

Public Services Report

Board Meeting October 21, 2017

Written October 18, 2017

Summer Reading Program:

The summer reading program has come to an end! The entertainer tour has ended, and Safire and Mandi the Clown were both well received. They thoroughly enjoyed their performances at the NLLS libraries! Member libraries have voted in favour of having Northern Lights select one entertainer to tour all the libraries again next year, as opposed to receiving a small grant to each hire their own individual entertainer.

Winter Reading Program:

Planning for the 2017 Winter Reading Program has begun! This year's theme is Snow is Falling, Books are Calling. The WRP manuals will be sent out to the libraries in November. Stay tuned for more details. The WRP will start on January 1 and go until February 28th.

Author Tour:

Nancy M. Bell presented an Author Tour at 18 NLLS libraries during October. She is a Romance and Young Adult author from Alberta and several of her novels are already available within TRAC! We are looking into other upcoming possible Author Tours as well.

Hoopla & Zinio:

As of September 1st, the limit for the amount of Hoopla materials borrowed each month is 5 per patron, down from 8. The e-resource "Zinio Libraries" has been replaced by "RBdigital". Users will need to download the new app, although the website has changed over from Zinio to RBdigital automatically – the content and purpose of RBdigital is the same as Zinio. For those who enjoy using OverDrive, feel free to check out their new Libby app! This app has a bit more of a personal touch to it than the usual OverDrive one does. Perhaps investigate further in the Niche tutorial for OverDrive, from the NLLS page. Also, a reminder that the OverDrive Kids e-Reading room is now live. Contact Robyn at rgray@nlls.ab.ca if you have any questions.

MElibraries:

It appears that the issue between MElibraries and Polaris has now been resolved!

Public Services Group:

Robyn has recently become the representative of NLLS in the Public Services Group, which consists of one representative of each library within the TRAC consortium. Colette was previously the NLLS representative, and attended Robyn's first meeting with her to properly introduce the group and the material.

Conference:

As you all know, the Northern Lights Library System's annual conference happened on September 14th and 15th. We hope you all enjoyed this year's conference, "Canada & Libraries as One"! It was a major success, and we had approximately 120 attendees. We have begun working on next year's conference – we are looking at perhaps moving the date to September 27th and 28th in 2018, and are beginning to examine possible themes.

Indigenous Update:

Library Service started at Saddle Lake Cree Nation on May 26th of 2017. There have been just over 100 patrons who have signed up for a library card since opening day.

If you haven't had a chance to yet, feel free to visit the "Indigenous" heading on the Northern Lights website. There are several tabs that provide information about initiatives in the area, as well as Cree Language. If you would like to request specific Cree lesson topics, or would like more information in general about the Indigenous initiatives taking place at NLLS, please email Tanya at tfontaine@nlls.ab.ca.

Library services to Cold Lake First Nation, Heart Lake First Nation, and Elizabeth Metis Settlement continue. A plan to begin service to Goodfish Lake (Whitefish Lake) is in the works. Tanya is encouraged by the enthusiasm that member libraries show in responding to the Calls for Action listed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report (2015).

Consultant Visits + Training:

We are very sorry to see Colette leave from NLLS, but are confident that she will accomplish amazing things in her new position at the Public Library Services Branch. Please see below for the list of which consultant is now in charge of which libraries:

Kayla: Chauvin, Edgerton, Paradise Valley, Kitscoty, Marwayne, Irma, Mannville, Innisfree, Mundare, Myrnam, Two Hills, Holden, Ryley, Tofield, Andrew, Lamont, Bruderheim, Elk Point, Viking, Vermilion, Wainwright, Vegreville

Robyn: Mallaig, Ashmont, Vilna, Smoky Lake, Waskatenau, Radway, Thorhild, Newbrook, Boyle, Grassland, Rochester, Wandering River, Redwater, Gibbons, Bon Accord, Edmonton Garrison, St Paul, Cold Lake, Bonnyville, Lac La Biche, Athabasca, Morinville

As always, the consultants in public services are happy to come to member communities and help with staff or board training. Please give us a call or ask us for a copy of our Consultant Form to fill out. If you would like to see broader training opportunities offered regionally or at the system headquarters, let us know that as well. We hope that our member library staff are directing patrons to Niche Academy (<https://my.nicheacademy.com/v2/nlls>) for their library training needs. If you would like to see any training resources added, please let us know!

Sincerely,

Robyn Gray & Kayla Lorenzen