piece of land. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of Biblioterre, please send us an email at coop.biblioterre@gmail.com and we will get in touch with you.

Our deepest thank yous for your consideration and/or donation,

Biblioterre