The 2017 Joint Spring Gathering held in North Bay on May 9, 10 and 11 brought together northern and southern Ontario First Nation public librarians. There were 25 delegates comprised of librarians and library supporters in attendance. Librarians were encouraged to invite a guest from their community for the second day. For the librarians who were unable to make it we missed you!

The annual spring gathering provides an opportunity for specified training in library and culture-related topics. The event allows librarians to network with each other and discuss general issues of interest. The agenda for this year’s gathering was determined by the First Nation Strategic Action Group. Elder Larry McLeod of the Nipissing First Nation provided opening and closing ceremonies and medicine wheel teachings. Presentations given at the Spring Gathering will be available on the OLS - North website.

Business Meeting
A meeting was held on the first morning with two key decisions made. Librarians decided that First Nation Public Library Week will be moved from February 2018 to the first week in October 2018 to coincide with Canada Public Library Week. They also decided that the 2018 Spring Gathering will be a joint one of all the First Nation Public Libraries in Ontario.

Ministry Update
Sarah Hahn, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport provided an update on Ontario’s culture strategy and the First Nations Needs Assessment. A walkthrough of the Annual Survey of Public Libraries, the Public Libraries Operating Grant and salary subsidy, and One-Key Grants Ontario was given by Rod Sawyer and Heather Allen.

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Vendors Update
For the duration of the day, vendors showcased their services available to First Nation libraries. Vendors included the Archives Association of Ontario, GoodMinds.com, Ignite and Saunders Book Company. Librarians had the opportunity to purchase books and place orders.

Banquet
A friendship banquet was held in the evening where the 2017 First Nation Public Library Week original painting was drawn. Congratulations to the Shawanaga First Nation Public Library! Due to generous donations, tables were set up during the banquet and librarians were invited to take books for their collection.

Literacy Programming in Your Community
Panelists Karen Foster, Chippewas of Georgina Island and Connie Freeman, M’Chigeeng shared their experiences.

First Nation Library Governance/Different Communities
Different Models
The session was delivered by Patricia Big Canoe, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Don Lynch, Six Nations Public Library and Colleen Eshkakogan, Sagamok.

What’s Happening for First Nation Libraries
Darlene Naponse, Ontario Arts Council provided information on the recently launched Indigenous Culture Fund. Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director of the Ontario Library Association, explained the services available to First Nation public libraries.

Guidelines
Steven Kraus from OLS – North and Sabrina Saunders from Six Nations Public Library, both members of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Council, provided an information session on First Nation Library Accreditation and how the guidelines could benefit First Nation libraries.

Roundtable
A discussion of librarians and community leaders moving forward was held at the end of the day.

JASI
Brian Alberton was available at the end of the day to answer questions about JASI.

Northern Values Study
Jude Ortiz, Nordik Institute and Sheri Mishibinijima, Wikwemikong First Nation Public Library provided an update on this OLCF funded project which will help libraries quantify their community impact with economic relevance. This is meant to assist the library in maintaining and increasing community and local administration support.
June is National Aboriginal History Month. This started in 2009 with the passing of a unanimous motion in the House of Commons and is a time “to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.” To commemorate this event, CBC Docs has compiled a list of must-watch indigenous documentaries that are available on their website.

SHORT DOCS

This River
When the body of a 14-year-old girl was pulled from Winnipeg’s Red River in 2014, it sparked a public outcry and renewed calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. It also galvanized a small group of Winnipeg citizens who took action and formed Drag the Red. This film follows the volunteers who search the Red River and its banks for clues that might answer some of the questions surrounding the disappearances and murders.

Jaat Sdiïhltl’lx: Woman Who Returns
Heather didn’t know she was Haida until she was 16. After visiting Haida Gwaii many times over the next twenty years, Heather realized she wanted to join her clan and receive her Haida name. This film follows her journey home.

Peace River Rising
Helen Knott, Dane-Zaa/Nehiyaw social worker, poet, and activist, explores the connection between violence against Indigenous women and violence against the land. She tracks some of the dramatic changes she has witnessed in her home territory. From woodlands that have turned to pipelines and industrial contaminations. She leaves us with a deeper perspective into why she does the work she does — and her hopes for a new world.

Tshiuetin
Climb aboard one of Canada’s only First Nations-owned railways for a breathtaking train journey through Northern Quebec and Labrador.

FULL-LENGTH DOCS

Colonization Road
Ryan McMahon, an Anishinaabe comedian, travels across Ontario learning about Colonization Roads, the ways in which they have dispossessed Indigenous people of land and access to traditional territories while creating space for settlers in the colonial experiment that has become Canada.

The Oka Legacy
In the summer of 1990, all eyes were on the small town of Oka for a standoff between the Mohawk people of Kanehsatake, Quebec police, and eventually the Canadian army. The town of Oka’s plans to expand a golf course onto un-ceded Mohawk land triggered the violent clash. Mohawk filmmaker Sonia Bonspille Boileau retraces the events that took place in her hometown in 1990 by talking with people who lived through the events.

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FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES READ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to GoodMinds.com on being selected as the vendor for the First Nations Communities Read!

Congratulations to Carol Daniels author of Bearskin Diary! See page 5 for details.

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

STRATEGIC ACTION GROUP

Thanks to all the First Nation librarians and presenters who made Spring Gathering 2017 a success!

We are once again planning for a joint gathering for 2018.

If you have session suggestions, presenter recommendations or feedback for the next gathering, please contact your First Nation Strategic Action Group member.

Karen Foster, Sheri Mishibinijima & Sabrina Saunders

NEW DATE SET FOR FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK!

The First Nations Public Library Week will be held the first week in October 2018. The date change coincides with Canadian Library Month held every October.

If you are interested in sitting on the First Nation Public Library Committee let us know. We need another northern representative!

To date, we have librarians from Chippewas of the Thames, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point, Bjwekewong and Temagami First Nations.

The Shawanaga First Nation Public Library won the 2017 original artwork created by Debbie Jackson of Wasauksing
2017 Shortlisted Titles

**English Fiction**
- Chalk – Doug Diaczuk
- Wenjack – Joseph Boyden
- Grace and the Secret Vault – Ruth Latta
- Somewhere Picking Dandelions – Diana Douglas
- Rule of Seconds – Shawna Diane Partridge

**Louise de Kiriline Lawrence (English Nonfiction)**
- Killarney – Gustav A. Richar
- The Dependent – Danielle Daniel
- The Reason You Walk – Wab Kinew
- Alone Against the North – Adam Shoalts

**Bearskin Diary**

Bearskin Diary by Carol Daniels is the 2017-18 selected title for First Nations Communities Read program and the recipient of this year’s Periodical Marketers of Canada Aboriginal Literature Award. *Bearskin Diary* is published by Nightwood Editions.

This annual award of $5,000 will be presented to Carol Daniels on Wednesday, June 28 as part of the National Aboriginal Day celebrations in Toronto.

Sources:
- [http://www.richardwagameseauthor.com/about.html](http://www.richardwagameseauthor.com/about.html)
Hidden Gems: Finding and Creating Value in Libraries

September 26, 27 and 28, 2017
Radisson Hotel, Sudbury

Online registration for Conference 2017 is now open
at www.olsn.ca/conference

For further information please contact Nicholas Thibert at 1-800-461-6348 ext. 212
The Truth and Reconciliation Report had 94 calls to action, with Call 69 directly referring to libraries

*Library and Archives Canada must respect and respond to the inalienable right of Indigenous peoples to know the truth of residential school experience and legacy*.¹

This speaks to how all libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions in Canada can participate in reconciliation efforts. The recently formed Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) created a Truth and Reconciliation Committee made up of 42 representatives from every province and territory in Canada. This committee submitted a Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations on April 24, 2017.

The Committee was organized by utilizing and adapting the medicine wheel framework under the guidance of Elders Norman Meade and Marlene Kayseas. The report created by this committee is meant as a snapshot of where they are, and is meant to be updated as more information becomes available. The Committee divided into four teams with the following responsibilities² as illustrated on the medicine wheel.


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SALT CAN BE GOOD FOR EVERYONE!

SALT is an acronym for Supporting Aboriginal Libraries Today. It is a fund recently established by GoodMinds.com, an Aboriginal owned book seller located on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Ten per cent of net book sales will be contributed to the fund which will assist aboriginal communities to improve their libraries or create libraries where none currently exist.

Six Nations, which is also the home of GoodMinds.com, is the first community to benefit from the SALT fund, as it strives to build a new library and archival repository. Many historic books and documents are being kept in less than ideal conditions. With the assistance of SALT, along with other contributions, that facility will be realized.

Further information and a short video are available on the GoodMinds.com website at http://www.goodminds.com/salt-contributions.

SALT is a great idea that will provide real contributions to aboriginal communities.

Source: http://www.goodminds.com/sites/default/files/media/SALT_Article_Don_Lynch_author2.pdf

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY MONTH CONTINUED

Trapped in a Human Zoo
This documentary retells the story of eight Inuit who came from Labrador in 1880 to Europe, lured by promises of adventures and wealth, only to realize they had been trapped in a world that time has today forgotten; the world of human zoos. Thirty-five thousand indigenous people from around the world were recruited for these zoos. Author France Rivet and Inuit Elder Johannes Lampe, uncover the mystery of their disappearance as they discover the remains of five members of the group in Paris.

8th Fire
8th fire is a special four-part series that highlights the 500-year-old relationship with Indigenous peoples — a relationship still mired in colonialism, conflict, and denial.

Source: http://www.cbc.ca/firsthand/features/10-indigenous-films-to-celebrate-national-aboriginal-day