The annual OLS - North fall conference took a new turn this year, hosting a brand new program at the September event. Under the theme, “The Human Side of Libraries”, the conference offered plenty of opportunity for library-sharing and peer-learning, with a full-day symposium dedicated to the topic of human resources. Participants met in focus groups that allowed them to discuss elements of library operations that dealt specifically with matters involving management, staffing, HR policies, training and succession planning, among other topics.

The First Nations focus group identified many of the unique strengths and challenges that arise in their communities, as well as potential resolutions. The discussions highlighted the similarities that exist in many of our communities, which gave participants a better sense of connection with their peers. It also encouraged librarians to branch out of their routine mindsets and consider new approaches to administrative responsibilities and new opportunities for developing programs and services.

On the final day of the conference, delegates participated in an experiential knowledge-circuit, which offered exhibits, demonstrations and one-on-one counselling with several different vendors. Among numerous activity stations, the First Nation Languages Portal was on display, while others demonstrated high-tech gear including robotics, Minecraft and green screens. Participants had the opportunity to consult with legal advisors, human resources and marketing experts, as well as life coaches, including Nipissing First Nation Elder Peter Beaucage. As the Elder-in-house, Peter closed the conference with an enlightening teaching about the first books of Indigenous peoples, and a travelling song.
FIRST NATION PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

UPDATES FROM THE SOUTH

Two new librarians have been welcomed in the south over the summer and fall. Cheryne Roote joined the Beausoleil First Nation Public Library as Chimnissing’s new librarian in April, and Cynthia Tribe has been appointed as the new librarian at Chippewas of the Thames. Sherry Lawson has also returned to Mnjikaning Public Library (Rama) after an extended leave. Welcome (and welcome back) ladies!

This year’s southern fall gathering was hosted by Shannon Catherwood, who is the librarian at Alderville First Nation. The two-day gathering included a workshop led by Ministry representatives, which focused on the Public Library Operating Grant/First Nation Salary Subsidy and the Annual Survey of Public Libraries. It was a very informative and helpful session.

Allyson Fox, an advisor from SOLS, also conducted a CEO Consultation to better gauge the specific training needs of First Nation librarians. This consultation will assist SOLS with the planning and development of future training opportunities. The fall gathering was a welcome retreat and the librarians enjoyed getting together to share their stories, successes and challenges.

The 2017 preparations for First Nation Communities Read are well underway. Please visit page 4 for more details!

AN EVENING WITH KENN PITAWANAKWAT

The Wikwemikong Public Library was approached in September to host a book launch event with local author Kenn Pitawanakwat. His self-published memoir, “When My Son Died,” is a gripping, personal account of his struggles with grief through language and ceremony. The small, intimate event was held October 5, with a dozen community members, mental health professionals and local media. Moments prior to the event, attendees took the opportunity to discuss the themes of Pitawanakwat’s book, describing their personal experiences with loss and culture. Pitawanakwat described his story, highlighting the importance of community and love when faced with great loss.

While the focus was on his personal experience, Pitawanakwat also touched on the topic of colonialism and loss of traditions. During a question and answer period, the floor was opened up to group discussions with attendees, regarding their knowledge of grief and the Anishinabek culture. The group also talked about the importance of helping the Anishinabek youth who currently lack the skills to handle grief and the intense emotions that come with it. Participants gratefully acknowledged the openness and transparency of the author. Pitawanakwat then brought forward an idea and willingness to create a fresh support system for youth and community members in crisis with grief. Even with a small and intimate group of participants, the evening, the conversations and the networking environment were all major successes for the library and community.

“When My Son Died”, Kenn’s self-published novel, was available for purchase at the event. The author’s wife, Lorraine Pitawanakwat (left), was at the event in support of Kenn’s book talk.
In September 2016, Christina Beaucage departed from her position as Nipissing First Nation’s librarian, in pursuit of continued education. As the public librarian for more than four years, Christina’s contributions to the library were notable. Her passion for the library, her dedication to patrons and her willingness to advocate for improved services contributed to the many successes the library has achieved in recent years.

Christina consistently worked to create partnerships within the community, regularly teaming with other departments and organizations to develop programs and activities. She enjoyed partnering with others because of the many benefits it offers to both the library and the community. In addition to enhancing the value of the programs, Christina believes partnerships also lighten workloads, increase attendance, eliminate duplicate programs in the community, and ease financial burdens with cost-sharing.

Within the community, the library has built partnerships with the Nipissing Food Bank, Social Wellness, Native Child Welfare, the Culture Centre and Band Administration, among others. Together, these partnerships provide a variety of programming to patrons, including magic shows, movie nights, craft sessions, summer camps and Ojibwe language camps.

The library also partners annually with the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board to ensure that Indigenous culture is included in school curriculum. In this partnership, Christina worked collaboratively with local schools to offer literacy, art, history, modern culture, and Indigenous awareness programs. Teacher and student retreats focusing on Indigenous awareness are also organized by the school board annually, with the assistance of Nipissing First Nation Public Library and the Culture Centre.

In addition to creating partnerships through the library, Christina was also a strong advocate for First Nation Public Libraries. Her contributions to multiple committees with Ontario Library Service - North were welcomed every year, and Christina quickly became known to her peers as a motivated and inspirational librarian. A wife, mother of two and an active community member, Christina’s role as the librarian often reached beyond the walls of the library, extending out to the community through her strong example of culture and community-based living.

Her absence within the First Nation public library community will be felt by many, but we wish Christina good spirits and success on her new path.

Baa maa pii Christina!
FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK

The planning committee has met and work is well underway for the 2017 celebration of First Nations Public Library Week. Information regarding this year’s theme and dates has been sent to all First Nation public libraries. Be sure to vote for your preferred theme by Friday, October 28, 2016.

2016-2017 Committee

Beverly Bressette
Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point

Virginia McKenzie
Temagami First Nation

Cynthia Tribe
Chippewas of the Thames

Voting can be completed at the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S5BM7XD

You can also keep informed on the FNPL Week website at:

www.olsn.ca/fnplw

FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES READ
2016-2017

The 2017-2018 First Nation Communities Read selections will honour young adult and adult titles from First Nation, Metis, and Inuit authors, illustrators, publishers, etc. In November, First Nation Communities Read will distribute its annual call for title nominations.

If you know an author or illustrator who has recently published, please let them know about this award so that they or their publisher can nominate the title.

First Nation public libraries can participate in the program by reviewing the program’s participation checklist and by undertaking as many activities as possible. You can also participate as a jury member for the final title selections!

The FNCR committee is currently seeking three jurors from northern FNPLs to complete the jury panel. Responsibilities include participating in teleconference meetings and reading the nominated titles. Jurors receive all of the nominated titles to add to their library collections, as well as a trip to Toronto for the award presentation.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.sols.org/index.php/fn-communities-read
or contact:
Nancy Cooper, FNCR coordinator
ncoop@sols.org

STRATEGIC ACTION GROUP

The First Nations Strategic Action Group coordinates the development and execution of key goals and initiatives that support the growth and sustainability of Ontario First Nation public libraries.

Virtual meetings occur quarterly, and the group focuses on issues that primarily affect areas such as financial sustainability, strategic planning, advocacy, etc.

Your SAG representatives for the current term (ending May 2017) are:

Karen Foster
Chippewas of Georgina Island

Sheri Mishibinijima
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve

Sabrina Saunders
Six Nations of the Grand River

Chelsie Sousa
Shawanaga First Nation

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**I Am Not A Number**  
Ages 7-11, Grade 3 +  
Based on the life of co-author Jenny Kay Dupuis’ grandmother, *I Am Not a Number* is a hugely necessary book that brings a terrible part of Canada’s history to light in a way that children can learn from and relate to. When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened, and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from, despite the efforts of the nuns who are in charge at the school and who tell her that she is not to use her own name but instead use the number they have assigned to her. When she goes home for summer holidays, Irene’s parents decide never to send her and her brothers away again. But where will they hide? And what will happen when her parents disobey the law?

**The Break**  
Adult Fiction  
Katherena Vermette returns to her hometown in her debut novel *The Break*, which has been nominated for the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize and Governor General’s Literary Award. *The Break* unfolds in the aftermath of a violent assault on a young indigenous girl, and drifts between the voices of women in the neighbourhood. Vermette describes her attempts to dispel the stereotype of Winnipeg’s so-called “bad” neighbourhood and showcases the richness and beauty in its residents. To read the full interview with Katherena, please visit:  

**INDIGENOUS READS**  
CBC has created a reading list for Indigenous Book Club Month that was launched in June. You can check out these titles, and even listen to author interviews on CBC. Share your reads on social media using the hashtag #IndigenousReads!  

*Islands of Decolonial Love* by Leanne Simpson  
*Monkey Beach* by Eden Robinson  
*The Reason You Walk* by Wab Kinew  
*The Pemmican Eaters* by Marilyn Dumont  
*North End Love Songs* by Katherena Vermette  
*Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese  
*The Orenda* by Joseph Boyden  
*The Lesser Blessed* by Richard Van Camp  
*Birdie* by Tracey Lindberg  
*The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King  
*Celia’s Song* by Lee Maracle  
*Up Ghost River* by Edmund Metatawabin and Alexandra Shimo  
*Un/inhabited* by Jordan Abel  
*The Red Files* by Lisa Bird Wilson  
*The Right to Be Cold* by Sheila Watt-Cloutier
ANNUAL SURVEY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The annual survey is currently open. Using your Go-Secure account, you can begin your survey today.

Survey Deadline
Monday October 31, 2016

Please contact your ministry representatives for assistance:

Adam Haviaras
adam.haviaras@ontario.ca
416 314-7158

Rod Sawyer
rod.sawyer@ontario.ca
416-314-7627

OLS - North and SOLS advisors are also available for Annual Survey inquiries. Please contact:

Rashed Ahmad
rahmad@olsn.ca
1-800-461-6348 ext. 227

Nancy Cooper
ncooper@sols.org
1-800-387-5765 ext. 5194

View an instructional presentation:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7LwRMb5g73eaWpYV2dIRUg4aTg

THE HEALING FUND

The Healing Fund supports grassroots projects that are First Nation initiated and community-oriented. It is not intended for building projects, salaries and wages, or purchases of furniture or capital equipment.

The fund was established in 1994 by the United Church of Canada. It offers financial support to grassroots projects that focus on healing and reconciliation. The Healing Fund Council, with representatives from the All Native Circle Conference, British Columbia Native Ministries, and Ontario/Quebec Native Ministries, seeks to represent the diversity of Indigenous communities across the country.

Upcoming Application Deadline:
MARCH 15, 2017

More information can be found at:

SPRING GATHERING 2017
FIRST NATION PUBLIC LIBRARIES


Dates and location have not been confirmed, pending approval of the proposal.

More information will be provided to FNPLs as it becomes available.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPERATING GRANT
&
FIRST NATION SALARY SUPPLEMENT

The deadline for applications to the Public Library Operating Grant is October 31, 2016. Applications can be completed using your ONe-Key login via Grants Ontario.

For assistance with your applications, please contact your OLS First Nation advisors (contacts found above) or the Grants Ontario technical support service at:

grantsontariocs@ontario.ca
Toll Free: 1-855-216-3090
RASHED & ANDREA ON THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SUMMARY

Rashed learned that...
1. Many residential school students never progressed beyond elementary school. The commission has heard many examples of students who attended schools for eight or more years, but left with nothing more than third grade achievement, and sometimes without the ability to read. *(p.193 of the TRC Summary Report)*

2. Studies with Aboriginal prison inmates have confirmed that culture and spirituality can contribute to the healing of inmates, increase self-esteem, and reflect positive changes in lifestyle that make release and reintegration a real possibility. *(p.222 of the TRC Summary Report)*

3. In 2010, Canada endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People as a “non-legally binding aspirational document.” Despite this endorsement, the commission believes that the Declaration does not currently enjoy government acceptance. *(p.185 of the TRC Summary Report)*

Andrea was inspired by...
1. The resiliency and strength of many survivors in becoming strong Indigenous role models for our youth and reclaiming their language and culture, despite the boundless efforts of colonialism.

2. The grassroots movements of survivors to bring the organizations, institutions and individuals responsible for abuse to justice. By 2006, Canada finally responded to more than 18,000 lawsuits with the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. *(p.131 of the TRC Summary Report)*

3. The importance of youth involvement in education and reconciliation. The TRC believes that youth must be consulted and remain a strong voice, both in policy and practice. Education days and youth dialogues are critical to reconciliation. *(p.294 of the TRC Summary Report)*

An electronic copy of the Truth and Reconciliation Summary Report can be viewed here: http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Exec_Summary_2015_05_31_web_0.pdf

FOREST OF READING

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program. This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their school or public library. All Ontarians are invited to participate via their local public library, school library, or individually. The shortlist of nominations has been released and program members can now vote on their favourite books!

REGISTER TODAY!
Registration for the 2017 program is now open, and the registration fee for First Nation public libraries has been waived in order to make the program more affordable and feasible for First Nations participants. To register your library, please visit the Forest of Reading website at: http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/Forest_of_Reading/Registration/OLA/Forest_of_Reading/Registration.aspx?hkey=8e0d044f-1b8d-4346-a69a-a6d60c37a3d2.
LEARN HQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Nations Reconciliation

Nancy Cooper will host a free webinar focused on the findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She will also discuss suggestions for those interested in being actively involved with reconciliation in their workplaces and communities.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3
2-3 PM (eastern time)

Everyone is welcome to attend this one-hour online event. Registration through Learn HQ is required to participate. Please register in advance at the following location:

http://learnhq.ca/elm/One.aspx?objectId=8285093&contextId=3122765&catalogId=0&categoryId=0

THE STORYBOOT SCHOOL

Manitoba Mukluks has partnered with the Treadright Foundation to create a special program at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto. The program, called The Storyboot School, is a six-week course that brings together Indigenous artists, Elders, and students to learn the traditional ways of making mukluks, through knowledge-sharing and storytelling. The Storyboot School has been highly acclaimed for preserving and revitalizing Indigenous knowledge and tradition. The program’s unique way of connecting its participants with Indigenous culture is believed by many to be a true example of reconciliation.

For more information on the storytelling project, please visit:

http://www.manitobah.ca/pages/storybootschool