

Minutes

Nunavut Library Association (NLA) Meeting
November 12, 2009, 7:30 pm ET
Office of the Commission Scolaire Francophone d'Iqaluit

Attending in person: Rae-Lynne Aramburo; Diane Corbeil; Yvonne Earle; Catherine Hoyt; Ron Knowling; Carolyn Mallory; Carol Rigby
Attending by teleconference: Leigh-Ann Cumming; Sue MacIsaac

1. Agenda adopted as proposed (see Appendix A)
2. Library/member updates
 - Carolyn Mallory reported on the Coalition library. The Nunavut Research Institute is being demolished and replaced, and is currently working out of the Brown building. The rest of the coalition is working well.
 - Diane Corbeil has left Iqaluit Centennial Library and is now working with GN Records Management. She has been there a month and is enjoying the work. She also does some work with Carolyn for the Coalition with the Wildlife Management Board library. She had to cancel a planned library technician course because its online delivery was too sophisticated for the level of Internet stability here in Iqaluit.
 - Catherine Hoyt outlined activities of the Friends of Iqaluit Centennial Library. They have obtained Brighter Futures funding for an Inuktitut literacy coordinator to run Inuktitut literacy programs. Elisapee Flaherty is taking on the project, running Saturdays. They are working on building attendance. The book sale went well and raised \$525.75. The Friends have distributed donated books to the airport and various medical waiting rooms. The Iqaluit Literacy Committee wound up its operations and donated their funds to the Friends. A public reading with Patricia Storms, children's author and illustrator, is scheduled next week as part of Canadian Children's Book Week. Light refreshments will be provided. New volunteers for the Friends are also coming on board.
 - Ron Knowling reported that he is currently wearing two hats, as Manager of Nunavut Public Library Services (NPLS) and acting Head Librarian for Iqaluit Centennial Library. Grant Karcich left the library in mid-August, and Diane Corbeil is no longer there. Ron has been in Iqaluit since the end of September. They have conducted a major weeding initiative, cleaning up work areas and stacks, and he has received great support from the Friends, the community and staff. They are trying to make the branch look more professional. Staffing is in process for the Head Librarian and the Librarian positions; there are currently 4 casuals and one indeterminate part-time Assistant Librarian. NPLS continues to try to get more funding for the collection and for travel in support of

community operations. They now have subscriptions to World Book online and the E-Library database; these are school-level resources and a good literacy fit. In future they would like to see online audio books, Chilton's small engine repair database, etc. In response to questions, he indicated that this is the first serious e-service initiative, that the databases will be accessible from the NPLS website, and that patrons can get the userid and password from their library but access these from home. The service has not yet been officially rolled out because staff training is still needed. He was also recently at the meeting of the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors Committee meeting at Library and Archives Canada; the overall move to Internet resources is quite staggering. There is also a big push for literacy programmes (prenatal, early childhood, 5-9 years). More attention is being paid to the work and the resources across the country.

- Carol Rigby reported on her contract work. This includes cataloguing for the Legislative Library, where she is happy to say that the backlog of Tabled Documents is now completely catalogued up to the end of the last sitting of the Assembly. She was in Pond Inlet for 10 days in October, cataloguing the Pond Inlet Library and Archives Society's historical collection, where the English holdings of the collection are now almost completely catalogued. It's anticipated that this work will be complete before Christmas. She has also been setting up a Curriculum Resource Centre for the Department of Education, to collect and organize resources for the newly expanded Curriculum Development Division.

- Yvonne Earle reported that in addition to the completion of the TD backlog cataloguing project, discussions are now underway to set up an e-doc repository for the Legislative Library of Nunavut. This would focus on GN documents, echoing the move by other legislative libraries around the country to keep track of electronic documents for their respective jurisdictions. The repository would be accessed through links from the existing catalogue, either from links within records for the print version of the items or from records created specifically for the electronic document where there is no print holding. The Legislative Library is currently without a library technician; the position was filled by Kevin Qamaniq-Mason from April to September, and she is currently looking for a casual to fill in while a competition is run. The plan is to hire someone with minimum Grade 12 qualifications who is willing to sign up for ongoing library technician training.

- Yvonne also noted that the Court Librarian position is still unfilled, and she has been covering some reference questions for them. The last offer of the Court position was declined and the post has gone out to competition again.

- Rae-Lynne Aramburo indicated that she will be back to work from maternity leave at Nunavut Arctic College on Dec. 10. She is trying to stay

in the loop through listservs etc. Katharine Tagak-Devries has been filling in for her.

- Sue MacIsaac as Community Services Librarian for NPLS was busy through the summer, programming the fall, which includes Canadian Library Month, Read for 15, Nunavut Literacy Week, and Canadian Children's Book Week, which starts this week. The NPLS processing system for new books is going well and saving some money. She carried out several branch visits, finally making it to Arctic Bay in May, which was the last of all of them—lots of weeding required. On a personal note, she finished her Library Technician Diploma from Mohawk College. Notable donations to the system came from Phi Beta Pi, who have been making contributions to the collection for several years, and Carol Rigby, who as a member of the Canadian Young Adult Book Award committee of CLA donated all the books (ca. 120 titles) submitted by Canadian publishers for 2008 to be considered by committee members. Sue is also working on guidelines for cataloguing bilingual resources; she is using the Legislative Library's Inuktitut standards for cataloguing in syllabics and looking at existing records.

- Leigh-Ann Cumming made a visit to Iqaluit in September in connection with her Department of Health library work. She was able to see the new library at the hospital, where the old x-ray department used to be located. She understands it's being well-used and the new resources are appreciated by medical staff. At the Cambridge Bay campus of NAC, she held student and staff library orientations in September and held an Open House, which was attended by seven students and one instructor despite poor weather. Usage statistics are up.

3. Literacy Council update

- No update was available for this meeting from the Nunavut Literacy Council
- The Iqaluit Literacy Committee has disbanded. They had \$1400 in the bank, and these funds were transferred to the Friends of Iqaluit Centennial Library to support literacy programs.

4. Partnership report

§ There was no representative at the August meeting of The Partnership. Yvonne has just received the notes from this meeting. One day was spent with the current Director of CLA trying to sort out respective organizational roles. It was agreed that CLA has the primary advocacy role at the federal level, and the Partnership will focus on programming and continuing education for library professionals in Canada.

§ Yvonne is on the Education Institute committee, but no postings have come out from them recently. There will be a meeting later this month. They forgot to call Yvonne to include her for one meeting. As EI is

growing, it is taking more resources from OLA, so there are issues of cost. They are also looking for people to offer programs. ACTION: Yvonne will continue as EI committee member after Rae-Lynne returns as NLA president.

§ February 23, 2010, the day before the next OLA Superconference, is the next meeting, bringing up the question of a Nunavut representative. Registration at the Superconference is free for the Partnership attendee. ACTION: If people are going to OLA, they should contact Yvonne or Rae-Lynne; NPLS indicated they hope to send one person.

5. The current edition of the NLA Newsletter was e-mailed out on November 4. Leigh Ann, the editor, thanked everyone for their contributions. Next issue will likely be a winter/spring issue, sometime in March or April. She will work towards a more visible presence with the NLA website. ACTION: It would be a good idea to get the most recent newsletter posted on the website, and Leigh-Ann will send it to Ken Su for posting.

6. It's unclear what the activity level is on the NLA website, and Ken Su, who was instrumental in getting it up and running, was not in attendance. However, Yvonne has had a number of questions pertaining to her library that indicate the website as a source for contact.

7. Issues

· Unicode & AMICUS: The inability of AMICUS, the national library catalogue, to support Unicode and its implication for non-Roman character cataloguing such as for Inuktitut syllabics was discussed. Yvonne sees this in requests for items that are placed using roman transliteration, but the items themselves are in syllabics. This also creates issues for legal deposit of Inuktitut publications, and for libraries like ours with syllabics in their catalogues not being able to report holdings to AMICUS because of incompatibility. AMICUS is looking to upgrade to Unicode, but appears to be sliding on the LAC priority scale. Ron indicated that at the PTDLG meeting, there were lots of questions about AMICUS as it is regarded as a very important service, but it is difficult to administer as a union catalogue, particularly with regards to weeding, and there were oblique suggestions that LAC might get out of the union catalogue business. LAC used to be on the forefront of cataloguing and data management and now appears to be slipping. Carol has drafted a letter, which has been distributed to members, on the importance of the issue to members of our association and their library systems. It was suggested that a paragraph be included about the importance of the union catalogue and the leadership role of LAC in providing access to Canadian resources, since we all use it, and daily: for ILLs, cataloguing, etc. Everyone was in support of sending the letter; Leigh-Ann inquired about reaching out to other jurisdictions to

obtain additional support. ACTION: Yvonne will revise draft & address appropriately for approval by the membership before sending.

- Book Rate: there has been no movement on the Private Member's Bill. Ron indicated that the provincial/territorial directors met with Kelly Moore, the Executive Director of CLA, on this issue and that there will be a small increase in Book Rate this year. Several provinces are actually looking at delivery services of their own, not part of the book rate system.
- Copyright: Nobody had details to update this issue, although it was indicated that it is up in the air especially with the Google books lawsuit.

8. Reports from Meetings / Conferences

- Yvonne reported on APLIC, which was held in Winnipeg in early October. The biggest initiative by all parliamentary/legislative libraries is creating e-repositories and creating a portal or gateway for the Association members. She also heard about the situation in the NWT Legislative Library, where there was a small library in the Legislature itself and a branch library with a large collection that was heavily used by public servants. Cuts have been made and the Legislative Librarian has been told to close the branch library and warehouse its contents. The concern is that this is a first step in disbanding the collection, which is the core collection for the NWT and has been worked on for 22 years. The attitude appears to be that the library will go electronic, but there is still a need for print documents, many of which are not available in electronic form. Most legislative libraries are reconfiguring resources with more electronic material. Yvonne is now the Vice-President of the Association.
- Canadian Library Month (October), Nunavut: Ron is on the committee. NPLS will be doing posters and bookmarks for next year. Sue said that every branch of the public library system did something for Library Month, despite a big turnover in the community librarian staffing. Nunavut Literacy Week and the Read for 15 challenge were treated as part of it, which was a good opportunity to introduce new staff to programs and services.
- TD Canadian Children's Book Week starts next week. Sue reported that Patricia Storms is the visiting author; she arrives in Iqaluit Saturday, where there will be a social event, then to Pang, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and ending in Baker Lake. There has been a good response from communities here. The issue of Gr.1 book distribution in Nunavut may need to be revisited, as in many communities classes at that level are offered in Inuktitut only. Any school can apply to get a free book for every first grader, and the books are distributed by the Canadian Children's book centre. In Nunavut this was originally handled by the Department of Education, but there were distribution issues due to language. The Iqaluit Literacy Committee did it for a couple of years, then Trudy Pettigrew at

Qikiqtani School Operations. Sue would like to see the process revised; a lot of the western communities would have more use for English books.

9. Other business:

- Ron raised the issue of CNIB libraries, which came up at the PTLDC meeting in Ottawa. CNIB is shutting down its partnership library program March 31, 2010, and shutting down the CNIB library itself in 2012. The partnership program distributes materials for the visually impaired. CNIB has been trying to set up a subscription service and appears to be trying to do an end run around the Initiative for Equitable Library Service (IELA), which originated with a CLA motion and work for not just the visually impaired but also those with physical obstacles to reading, dyslexia, etc. There is a proposal out for a new NGO to provide this service funded by federal and provincial/territorial grants. A consultant is looking at a structure for a “national” solution. Nunavut is waiting to see what IELA recommends.

10. Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in April or May 2010. Yvonne has been interim President and is happy to complete this meeting’s business and hand the reins back over to Rae-Lynne in January 2010.

11. Thanks were expressed to the Commission Scolaire Francophone d’Iqaluit for the use of the room and the conference call facilities.

Appendix A: Agenda

1. Agenda
2. Library/member updates
3. Literacy Council update
 - Iqaluit Literacy Committee
4. Partnership report
 - § August meeting - no representative.
 - § Education Institute (Yvonne)
 - § February 23 meeting– representative?
5. Newsletter (Leigh Ann)
6. Website
7. Issues

- LAC / Amicus incompatibility to handle non-Roman languages
- Book Rate
- Copyright

8. Reports from Meetings / Conferences

- APLIC (Yvonne)
 - Canadian Library Month, Nunavut (Ron)
 - TD Canadian Children's Book Week (Sue)
- Gr.1 book distribution in Nunavut ?

9. Other business

10. Next meeting