



2019 SICC ē-micimināyakik Gathering
Museums, Cultural Centres, Archives, Interpretive Centres & Libraries
Workshop 3
Colette Poitras & Diana Davidson

Title: Alberta Provincial Public Library Services with Indigenous Communities

Presenter: Colette Poitras & Diana Davidson

Biography: Colette Poitras (Métis) is the Manager, Indigenous Public Library Outreach with Public Library Services Branch (PLSB), Alberta Government. Prior to joining PLSB, she worked at the Northern Lights Library System for 16 years. She received a Library Journal “Movers and Shakers” award in 2017 for her work with library services to Indigenous communities. She is the 2019 Chair of the Canadian Federation of Libraries Association Indigenous Matters Committee.

Biography: Diana Davidson is the Director of the Public Library Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs. She is committed to improving library services for Indigenous Peoples in Alberta.

Abstract: In 2016-2017, the Province of Alberta provided funding to regional library systems and large urban libraries for populations living within First Nations reserves and Metis settlements. The Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) of Alberta Municipal Affairs designed an ongoing grant program which eliminated non-resident fees for reserve and settlement populations. Residents of Indigenous communities now have access to public libraries equivalent to that enjoyed by municipal residents. Many initiatives have taken place around the province since 2016. Within Alberta public libraries, Indigenous collections and programs have been developed and strengthened. Culturally sensitive library spaces have been developed. Library staff in municipal public libraries have received cultural awareness and sensitivity training. A provincial community of practice has begun to develop, with library staff (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) sharing techniques and expertise. PLSB held a symposium on the topic of public library service with Indigenous communities in February 2017. Library service is now being delivered within many Indigenous communities. Attend the session to learn what has been done and what the plans are for the future.

Learning Objectives: Participants will:

- Learn what Indigenous services and programs have been offered throughout the province;
- Hear about the Public Library Service for Indigenous Communities Symposium and the learning outcomes;
- Learn about the partnerships and relationships being created, nurtured and sustained throughout this initiative;
- Hear about new Indigenous services and programs being planned; and,
- Gain ideas about how to create partnerships with your library to increase provision of Indigenous services and programs.