

Indigenous Library Partnership Working Group AGM Report

Report To: FOPL Members and Board
Report Name: Indigenous Library Partnership Working Group Report
Prepared by: Feather Maracle

Working Group: Kelly Bernstein, County of Brant Public Library
Kathleen Copegog, Beausoleil First Nation Public Library
Kathy Fisher, Ottawa Public Library
Alicia Subnaik Kilgour, Niagara Falls Public Library
Feather Maracle, Six Nations Public Library
Dr. Sabrina Redwing Saunders, The Blue Mountains Public Library
Aly Velji, Toronto Public Library

Meeting Date(s): 2021.09.22, 2021.11.02, 2021.12.06, 2022.01.07, 2022.02.16, 2022.04.27

Location: Virtual

A. Recommendation

THAT the FOPL members receive the Indigenous Library Partnership Working Group AGM Report as information.

B. Background

This Working Group has been a standing committee of FOPL for a number of years. With the reauthorization of this Working Group and utilization foundational documents (94 Calls to Action; CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations) Truth and Reconciliation matters, the Indigenous Library Partnership has been meeting regularly.

C. Discussion of Needs, Issues and Work Completed

- The Group drafted the Terms of Reference which were accepted by the Indigenous Library Working Group September 22, 2021 and approved by the Board September 24, 2021
- Purpose and Mandate follow, as these provide continuous guidance informing issues and work to be done:



Purpose: The FOPL Board recognizes the need for Indigenous and Ally members to support Indigenous librarianship, our First Nation Public Library (FNPL) members, and Indigenous supports and services across our province. This Working Group shall also be tasked with ensuring accurate representation of First Nations Public Libraries and their interests in FOPL's advocacy efforts by reaching out and collaborating with said libraries.

Mandate: This Standing Committee has the mandate to provide direction to the FOPL E.D. and Board on Indigenous matters and Truth and Reconciliation agenda, which FOPL may have a role in supporting and advocating for as a unified voice. This Working Group will also provide mentoring and sponsorship ideas for the public libraries who sponsor First Nation Public Libraries in Ontario. Additionally, the three pillars of this Working Group are:

1. Advocate with and for our First Nation Public Library (FNPL) members;
 2. Support public libraries that serve Indigenous patrons;
 3. Support public libraries providing Indigenous Awareness to patrons.
- Following those guidelines, the Working Group:
 1. Has successfully advocated for the financial needs of FNPLs as public libraries on reserves, and should be funded as public libraries. The funding increase to FNPLs was included in the budget 'ask' to the Ministry.
 2. Utilizing FOPL blog and social media posts to lift Indigenous Voices and highlight ways PLs can actively participate in Truth and Reconciliation as part of regular business and as incorporated into Strategic Plans (ongoing)

D. Next Steps

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- September 14, 2022: Offering Truth and Reconciliation in Your Library – works toward Mandate #3 by offering the following: 1) What your library can do; 2) How you can create relationships; 3) Engage and grow partnerships.
 - Provide a series of book reviews raising the auditory visibility of Indigenous Voices
 - Standing meeting dates as the 4th Wednesday of the month (11:30am-4pm)