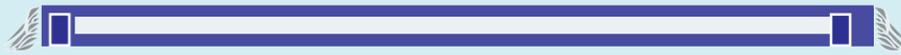




Maziniigan

Connecting Ontario First Nation Public Libraries



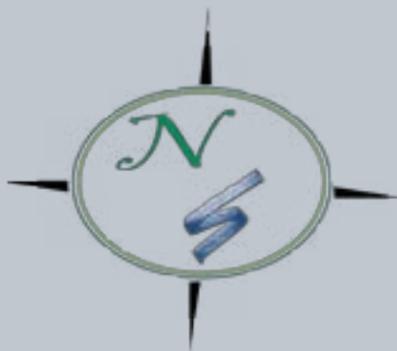
Spotlight | Conferences

Winter 2018-19
Volume 2, Issue 8



You're Invited!

First Nation Spring Gathering
May 7- 9, 2019
Radisson Hotel
Sudbury, Ontario



OLS - North and SOLS
Updates
(p. 6)

Conferences Galore!

Leaving the library to attend a conference can be a challenging decision. There's always so much to be done at work.

To validate leaving work, the conference has to be relevant to your organization, and it must be affordable. Demonstrating relevancy and affordability is tricky because most library conferences are not First Nation specific, nor do they do cover topics for small rural libraries.

In this issue of Maziniigan, we're exploring CONFERENCES Past, Present, and Future. We'll look back at some essential conference discussions you may have missed, help you plan to attend an upcoming conference, and see what future conference options are available.

We'll also be looking at professional development funds, alternative ways to access conference information, and tips to make the most out of your conference experience.



First Nation Gathering, North Bay, Ontario
May 5, 2008

If this issue of Maziniigan sparks conference ideas, please jot them down and call or email your suggestions to the First Nation Advisors.

We always love hearing from you!

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How to get the most out of your conference experience.

Notes, notes, notes! There is nothing worse than trying to remember the name of that speaker or interesting fact from eight months ago. Either take notes throughout your session, or take five minutes at the end of the day to jot down some highlights.

Photos work, too. Speakers have informative slides that include useful quotes and statistics. It's not uncommon for people to ask permission to snap photos of the presentation slides with cell phones or cameras. Make sure your camera is in focus because it can be difficult for certain devices to zoom in on projections. If you want to be extra organized, you can email the photos to yourself and write the conference name in the email subject line.

Meet the presenter. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to a speaker. I'm sure they'll appreciate a bit of feedback and a friendly handshake. If possible, give them your name and email. This interaction will usually result in the transfer of a business card. You can store their contact information as a way to remember specific sessions, or you can ask them to email their presentation.

Follow-up with contacts. If you've met interesting people (and potential partners) send them a quick email once you get back to your library. You can copy and paste a standard message for each person. A simple message such as, "Aanii, It was great meeting you at the conference in Toronto. Please keep me up to date on your work, and let me know if there are opportunities to partner in the future. Take care!" Starting dialogue will keep communication channels open, and could lead to future opportunities.

If you can't attend conferences due to funding, or can't find someone to replace you temporarily, or other; here are a few simple tips to get the information from a distance:

Ask a friend for updates. If you know someone who's going to the conference, call or email them and set up a date to discuss what you missed. Setting aside an hour on a Monday morning is a great way to get conference updates, and catch up with an old friend.

Email the conference organizer. Email the organizer and ask them to send you resources. Sometimes you can access full PowerPoint presentations.

Request video or audio documentation. It is becoming common for conference organizers to video or audio record conference sessions. Most keynotes are filmed. If you cannot find the recordings on the website or social media, email the conference organizer directly.

Completing conference feedback surveys is a great way to give back to conference organizers.

OLS - North Fall Conference

Conferences - Past, Present, Future

AANJI-AANSEKKENDAASWIN
Delivering Change, Transforming Libraries
September 25-27, 2018
Holiday Inn (Sudbury, Ontario)

Click to watch the keynote speeches on YouTube.

Overview

This year over 60 librarians attended the conference, eight of whom were First Nation librarians. Conference highlights included: First Nation Networking Meeting; keynote speeches about Truth and Reconciliation by Mike DeGagné, President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University and Robyn Medicine, Indigenous Liaison at Thunder Bay Public Library; and vendor David Sprague, Digital Content Lead from Digital Archive Ontario (Toronto Public Library).

First Nation Networking Meeting

The minutes were emailed to each First Nation librarian. Please contact Ontario Library Service - North if you did not receive them.

Mike DeGagné, President and Vice-Chancellor Nipissing University



Mike DeGagné gave a chronological overview of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Canada as it relates to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. DeGagné cited George Erasmus' speech (see "George Erasmus Angry Speech" on YouTube) to discuss the history of colonialism and Indigenous sovereignty in Canada in broader concepts like Indigenous rights, title to the land, and self-determination. The question George Erasmus is responding to in the audio clip is, "George, on behalf First Nations people of Canada, what do you have to be thankful for?"

Robyn Medicine, Indigenous Liaison Thunder Bay Public Library



Robyn Medicine spoke about her work with the Thunder Bay Public Library as the Indigenous Liaison. The Indigenous Liaison position is a new concept in the municipal library. The goal of the position is to bridge connections between Indigenous communities and the library. Robyn recognized the issue of having one singular Indigenous voice for such a significant initiative, and recommended the formalization of the Indigenous Advisory Council (2016). The Council meets at various branches of the library to discuss ways to decolonize the library space and ensure libraries are accessible and welcoming for Indigenous communities.

David Sprague, Digital Content Lead Digital Archive Ontario | Toronto Public Library



Digital Archive Ontario (previously Virtual Reference Library) is developed and managed by the Toronto Public Library. The digital archive consists of high-quality images of Ontario's history which combines maps, photographs, and documents dating back to the 1880s. There is a unique Indigenous Peoples collection that includes Toronto Star images of First Nation communities including Georgina Island, Wikwemikong, Muskrat Falls, and Shawanaga First Nation.

PAST

Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) For Our People: Past, Present, and Future

11th Annual International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums
October 8-11, 2018
Prior Lake, Minnesota

A recent visit to ATALM's Facebook page revealed that this year's annual conference in Minnesota was a great success. **Alicia** from ATALM is working busy editing the conference video, and will be sharing the videos in 2019. You may also wish to browse the conference guide as it is full of wonderful conference ideas.

Video Documentation: Available in 2019. *Watch ATALM's Facebook for updates!*
Conference Guide: <http://www.atalm.org/sites/default/files/ATALM2018%20Program%20FINAL%20Web3.pdf>



Conference Participants
Source: ATALM Facebook

PRESENT

Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference "Powered by the People"

January 30 – February 2, 2019
Metro Toronto Convention Centre

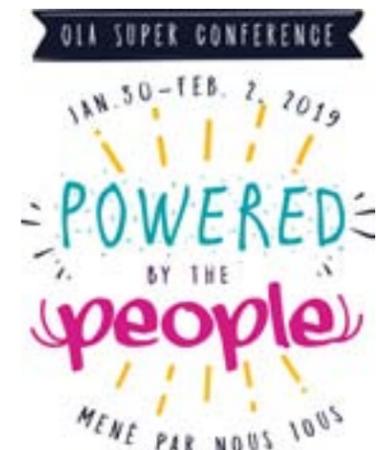
Super Conference is Canada's largest continuing education event focusing in librarianship. Hundreds of sessions are offered throughout the conference.

First Nation librarians in the Province of Ontario may attend Super Conference for free, which also includes a one-year OLA membership.

Bursaries are also available through the Spirit of Reconciliation Initiative (Marjorie Flemming Mentoring Fund), OLA Travel Fund, and the Indigenous Culture Fund Small Grants (Ontario Arts Council).

OLS - North staff reviewed OLA's Super Conference schedule to compile the session recommendations based on the following categories: Indigenous Librarianship, Partnerships, Digitization, New Technology, Skills Development, Public Health, Mental Health, Community Research / Archives, and Youth.

You may access the document "Navigating Super Conference (2019) with a First Nation Lens" by clicking here.



FUTURE

International Indigenous Librarians' Forum 2019 February 5-19, 2019

Waipapa Marae, University of Auckland
Auckland, New Zealand

The International Indigenous Librarians' Forum is held every two years to provide a "focused exploration of the significant issues facing libraries and institutions that care for Indigenous and cultural information" (International Indigenous Librarians' Forum Proceedings, Te R?p? Whakahaui, 2001). It allows a meeting place for Indigenous librarians and information management workers to discuss, debate and describe their experience of working within the industry and their visions, hopes and expectations for the future.



Tānenuiarangi, the meeting-house on Waipapa Marae, was formulated by the tohunga whakairo Pākariki Harrison

Source: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/>

First Nation Spring Gathering May 7-9, 2019

Radisson Hotel
Sudbury, Ontario

If you have programming ideas, please reach out to the First Nation Strategic Action Group (FNSAG) members via telephone or email.

Members:

- Sheri Mishibinijima (Wikwemikong)
- Feather Maracle (Six Nations)
- Randy Penasse (Nipissing)
- Beverly Bressette (Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point)



Former First Nation Capacity Building Advisor
Kelly Crawford and Tomson Highway

Staying in the loop

If you are interested in keeping up to date with conference events, visit Librarianship.ca
Events Page: <https://librarianship.ca/events/>

Download a Professional Development Proposal Template

It's always great to do a bit of research about the conference you'd like to attend, and gather information to build a compelling proposal for your supervisor or funders.

[Click here to access the template.](#)

First Nation Public Library Week

October 1 - 7, 2018

Despite a few setbacks with the poster delivery, this year's First Nation Public Library Week was a great success. In total, 14 First Nation libraries, 26 municipal libraries, and two academic libraries participated. Additionally, 13 First Nation libraries and eight municipal libraries completed the FNPLW Survey. The FNPLW Final Report can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

We are looking for 2019 theme suggestions and committee members. You can suggest ideas by completing this form: [FNPLW Theme Suggestion Survey](#)

First Nations Communities Read

The Nomination Form for the 2019-2020 First Nation Communities Read program is now online.

The First Nation Communities READ Program awards excellence in Indigenous YA/Adult and Children's literature. Each year, books created by Indigenous authors and/or illustrators are nominated by creators or their publishers and considered by a jury of librarians from First Nation communities.

Nominations close January 31, 2019.

[Click to access the nomination form.](#)

First Nation Conference and Training Committee (FNCTC)

Members of this committee provide advice to OLS - North staff regarding program content for First Nation training events, workshops, conference and virtual training. The committee will be surveying to collect feedback from librarians.

FNCTC Members:

- Sheri Mishibinijima (Wikwemikong)
- Lindsay Owl (Aundeck Omni Kaning)
- Evelyn Jacko (Whitefish River)
- Jamie Friday (Temagami)

New!

OLS - North now has a "Live Chat" function on their website.

Visit www.olsn.ca to chat with OLS - North staff.

Interlibrary Loan – Information Network for Ontario (INFO)

INFO users can access non-public library resources such as Archives of Ontario, public, and non-public libraries across Canada.

For more information, watch this promotional video:



Jason Petiquan (Wabauskang First Nation)
Library Generations, 2018
Clip studio and substance painter render

Sachigo Lake First Nation Public Library

In early October 2018, I caught a plane from Sioux Lookout Airport to Sachigo Lake First Nation. The hour-long flight in the small Bearskin Airline plane brought me to a remote community on the northwest side of Sachigo Lake.

When I arrived, Sachigo Lake's librarian greeted me at the community airport. Samantha Barkman is from Sachigo Lake First Nation, and she has been the librarian for over a year. Samantha and her family are community members, and there's even a street named after them.



Martin McKay Memorial School houses the library and Grades JK to 8 for over 100 children. Samantha contributes to the functionality of the school by supervising recess, facilitating library drop-ins, and completing administrative duties.

During my short stay, I counted over 15 patrons in the library! Samantha's typical day is spent welcoming classroom visits (sometimes twice a day), maintaining a comfortable and welcoming space for teaching assistants to facilitate one-on-one story time with the kids, working with the school's principal, recess supervision, and sharing the library with students taking online courses with teachers. The trip happened to coincide with First Nation Public Library Week and Martin McKay Memorial School's annual Open House, so we prepared for both events.

I learned a lot of practical information during my trip. For example, the best time to travel in the north is in the dead of winter or the height of summer. Any seasons in between can be unpredictable due to weather. As I flew through a blizzard and windstorm on my return flight, I realized that I was learning this lesson the hard way.

I also learned the library in Sachigo Lake is a bustling and lively place. Martin McKay Memorial School is the daily hub for nearly 100 people. The whole community pitches in to make sure the students have the best experience possible. There are local Elders on staff, communities members take the children out on the land, and the teaching assistants are all young community members.

Samantha has been the librarian for just a year and a half, but it's apparent that she is a much-loved part of the school community.

Deanna Nebenionquit
First Nations Capacity Building Advisor

Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island)

At the end of November I travelled to Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island) to visit several of the libraries. Mnidoo Mnising is a beautiful place anytime of year, this was especially true with the freshly fallen snow, and the smoky fog rising from the water early morning.

First I spent some time with Lindsay Owl at Aundeck Omni Kaning (AOK) First Nation Public Library. AOK's library is located in the new Recreation Building, and shares a space with other departments. The library has a wonderful collection of young adult, non-fiction, and Indigenous books to name a few. There is always something happening at the library, and is a welcome space for all to hang-out, read a book, or play a game of pool.

Next stop was to M'Chigeeng Lakeview School, where Joanne Debassige has been working hard updating the collections inventory. There are now 16,018 books in the library collection, and a computer is available for everyone to search their next great novel. I also got to meet Bear, who is a trained therapy dog, and available to spend time with the kids for reading.

My final stop was at Wikwemikong. Sheri has several partnership programs happening, including pickle ball. The library has a great collection of over 9,000 books, and a newly acquired 3D Printer. There is always something happening on Mnidoo Mnising, and it is a wonderful place to be anytime of the year!

Rashed Ahmad
First Nations Skills Development Advisor



Wabauskang First Nation Public Library



Left to right - Councillor Terri Meekis, (Wabauskang First Nation), Rashed Ahmad, Deanna Nebenionquit during the First Nation Public Library Week launch.

Congratulations, Bkejwanong!

Bkejwanong Public Library has been nominated for the 2018 Public Library Service Awards. The library is being recognized for their commitment to life-long learning and literacy. "Bkejwanong Library Loves Literacy" combines a multifaceted approach to community learning through storytelling, plays, music, history/genealogy, writing, and reading.

Biindige | Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton'

As First Nation libraries grow, we welcome new colleagues and say "see you later" to old ones. This section highlights our new colleagues from First Nation libraries and Indigenous and non-Indigenous library allies in Ontario.

Michipicoten First Nation Public Library Deanna Bonomo

Hello everyone! My name is Deanna Buonomo. I have recently accepted the role as Michipicoten First Nation Librarian. This is my first experience as a librarian, and I am very excited to learn and deliver programs and news to this community. I have been a Kindergarten Educator for the past nine years and also have a background in Social Service Work. I have listed my email and phone number if you would like to share any wisdom or ideas with me. Thank you!

Garden River First Nation Public Library Jasmine Binkley

Ga-waabminnim | Ó:nen:ki'wáhi

Ontario Library Service - North Leanne Clendening-Purpur

After 18-years of service, Director and CEO Leanne Clendening-Purpur is retiring from Ontario Library Service - North. In a memo dated December 21, 2018, Frances Ryan, Chair of the OLS - North Board said, "Leanne has always fought for the success of OLS-North. She has followed government directives and those of the Board, always making her first considerations - the best interests of the agency, the clients and her staff."

A message from Leanne Clendening-Purpur...

"The librarians of Northern Ontario are among the most dedicated people I know. I want you to know how much I admire the way you champion your communities, providing them with the service they need often on limited resources. I hope that in the eighteen years we have given you some tools to help you do this and that OLS - North continues to do this long after I am gone. Given the time of year, I wish you happy holidays & happy new year. In addition, I wish you life, love and laughter through the years."

Call for Mentors and Mentees

The Mentorship Program is aimed at providing opportunities to increase the knowledge and skills of new librarians in Northern Ontario. The program pairs an experienced librarian (the mentor) with a new librarian (the mentee) with the aim of building strong northern public libraries. Contact the First Nation advisors if you are interested in participating.



Recommendations: Policy Writing-SD43, The Art of Proposal Writing 101, Legalization of Cannabis and Impact on the Library Workplace.

<--- Click on icon to access LearnHQ.

Recommendations: E01 EXCEL - Introduction to Public Libraries (M).

This orientation course provides an introduction to the purpose and function of libraries, provides an overview of the governance, organization, collections, staffing and services of public libraries. This course is aimed at library staff in Ontario who want to better understand the potential for 21st century public libraries and how libraries are a force for individual growth and development, social cohesion and community well-being.



WorkInCulture is a Toronto organization that aims to support people who work in cultural sector through life-long career development and entrepreneurial and business skills training. They offer online webinars that can be accessed anytime.

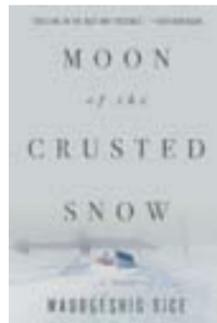
Recommendations: Partnership and Collaboration, On Time, On Budget: Project Management for Creative Business, CrowdFUND: Making Crowdfunding Work For You, Dealing with Challenge and Conflict, and Tips on Leading and Contributing to Meetings.

Good Learning Anywhere (GLA) provides FREE online courses to adults across Ontario who are looking to upgrade their Literacy and Essential Skills for School, Work or Home. Courses can be accessed from any computer attached to the internet. Upon registration, a mentor is assigned to guide you through your chosen learning path! (Note: It takes 48 hours for registrations to process)

Recommendations: First Aid Essentials, Introduction to Robotics, Create a Blog, Essential Skills for Using Mobile Devices, Personal Health.

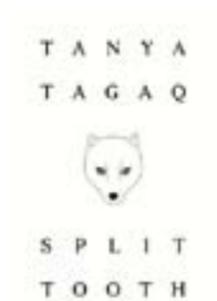
Book Recommendations

In the Know



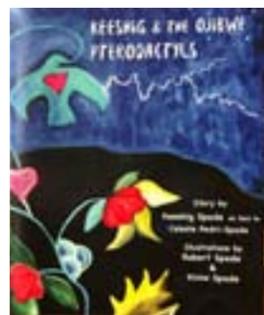
Moon of the Crusted Snow **Waubgeshig Rice (Wasauksing First Nation)**

With winter looming, a small northern Anishinaabe community goes dark. Cut off; people become passive and confused. Panic builds as the food supply dwindles. While the band council and a pocket of community members struggle to maintain order, an unexpected visitor arrives, escaping the crumbling society to the south. Soon after, others follow. Blending action and allegory, Moon of the Crusted Snow upends our expectations. Out of catastrophe comes resilience. As one society collapses, another is reborn.



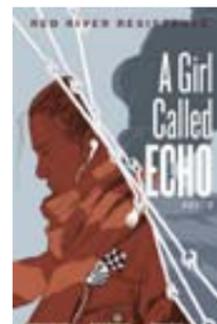
Split Tooth **Tanya Tagaq (Iqaluktuutiaq)**

From the internationally acclaimed Inuit throat singer who has dazzled and enthralled the world with music it had never heard before, a haunting, brooding, exhilarating, and tender story all at once, Tagaq moves effortlessly between fiction and memoir, myth and reality, poetry and prose, and conjures a world and a heroine readers will never forget.



Keeshig & the Ojibwe Pterodactyls **Keeshig Spade as told to Celeste Pedri-Spade (Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation)**

Six-year-old Keeshigbahnahnkut tells a short story about the Ojibwe Pterodactyls who live on the Sleeping Giant Island near Thunder Bay, Ontario. This lovely story is illustrated by Keeshig's father Robert Spade and brother Keniw Spade.



Red River Resistance. A Girl Called Echo Vol. 2 **Katherena Vermette (Winnipeg)**

In this second volume Echo Desjardins is adjusting to her new home, finding friends, and learning about Métis history. One ordinary afternoon in class, Echo finds herself transported to the banks of the Red River in the summer of 1869. All is not well in the territory as Canadian surveyors have arrived to change the face of territory, and Métis families, who have lived there for generations. As the Resistance takes hold, Echo fears for her friends and the future of her people in the Red River Valley.



Daniel Heath Justice
Source: <http://aboriginal.ubc.ca/2013>

Webinar
Social Justice and the Decolonial Library
Daniel Heath Justice
Hosted by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association

Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee Nation) is the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture University of British Columbia. This webinar complements his recent publication Social Justice and the Decolonial Library.

Daniel Heath Justice explores the history of Indigenous literature in North America. Heath cites totem poles, codices, birchbark scrolls, winter counts, quipu strings, wampum belts as forms of Indigenous written history. He continues, "Each of these has been seen as a threat by non-Indigenous authorities, and each one has been the focus of some sort of violence...It has never been the case that we have never had our own literature or our own writing. It's that settler societies have actively targeted those things and our abilities to use them through various forms of weaponized education and stigma, and libraries are a part of that."

Click to watch the webinar on YouTube.

Podcast
Library Land Loves
Hosted by Ontario Library Association

Library Land Loves podcast is hosted by Ontario Library Association (OLA). Michelle Arbuckle, Director of Member Engagement and Education discusses library topics with library colleagues. Podcast examples include: Things they didn't teach you in Library School (Marnie Seal, Cambrian College), Resources for serving Indigenous Populations (Desmond Wong), and Top Five Literary Men I'd Leave My Husband For. OLS – North's Steven Kraus talked with Michelle last July about music programs in libraries.

Click to listen to the podcast.

We would love to hear from you. Email story suggestions, articles, or library highlights. Photos are always a plus!
Contact Deanna Nebenionquit dnebenionquit@olsn.ca

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