First Nations Spring Gathering
An annual public librarians gathering

International Year of Indigenous Languages
Mnaajchigaadeg Engokimigaak Nwewwinan
Onkwehonwehnéha Iewennanorónhstha’ Iohserá:te

Spring Gathering Summary

May 7 - 9, 2019
Radisson Hotel
Sudbury, Ontario
Miigwetch | Niá:wen

Each year the First Nation Strategic Action Group Planning Committee reviews and plans the First Nation Spring Gathering.

Chi-miigwetch | Niá:wen to the 2019 First Nation Strategic Action Group Planning Committee:

Beverly Bressette, Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation Public Library
Feather Maracle, Six Nations Public Library
Randy Penasse, Nipissing Nation Kendaaswin
Sheri Mishibinijima, Wikwemikong Public Library

Chi-miigwetch | Niá:wen to the following financial supporters:

Ontario

Spring Gathering Theme
United Nation’s International Year of Indigenous Languages

"In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, based on a recommendation by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

"At the time, the Forum said that 40 per cent of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing. The fact that most of these are indigenous languages puts the cultures and knowledge systems to which they belong at risk.

"In addition, indigenous peoples are often isolated both politically and socially in the countries they live in, by the geographical location of their communities, their separate histories, cultures, languages and traditions.

"And yet, they are not only leaders in protecting the environment, but their languages represent complex systems of knowledge and communication and should be recognized as a strategic national resource for development, peace building and reconciliation.

"They also foster and promote unique local cultures, customs and values which have endured for thousands of years. Indigenous languages add to the rich tapestry of global cultural diversity. Without them, the world would be a poorer place.

"Celebrating IYIL2019 will help promote and protect indigenous languages and improve the lives of those who speak them. It will contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

"The celebration is also expected to strengthen and reinforce the many standard-setting tools adopted by the international community which include specific provisions to promote and protect languages."

https://en.iyil2019.org/about#about-1

60 Years of Excellence
First Nation Public Libraries Celebrate a Milestone

First Nation Public Libraries are celebrating 60 years since the opening of the first First Nation public library in Ontario. The opening of the public library in Moose Factory, Ontario in 1959 was one of the final projects that Angus McGill Mowat completed after his retirement as head of the Public Libraries Branch of the Ontario Department of Education. The establishment of the Moose Factory public library was the second library established in an Indigenous community in North America, the first being in the Colorado River Agency in Arizona.

Today there are 47 First Nation public libraries are operating in the Province of Ontario. Ontario is the only province in Canada that has publically funded libraries in First Nation communities. Of the 47 First Nation public libraries operating today, 29 are in Northern Ontario, and 18 are operating in Southern Ontario. Each library has a unique operating system based on Indigenous governance systems.

OLS - North and SOLS staff would like to acknowledge and congratulate each First Nation Public Library (and librarian!) for the contributions you are making to your communities.
Minutes
First Nations Networking Meeting
Radisson Hotel, Sudbury, Ontario
May 7, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Attendees (Librarians): Mary Fraser (Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Kendassi Gamik), Karen Foster (Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library), Debbie Fox (Henvey Inlet First Nation Public Library), Wanda Noganosh (Magnetawan First Nation Public Library), Patsy McKay (Mattagami First Nation Public Library), Joanne Debsassie (M’Chigeeng First Nation Public Library), Deanna Buonomo (Michipicoten First Nation Public Library), Randy Penasse (Nipissing Nation Kendaaswin), Colleen Eschkakogan (Sagamok First Nation Public Library), Feather Maracle (Six Nations Public Library), Troy Yellowhorse (Sheshegwaning First Nation Public Library), Fran King (Wasauksing First Nation Public Library), Evelyn Jocko (Whitefish River First Nation Public Library), Sheri Mishibinijima (Wikwemikong Public Library).

Attendees (Guests): Lynn Mooney (Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library), Patricia BigCanoe (Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library), Shelagh Paterson (Ontario Library Association), Richard Reid (Ontario Library Association), Sarah Roberts (Ontario Library Association), Stephen Abram (Federation of Ontario Public Libraries), Mary Bissell (Toronto Public Library), Julie Mallon (Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council), Holly Kondreska (Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council), Evan Hoskins (Sioux-Hudson Literacy Council), Jeff Burnham (GoodMinds.com).

Attendees (Staff): Melissa D’Onofrio-Jones (Ontario Library Service – North), Anne Marie Madziak via Zoom (Southern Ontario Library Service), Deanna Nebenionquit (Ontario Library Service – North), Nancy Cooper (Southern Ontario Library Service).

1. Review First Nations Strategic Action Group Terms of Reference (Sheri Mishibinijima, Feather Maracle)

Section One – Goals and Objectives

Question 1 (Librarian): Who keeps track of the projects?

Discussion

- FNSAG should be reporting on projects and sharing information with First Nation librarians.
- First Nation Advisors archive projects on internal networks in the SOLS and OLS – North offices.
- FNSAG Minutes are stored on OLS- North networks and are distributed to FNSAG committee members through email.
- FNSAG meet once a year. According to the Terms of Reference, the group should meet more often.
- There are two FN representatives from the North, and two FN representatives from the South.
- There will be one vacancy in the North next year.
- SOLS – North and SOLS Management are discussing the option of having the First Nation Advisors lead FNSAG meetings.
- First Nation Librarians disagree with this suggestion. Management's presence is required at FNSAG meetings to ensure “on-the-spot” decision-making can happen.

Solution/Action

- FNSAG meeting minutes will be recorded by the First Nation Advisors and will be distributed to First Nation librarians via email.
- Copies of the Minutes will also be posted on the PeerHQ website.
- The PeerHQ website will be prominently posted on the OLS – North and SOLS websites.

Section Two - Quorum and Voting

Question 1 (Librarian): With equal voting members, what happens in the case of a tie?

Discussion

- The group acknowledges that FNSAG operates in everyone's best interest. It is very rare that a vote results in a tie.
- In case of a conflict, the question will be posed to all FN librarians via email using an online polling system.
- First Nation Advisors will administer the digital polling system.

Solution/Action

Remove the following from the FNSAG Terms of Reference:

- “Each member has a single vote.”
- “SOLS and OLS - N are non-voting members and should be present at all meetings.”
- “Decisions are based on consensus. If consensus is lacking, then a vote occurs.”

Edit the following from the Terms of Reference:

- “For quorum to occur, one representative from the libraries in the North and one from the South must be present.”

Add the following to the Terms of Reference under Quorum and Voting:

- “Quorum may occur if the FNSAG committee meeting is taking place in a location where several First Nation librarians are present such as a Networking Meeting.”
- “General discussions may take place in the event that quorum is not achieved. The discussion is for information only and formal decisions cannot be made.”

Other Business – FNSAG Future Goals and Projects

Discussion

- The development of FNSAG was a result of the 2004 “Our Way Forward” strategic plan. The Vision Statement outlined in the document is a guiding statement and will be circulated to the FN librarians.
- Partnership with the Little NHL tournament to promote First Nation public libraries. Nipissing First Nation is the 2020 Little NHL Host Community. Promotion will occur through a booth and logo exchange.
Action

• Circulate a digital copy of Our Way Forward to the FN listserv and post of PeerHQ.
• FNSAG will revisit Our Way Forward before Sheri Mishibinijima retires.
• First Nation Advisors will forward the 2018 Spring Gathering Report via email to the FN librarians.
• Submit logo to the Little NHL planning committee.

New Members

• There will be one FNSAG vacancy (North) in the near future.

2. First Nations Communities Read (Nancy Cooper)

Update

• The 2019 shortlist is comprised of 13 children’s books and 25 young adult books.
• Interested in being a juror? Contact Nancy Cooper (ncooper@sols.org). Your library will receive copies of the juried books.
• The 2019 First Nations Communities Read award will be presented at Word on the Street in Toronto, Ontario.

Action

• Highlight the shortlist of books in one document or poster. Include images of book cover or image of author.
  Email to librarians and post on website.
• Create a poster of all the previous winners with image of book covers and author names and biography.
  Email to librarians and post on website.
• Email shortlist to FN librarians and post on website.

3. First Nation Public Library Week (Deanna Nebenionquit)

• Theme is “Revitalizing Indigenous Languages” and the event is taking place September 29 – October 5, 2019.

4. Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) (Feather Maracle)

a. Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations (External organization update)

• First Nation librarians will not endorse the CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report because true reconciliation may never be achieved. Additionally, there is a lack of emphasis on language revitalization efforts in the report. Librarians have not had enough time to review the document as a group.

b. CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee (External organization update)

• The CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee has been working nationally for two years. The group is currently updating and refreshing their goals.
• The CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee would like to reinstate the Friendship Feather Award (see 4.C).

• The Friendship Feather Award started in 2006 and was administered by First Nation librarians.
• The award is a stained glass feather. The group finds consensus that the award should remain a stained glass award and not a sacred Eagle Feather.
• First Nation librarians agree to allow the CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee to take custody of the Friendship Feather Award under the new name the Feather Award.
• Karen Foster has a photo album of previous award winners and will pass the information to Feather Maracle for archival purposes.

d. National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Libraries Alliance (NIKLLA) (External organization update)

• The national group met for the first time in January 2019. Updates can be found on their website.
• The goal of the group is to get libraries in a better place with better wages using better strategies.
• The newly formed group will be using NALAs template and the Our Way Forward strategic plan on behalf of the library component.
• Staffing will be required to ensure the group’s success.
• The group will need to become an independent entity.
• Federation of Provincial Libraries, Canadian Museums Association, and Ontario Library Association have agreed to fund aspects of the project to see the development of entity and bylaws to advocate and create a not-for-profit status for NIKLLA.
• Draft framework has been developed by FOPL and is stored with Camille Callison, Feather Maracle, and Sheri Mishibinijima.

5. SOLS Update (Anne Marie Madziak)

• SOLS CEO and senior staff are working with the Ministry to figure out the support we can offer interlibrary loan and what other services we can continue to offer
• While more information is forthcoming and will be communicated as we know things, we can say with certainty that SOLS is committed to providing ongoing guidance and advice to CEOs and staff from FN and all public libraries; this includes assistance over the phone and email, as well as professional resources that help inform and guide decisions.
• As well, we are committed to continuing the EXCEL program and hope to be able to support the self-directed online courses and archived webinars available in LearnHQ.

6. OLS - North (Mellissa D’Onofrio-Jones)

• PeerHQ is active.
• The Communities of Practice is available.
• There will be an announcement regarding service levels as a result of the reduction of our operational grant - watch for e-mail.
• JASI members now have access to Portfolio.
• Portfolio is a database that can store digital archives such as video, photos, scanned items.
• OLS – North Technology Team is the lead on this project.
• The Portfolio toolkit is being distributed to FN clients.
7. Ontario Library Association (OLA) (Shelagh Paterson)

a. Reciprocal Borrowing
   • Example of a Reciprocal borrowing agreement is on the OLA website.

b. Membership
   • OLA Memberships are free for FN librarians.
   • The OLA Listserv promotes programs and services.

c. Super Conference (Nancy Cooper & Deanna Nebenionquit)
   • Conference registration is complimentary for FN librarians.
   • The OLA Indigenous Stream will have practical sessions for FN professional development and will focus on new ideas for FN libraries to implement.

d. Funds and Grants
   • The Spirit of Reconciliation Award is a travel grant that is available to FN librarians to attend the conference. Librarians are matched with a municipal public librarian.
   • Additional travel bursaries are available. See the OLA website.

8. OLA Indigenous Task Force Group (Sarah Roberts)
   • OLA has completed phone interviews and needs assessment to find out how OLA can be supportive to First Nation public libraries.
   • Findings include limited funding, access to broadband internet, professional development opportunities (granting, applying for funding, advocacy, public programming with limited budgets), and skills development around management for new staff while respecting OLS – North and SOLS priorities.
   • OLA solutions include 10 policy guides and training, webinars.
   • FN Librarians would like to be included in the mainstream OLA practices while keeping FN identity. Evaluations should take place with everyone else while moving forward without leaving anyone out.

9. Federation of Public Libraries (FOPL) (Stephen Abram)
   • OLA members are automatically FOPL members.
   • One of FOPL’s goals is to ensure each FN has access to library resources.
   • FOPL and OLA have registered as a lobbyist group and have been advocating within the provincial government on behalf of librarians in the province.
   • FOPL and OLA are non-partisan lobbyists.
   • OLA and FOPL are keeping track of all FN support letters.
   • FOPL adopted the CFLA Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendation document and is participating in the CFLA Indigenous Matters Committee and NIKLLA.
   • FOPL is looking for an Indigenous representative to attend Library Day at Queen's Park.

10. New Business

a. Toronto Public Library (TPL) Partnership – E-Resources (Deanna Nebenionquit)

   Update
   • First Nation Advisors are in discussion with the TPL Indigenous Advisory Committee regarding a partnership opportunity between TPL and First Nation Public Libraries.
   • This partnership stems from the TPL’s response to the TRC 94 Calls to Action. A TPL document dated April 18, 2017 states in part:

   33. Extend TPL membership to include persons living on First Nations reserves in Ontario in keeping with TPL’s provincial mandate and offer longer loan periods to persons living on First Nations reserves in Ontario in order to improve access to collections and in keeping with strategic goals of removing policy barriers, and determine with vendors, guidelines for including access to downloadable and digital collections to eligible borrowers living on reserves in Ontario, in the spirit of Reconciliation and in keeping with TPL’s provincial mandate.

   The partnership has been positively received by the TPL Indigenous Advisory Committee. The Indigenous Advisory Committee have invited First Nation Public Libraries to be the pilot project to extend TPL service (e-resources) to First Nation communities.

   Discussion
   • First Nation Public Librarians are interested in being the pilot project.
   • Four of the 14 attendees are currently paying for e-resources.
   • First Nation librarians suggest that TPL distribute 5-10 cards to each First Nation Public Library in the province. 470 cards in total.
   • Note – the first three digits of a Status Card indicates with which First Nation the person is registered.
   • TPL will have to contact each FN Band Office and contact the Membership Clerk to access the three-digit code.
   • FN librarians will distribute the cards to community members through the library branch.
   • FNPL can keep track of the library’s internal statistics through manual distribution of the cards.
   • Physical card distribution will encourage youth and patron engagement.
   • Post-secondary students will have access to databases and research on-reserve.
   • Librarians can promote the cards through community flyers, radio stations, social media.
   • If TPL is considering individual membership numbers, it would be easier to register one card per First Nation.
   • First Nation librarians are concerned about helping patrons access multiple databases.
   • First Nation librarians are concerned about administering a card for each on-reserve band member. (Not recommended).
Discussion re: First Nation communities without a public library & TPL partnership

- First Nation Strategic Action Group (FNSAG) is willing to collaborate on outreach initiatives through a provincial campaign to First Nations without a public library.
- The last provincial outreach campaign to First Nations without a public library was over 5 years ago.
- FNSAG will outline procedures on how to establish a First Nation Public Library. The TPL e-resources can be included as supplementary incentive.

Action

- First Nation Advisors to send the most recent provincial campaign package to FNSAG and assist with a provincial outreach campaign.

b. New Librarian Recruitment

- FN librarian salaries are low and it is difficult to attract a young workforce.
- Explore co-op placements and summer student opportunities to introduce new workers to the field.
- Create a campaign that explores the FN librarian position. Explain standard librarian duties, interesting aspects of the job, how to apply, how to train, and available support networks.

c. Indigenous Materials Classification System (IMCS)

- The Indigenous Materials Classification System (IMCS) was developed by a team led by Camille Callison (Tsesk iye [Crow] Clan of the Tahltan Nation).
- The IMCS uses geography and traditional names to organize academic libraries.
- First Nation communities are advising on traditional and contemporary names to help develop the classification system.
- The full classification system will be released once research has completed.

Action

- First Nation Advisors will send out information about the IMCS to FN librarians when it becomes available.

May 7, 2019 - Session Summary

1:00 - 2:15 pm

Using Your Voice Effectively Pt. 1 – “Confidence and Public Speaking”
Rita Chiblow, Human Resource Advisor, Mississauga First Nation

The Using Your Voice Effectively session outlined practical ways First Nation librarians can navigate bureaucracy at the workplace to ensure library goals and projects are understood and supported. Rita Chiblow combined her knowledge as the former First Nations Advisor at Ontario Library Service – North and current human resource experience to advise on how to work confidently to ensure your voice is being heard.

Rita Chiblow has over 30 years of experience in First Nation economic and social development, education and post-secondary administration, research and community planning. Rita is currently working in Mississauga First Nation as the Human Resource Advisor.

Session Takeaways

- “Understand the truth, know the truth, and speak the truth.”
- Speaking from the heart is essential.
- You should feel comfortable speaking the truth.
- Meetings with managers should come from a good place.
- Prepare for presentations and discussions with managers by reviewing your reports and writing notes.
- Happiness is the emotion you should feel throughout your meetings, discussions, and presentations.
- Improve your public speaking abilities by asking audience members for constructive feedback.
The First Nation Strategic Action Group (FNSAG) led a panel discussion on the importance of language and literacy in First Nation public libraries. The discussion outlined the 2019 Spring Gathering theme “The Year of Indigenous Languages” and how libraries play a pivotal role to ensure Indigenous language resources are stored in a public place.

**Session Takeaways:**

- Translate library materials including membership forms, calendars, book displays into traditional languages.

**Randy Penasse, Niigaanzid Kendaaswin (Librarian) Update**

- Nipissing First Nation established a language revitalization committee made up of teachers, mentors, fluent speakers, and Elders. The vision is to have band members speak Ojibwe as the primary language in the community.
- Groups goals include making Ojibwe courses a compulsory course rather than an elective, bringing a language teacher into the Daycare once a week, and emphasis on auditory learning rather than reading and writing.
- The committee decided that the FN needs a separate entity to guide FN language revitalization efforts.

**Challenges** include people worrying about how they sound when they speak.

**Glenna Beaucage, Culture & Heritage Manager is willing to share Nipissing’s language resources.**

**Actions**

- Distribute Sheri Mishibinijima’s Language Conference Report to the FN Listserv.
- Create Seven Grandfather Teaching book displays.
- Translate library materials including membership forms, calendars, and book displays into Mohawk and Anishinaabemowin.
- Invite Will Morin to speak at a future Spring Gathering.
- Request language resources from Nipissing FN.

FNSAG Members: Randy Penasse (Nipissing Nation Kendaaswin), Feather Maracle (Six Nations Public Library), Sheri Mishibinijima (Wikwemikong Public Library)

May 7, 2019 - Session Summary

**Speaking the Language of our Funders**

Erika Iserhoff, Indigenous Arts Officer, Ontario Arts Council

Sophie Edwards, Northeastern Ontario Representative, Ontario Arts Council

Erika Iserhoff and Sophie Edwards presented practical step-by-step granting tips such creating a NOVA profile, navigating the granting system, and a discussion on what happens to your grant once you hit “submit.”

Erika is of Omushkego and Eeyou Cree heritage, and is a member of Constance Lake First Nation. Her role at the Ontario Arts Council is to ensure the needs of Indigenous applicants (individual or organizational) are properly represented.

Sophie Edwards is from northeastern Ontario, and has studied Cultural/ Historical Geography at Queen’s University. She taught in the Community Economic and Social Development program at Algoma University. She is a visual artist, writer, curator and community organizer. Sophie brings 30 years of experience working in community development, program development, and cultural sector development.

**Presentation Slides:** https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wLqHEwGWxabTQmKzCq_fuHmnsZT6WDZ
May 7, 2019 - Session Summary

Optional Workshop

Four librarians brought copies of their annual survey to review with OLS - North staff.

Please let the First Nation Advisors know if this program is helpful and should continue in the future.

May 8, 2019 - Session Summary

8:30 - 9:30 am
First Nation Communities Read
Joanne Robertson, Author of The Water Walker

Joanne Robertson is Anishinaabekwe and a member of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. She received her Fine Arts degree from Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooomaga Gamig. Joanne is the founder of the Empty Glass for Water campaign to bring attention to the drinking water crisis in Indigenous communities across Canada. Today she is working with a team to archive the many water walks that have taken place since Grandma Josephine Mandamin-baa's first walk in 2003. They will be held at the soon-to-be new home of Shingwauk Kinooomaga Gamig called the Anishinabek Discovery Centre on the river in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She continues to support water walks through live GPS spotting to ensure the water and walkers are safe.

Session Takeaways

• Joanne Robertson gave an overview of her journey to becoming an artist and writer.
• She shared photographs of her childhood, and talked about being raised by her adoptive parents.
• Joanne was very generous and gave a lot of insight into her journey.
• Joanne also talked about her friend and inspiration, Josephine Mandamin-baa.

Action

• Add the forthcoming translated Water Walker publication to the Language Portal website.
• Translations completed by Isadore Toulouse and Shirley Williams.

May 8, 2019 - Session Summary

9:30 - 10:30 am

Language Programming for the Library
Nicole Bilodeau, Mohawk Teacher
Norm McGraw, Anishinaabemowin Teacher
Moderated by Deanna Nebenionquit, First Nation Capacity Building Advisor, OLS - North

Norm McGraw and Nicole Bilodeau discussed why and how librarians can engage communities in language revitalization initiatives for language learners of all levels.

The summary on pages 16-17 have been organized into five discussion topics.

Norm McGraw, Anishinaabemowin Teacher

Norm McGraw spoke fluently as child and has now returned to his roots to revitalize, teach and study Anishinaabemowin. He is from Aandekomnikaaning located on Manitou Minis and has studied Anishinaabemowin Immersion (AI) at Sault College in addition to a 3 year AI program out of Bkejwenong. Norm is a graduate of both AI programs including an Aboriginal Teacher Education Program from the University of Ottawa. He has taught part-time at the elementary and high school on Manitoulin Island including an Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy Program at the N'swakimak Friendship Center in Sudbury. Norm’s teaching style reflects his traditional journey as a language warrior through song, ceremony and traditions of the Ojibwe people.

Norm's goals for the workshop is to honour the Spirit of Anishinaabemowin by completing a sacred language ceremony before the presentation, as well as to emphasize that; the language is a Spirit who provides life within the knowledge and understanding of an original sound, to experience our ancestor's original view, from modern day perch.

Nicole Bilodeau, Mohawk Language Instructor, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Nicole Bilodeau is Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. As a young adult Nicole felt compelled to become a fluent speaker, never having had any knowledge of the language while growing up. Nicole enrolled in an adult immersion program called Onkwawén:na Kentóh'ó:kwä in Six Nations where she spent two years in immersion and graduated in 2017. Currently, Nicole is a Mohawk language instructor, and also works on translation and resource development. Aside from her work in language, she is also interested in Indigenous health research and works in Six Nations at the Health Services department.
1. Language and Ceremony

- As language learners and teachers, we are sharing information that we do not own. The language is alive, and we as humans are sharing the language through the Creator.
- Ceremony is a way to honour the Spirit, and should be considered the starting point to programming.
- As humans, we are carriers of the language. As such, we need to ask permission to share that information.
- Language protocols may differ in each community, and it is best to ask for guidance from a trusted advisor.

2. Learning Environment = Inclusive Environment

   **What does inclusive space look like?**

- In a perfect world, you would not be walking into the library to find an inclusive immersion space. You would find the language in the band office or gas station as well.
- One of the first steps to establishing a language revitalization program is creating a safe space for patrons to learn and make mistakes.
- Teachers and learners should leave their ego at the door.
- An inclusive and supportive environment will help learners accept that mistakes will be made and there will be times when an individual will feel silly in front of people.

   **How important is it for the librarian to know the language?**

- Use the information that you know and keep learning and engaging with new words.

   **Can the librarian be language learners with the patron?**

- Librarians can lead initiatives such as making a safe space for people to participate in programs without judgement.

3. Transforming Mzinaigan Enji Naagdowendjiganendeg Gamig | Tsi Iewenndahntahkhwa’ (Library)

- Include visuals of community history and culture in your library. Displaying old photographs or regional phrases enhances community pride.
- Establish comfortable places to sit and relax in close proximity to language resources.
- Display a word or phrase of the day in a prominent location.
- Create incentives for community members to win books and prizes for participating in simple language programs like word of the day.

4. Learning Styles - Reading, Writing, Speaking

- If you are a great speaker, but you cannot read in the language, you will have difficulty interpreting old texts.
- Oral tradition is important. Also, supporting the retention of older dialects and evolving the language requires the ability to read old texts.
- Focusing on pronunciation is a vital. Auditory learning and speaking is the best way to master pronunciation.
- Learners need to build capacities to learn fluent language skills. Fluency is accomplished by engaging in real conversation instead of focusing on common phrases.

5. Language Fundamentals

- Sometimes dialects can restrict learning because people are focused on the “proper” words.
- It is important to practise dialects so communities embrace distinct histories and identities.
- Dialect maps in the library can help people visualize the different areas and pronunciation.
- Mohawk.
- Mohawk is a polysynthetic and verb-based language.
- The Mohawk language also has “semi-free word order,” meaning sentences are strung with important information at the beginning of the sentence, and other information follows.
- Different bits of words have meaning that would be put together to create sentences.
- Nicole and her partner are working on a noun dictionary to create new Mohawk words to complement our times.

**Breakout Language Sessions**

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Conference delegates worked with Norm and Nicole to develop library resource materials.

“Language Resources in [Community Name]” is a template on page 18-19.
Anishinaabemowin Resources in [Community]

Dear Library Patron,

This listing of community and library resources will help you get started on your language revitalization journey. The library is a safe space to practice the language and learn about our community's history. Feel free to ask me any questions in person, by phone, or by email.

[Name], Librarian

[Phone Number]

[Email]@[Email]

Anishinaabemowin Alphabet/Vowel Chart

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Anishinaabemowin Alphabet/Vowel Chart

b - baa bii boo be ba bi bo
ch - chaa chii choo che cha chi cho
d - daa dii doo de da di do
g - gaa gii goo ge ga gi go
j - jaa jii joo je ja ji jo
k - kaa kii koo ke ka ki ko
m - maa mii moo me ma mi mo
n - naa nii noo ne na ni no
p - paa pii poo pe pa pi po
q - saa sii soo se sa si so
sh - shaa shii shoo she sha shri sho
t - taa tii too te ta ti to
w - waa wii woo we wa wi wo
y - yaa yii yoo ye ya yi yo
z - zaa zii zoo ze za zi zo
zh - zhaa zhii zhoo zhe zha zhi zho

Fluent Speakers in Sagamok

- Name
- Name
- Name

Next time you see them say, "Aanii / Aaniish naa" (Hello / How are you?)

Language Programs in the Community

- Daycare Program
- Annual Culture Camp (dates)
- Name

Language Resources at the Library

Other books?

Movies?

Archives?

Online Resource

First Nations Language Portal

http://fnlp.olsn.ca/

Are we missing a language resource in our community?

Suggest books, movies, program ideas to the librarian.

Example - Movie Screenings.

Language revitalization begins with adults. It is our responsibility to speak the language to our children.

I'm going to the store. Daawegamong dizhaa
Where did you go? Aabiish gaazhaayen?
I am tired. Nda-yekos
Your home, your place Endaayen
Eat! Wiisinin!
Wake up! Shkozin!
Let’s go! Ambe!
Come here! Bizhaan maampii!
Don’t, stop it Gegwa, boontaan
Get dressed! Biiskonyen!
Clean up. Biinchigen
Be careful. Wingezin
Go to sleep. Oon-baan.
What are you doing? Aaniish enakiiyin?
Where are you going? Aabiish ezhaayin?
What's the matter with you? Aaniish ezhwebziiyin?
Thank you Creator. Miigwech Gzhehminidoo
May 8, 2019 - Session Summary

1:15 - 2:45 pm

First Nation Languages Online Portal
Deanna Nebenionquit, First Nations Capacity Building Advisor, OLS - North

The First Nation Language Revitalization Project, also known as the First Nation Languages Portal, has been an ongoing organizational priority for Ontario Library Service - North since 2015. The overall goal of the project is to provide Indigenous language resources for librarians working in the Province of Ontario. The First Nation Languages Portal (website) accomplished this goal, and is going through another revamp in 2018-19 with the introduction of the Librarian’s Corner. Deanna walked through the portal and got feedback from FN clients. The clients agreed that the First Nation Languages Portal can be released to the public. The major suggestion was incorporating additional Cree resources.

Visit the First Nation Languages Portal today!
http://fnlp.olsn.ca/

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Indigenous Collection Development
Nancy Cooper, First Nations Advisor, Southern Ontario Library Service

Nancy Cooper outlined the fundamentals of collection development, including policies and the on-going process of weeding to maintain a community focused collection. The group also had a sharing circle. Summary of discussion found below.

Discussion

• CARI. André Lépine coordinates the Collections and Acquisitions Resource Initiative (CARI) at OLS - North.
  • It is free to sign up.
  • GoodMinds.com. CARI members receive 10-20% discount on items ordered from GoodMinds.com.
  • Ontario Library Association (OLA) Technology Lending Library. All FN Libraries can become OLA Members for free. You will have access to the Technology Lending Library.
  • Donation Policies. Three libraries in the group have a donation policy.
    • Libraries do not need donated magazines or text books.
    • Libraries are interested in donations from publishers and collecting published work from their own band members.
    • Donations from Southern Ontario could travel through the “Truckers for Change” program.
    • SchoolBox Partnership. Contact Sarah Kerr at sarah@schoolbox.ca for more details.
    • First Book Canada Partnership.

Action Items

• First Nation Advisors to send tips on weeding materials and assessing First Nation literature.
• Feather Maracle, Six Nations PL and Mary Fraser, Atikameksheng will share their Collection Policies.
• Find prices and sizes for archival boxes (Acid Free).
• Develop templates for grants with pre-filled information, phrases, and keywords.

May 9, 2019 - Session Summary

8:30 - 9:30 am

Indigenous Author Series
Waubgeshig Rice, Author of Moon of the Crusted Snow

Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation. His first short story collection, Midnight Sweatlodge, was inspired by his experiences growing up in an Anishinaabe community, and won an Independent Publishers Book Award in 2012. His debut novel, Legacy, followed in 2014. His most recent novel, Moon of the Crusted Snow, was published in October 2018. He currently works as the host of Up North, CBC Radio’s afternoon show for northern Ontario. In 2014, he received the Anishinabek Nation’s Debwewin Citation for excellence in First Nation Storytelling. Waubgeshig now splits his time between Sudbury and Wasauksing First Nation.

Session Takeaways

• “A library is the brain of the community.”
• “Colonialism is a dystopia for most Indigenous people living on this land.”
• Theytus Books is the oldest Indigenous publishing house in Canada.
• Writers like Cormac McCarthy inspired Waub.
• For emerging writing, Waub suggests keeping writing and letting people know about your work by any means possible.

Task

• Ask for testimonials from Indigenous authors about the importance of the First Nation Public Library system in Ontario.

Group photo with Waubgeshig.
May 9, 2019 - Session Summary

9:30 - 10:30 am  Valuing Northern Libraries Toolkit Workshop
Deanna Nebenionquit, First Nations Capacity Building Advisor, OLS - North
Nancy Cooper, First Nations Advisor, Southern Ontario Library Service

This session covered the Valuing Northern Libraries Tool Kit as a way to measure the social return on investment and community impact of your public library. Participants learned how to input library data into the seven defined indicators, and how the results can assist in communicating library value to your community and key stakeholders. Nancy and Deanna will focus on the importance of keeping consistent library statistics.

Session Takeaways

- Identify community members and partners to help gather library statistics.
- Ask the First Nation Advisors for guidance.
- First Nation Advisors can also help prepare reports and graphs using the final toolkit report.
- Recommend using a paper copy to create rough notes, then transferring data to an Excel document.
- Reciprocal Borrowing. Reciprocal borrowing agreements should include borrowing statistics.

Task

- Follow-up with Feather Maracle, Joanne Debassige, Wanda Noganosh to complete the toolkit.
- Create an “average book price” list based on the toolkit questions.
- Identify where dictionaries and translated materials are stored.
- Find a router that can count user statistics.
- Create LearnHQ module.
- Create PeerHQ Q&A thread.

10:45 - 11:30 am  Using Your Voice Pt. II - “Promoting and Advocating for Your Library”
First Nation Strategic Action Group

Participants engaged in an open discussion about promoting and advocating for their library. This practical and information session was a safe space to share past experiences with colleagues and discuss practical ways to promote and advocate for your library.

Task

- FNSAG and First Nation Advisors will create a “First Nation Librarian Recruitment” campaign.
- Campaign posters will include an image of a librarian with pertinent information such as library service contact information, job requirements, job highlights, education requirements, and education opportunities.

Exhibitors

Canada Learning Code
129 Spadina Avenue, Toronto ON, M5V2L3
Suzanne Montgomery
suzanne.montgomery@canadalearningcode.ca
www.canadalearningcode.ca/code-mobile

Good Learning Anywhere (GLA) provides access to FREE online courses for 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 with internet access. Upon registration, a mentor will be assigned to you and will guide you through chosen learning path. Online courses are offered live or by independent study.

Courses examples: First Aid Essentials, Create a blog, M’Nendamowin: A Good Way of Thinking, Customer Service, Write an Essay, GED prep, Preparing for a Zombie Apocalypse plus many more!

GLA is part of Employment Ontario and is funded by MTCU as the Aboriginal Stream eChannel lead.

GoodMinds.com is a First Nations family owned book wholesaler located on Six Nations of the Grand River (Brantford) in Southwestern Ontario. Recognizing the need for a one-stop source for quality Indigenous resource materials, Jeff Burnham and his team decided to seek out and make available the best educational works by Indigenous and non-Indigenous publishers alike. The resulting online Internet book catalogue, now reaches educators, librarians and the general public, providing unique resources to inspire their students or patrons. GoodMinds.com continually searches for innovative ways to enhance the educational materials and resources available. Every inventory item is reviewed and evaluated for content quality. GoodMinds.com contributes 5% of sales to the Supporting Aboriginal Libraries Today (SALT) Fund which is a private initiative to financially support new First Nation public libraries.

Canada Learning Code has a fleet of 14 Code Mobiles to travel all over Canada. Providing free digital literacy skills to as many Canadians as possible. We provide all the materials needed and have classes for kids, teens, and Adults at many different skill levels.
Rumie is a non-profit tech organization that mobilizes the power of collaboration to improve access to quality digital resources, even for communities with little or no Internet connectivity. Rumie's approach starts with the LearnCloud - an online repository of high-quality, digital, educational content that is crowdsourced by educators and passionate volunteers in different languages and for different contexts. Rumie then works with on-the-ground program partners around the world who choose the learning materials that are most appropriate for their unique context and load that content onto the specialized Rumie Tablet or any personal Android device via the Rumie App to be used completely offline.
Za-geh-do-win Information Clearinghouse researches, collects, catalogues, and distributes culturally relevant resources to First Nation communities in Ontario. The resources in our library come from a variety of sources including other libraries, clearinghouses, communities, and organizations that provide information and services on health, healing and family violence.

Danielle Recollet-Saikkonen, Library Specialist
lhibspec@za-geh-do-win.com
705-692-0420

http://www.za-geh-do-win.com/

Delegate List
First Nation Public Librarians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Fraser</td>
<td>Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Kendassi Gamik First Nation Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Foster</td>
<td>Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Fox</td>
<td>Henvey Inlet First Nation Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanda Noganosh</td>
<td>Magnetawan First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patsy McKay</td>
<td>Mattagami First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Debassie</td>
<td>M’Chigeeng First Nation Public Library</td>
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<td>Deanna Buonomo</td>
<td>Michipicoten First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Penasse</td>
<td>Nipissing Nation Kendaaswin</td>
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<td>Colleen Eshkakogan</td>
<td>Sagamok First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feather Maracle</td>
<td>Six Nations Public Library</td>
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<td>Troy Yellowhorse</td>
<td>Sheshegwaning First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terri Meekis</td>
<td>Wabauskang First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fran King</td>
<td>Wausaugsing First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evelyn Jocko</td>
<td>Whitefish River First Nation Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheri Mishibinijima</td>
<td>Wikwemikong Public Library</td>
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Ontario Library Service - North & Southern Ontario Library Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mellissa D’Onofrio-Jones</td>
<td>Ontario Library Service - North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deanna Nebenionquit</td>
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<td>Nancy Cooper</td>
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<td>Nicholas Thibert</td>
<td>Ontario Library Service - North</td>
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Guests

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Ozawagosh</td>
<td>Nookmis in Residence</td>
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<td>Lynn Mooney</td>
<td>Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library</td>
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<td>Patricia BigCanoe</td>
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<td>Stephen Abram</td>
<td>Federation of Ontario Public Libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Shine-Livingstone</td>
<td>Kenamatwin Native Learning Centre</td>
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<td>Nicci Johnston</td>
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<td>Shelagh Paterson</td>
<td>Ontario Library Association</td>
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<td>Richard Reid</td>
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<td>Sarah Roberts</td>
<td>Ontario Library Association</td>
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<td>Mary Bissell</td>
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Additional Guest

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Elgee</td>
<td>Senior Program Advisor, Canadian Heritage (Sudbury Office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:andrew.elgee@canada.ca">andrew.elgee@canada.ca</a></td>
<td>705-671-0308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anishinaabemowin translations completed by Madeline Wemigwans, Anishinaabemowin Support Worker, Wiikwemkoong Heritage Organization | Mohawk translations completed by Nicole Bilodeau, Mohawk Language Instructor, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Anishinaabemowin</th>
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<tr>
<td>International Year of Indigenous Languages</td>
<td>mnaajchigaadeg engokimaag</td>
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<td>Teyô:’a ñá:k’</td>
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<td>“Makerspace”</td>
<td>ezhi zhîtoong gîgoöo</td>
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<td>Tsy Ronwa’tikarôn:nîs</td>
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<td>Shaiko’torînhô:ni:mnî</td>
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<td>Sewing</td>
<td>gîshkîgwaâsîng</td>
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<td>Archives “Our history”</td>
<td>kchi mëzwîjîgaabizhiwebâk zhaabwîtsoong</td>
<td>Kahiyanhôshak</td>
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<td>I love to read!</td>
<td>nbishìgë’dënà gîndaasîtiyanh</td>
<td>Wâkon’wëskwa’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome to the library</td>
<td>kchi mïgwëtçhë bidiîng</td>
<td>Tsy Nihórîhë:tehô:</td>
</tr>
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<td>Visit, learn, share</td>
<td>nbwàwaçchen, ndagkîndjîgîn, s’é aatàn gekëndjîmî</td>
<td>Senàtâra, seweînîtê:’a’n, Tsewatëtërihonôni:m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Miigwetch | Niá:wen

We hope to see you next year!