

CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee Steps to Reconcili-Action

Background

In 2017, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations /Fédération Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques Indigenous Matters Committee published its Truth and Reconciliation Report which included a list of recommendations on what the library community can do. Since that time, over thirty Canadian libraries, Associations, and Institutions have endorsed the report. Following a survey of endorsing organizations in 2023, the Indigenous Matters Committee has created a list of actions taken in the Canadian Library Landscape which may be a good fit for your organization's work towards reconciliation.

Listed below are a number of highlights, including the contact information for those who helped guide these processes through. Look over them, find inspiration, and feel free to contact those involved to see the challenges and opportunities they found in responding to the 2017 report.

KEEP YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE

Working towards any goal can be much more effective when holding yourself accountable.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, in their Reconciliation Action Plan put their action front and center, noting both the action they planned to take and the current status of each action. Actions included the creation of a working group, advocacy goals, and support for members. The Reconciliation Action Plan was shared with all their members.

Contact Dina Stevens dinastevens@fopl.ca for further information on creating accountability to yourself and your stakeholders.

BREAK DOWN ORGANIZATIONAL BARRIERS

Find ways to extend your work to include the community. Toronto Public Library has established an Indigenous Advisory Council, including members from different Indigenous communities and service providers in Toronto. The Council's mandate aligns with TPL's Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives created in 2017.

Contact Pam Ryan pryan@tpl.ca for further information on working with Indigenous communities and service providers in your libraries.

SUPPORT INDIGENOUS LIBRARIANS IN THE FIELD

As more Indigenous librarians enter the field, Organizations and Associations are stepping up to support more Indigenous representation. Whether through awards, internships, or finding a place for Indigenous Library Workers in your organization, it's worth knowing where some of this great work in Canadian librarianship is taking place.

Contact Jean Blackburn execdir@coppul.ca at the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries regarding their Indigenous Student Award.

Contact Tina Kleisinger tkleisinger@saskla.ca regarding the Saskatchewan Library Association's Indigenous Student MLIS Education Bursary.

Contact Lyle Ford lyle.ford@umanitoba.ca regarding the University of Manitoba's [Indigenous Librarian Internship](#).

MAKE SPACE FOR INDIGENOUS ART AND COMMUNITY

Calgary Public Library began an initiative that develops traditional and contemporary artworks that promote understanding of Indigenous peoples and cultures within Treaty 7 territory. Information on their placemaking installations can be found at

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/connect/indigenous-services/indigenous-placemaking/>

Contact Kelli Morning Bull at kelli.morningbull@calgarylibrary.ca for further information on cpl's work in this area.

FOCUS ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR STAFF

Ensuring you and your team participate in regular professional development opportunities can help this work stay front. PD should be available to to your boards, staff, and in all areas of your organizations.

Contact Karen Hudson khudson@saltspringlibrary.com for information on the Indigenous Relations training for staff at Salt Spring Library.

Finding ways to move your organization towards the TRC principles can be overwhelming, so consider these highlights of some of the great work being done in Canadian librarianship as a place to begin, develop, and inspire.

Compiled by CFLA-FCAB's Indigenous Matters Committee

The information contained in this report is a non-exclusive list of all of the actions taken by organizations nationwide. It is based on the highlights of

those responses received by the committee meant primarily to give possible contacts across the nation for inspiration and collaboration.