

Nunavut Library Association Meeting, October 30, 2007: Minutes

The meeting was convened in person and through teleconference at Nunavut Arctic College Nunatta Campus.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

In attendance in person: Rae-Lynne Aramburo, presiding; Carol Rigby, taking minutes; Elisa Chandler; Diane Corbeil; Katharine Tagak DeVries; Yvonne Earle; Grant Karcich; Gary Pon

In attendance by teleconference: Qingyi (Ken) Su; Janice Linton

1. Agenda:

The agenda revised earlier in the day and circulated by e-mail was accepted as tabled.

2. Member updates:

- *Nunavut Court of Justice Library:* Gary has been seconded to the Policy division of the Department of Justice for a 6-month term. Elisa will be filling in half-time at the Court library, doing reference, patron service, and cataloguing. Gary will continue to maintain the Nunavut judgements and the court library website. Recent activities include getting some binding done and placing a large book order soon. Public legal education material still needs work.
- *Legislative Library:* Yvonne reported business as usual, with the cataloging of the tabled documents continuing at a steady pace.
- *Nunavut Arctic College Library:* Katharine is taking a cataloguing course through SAIT. Rae-Lynne reported that the College has a new president, who seems keen; his effect on library services remains to be seen. Leigh-Ann Cumming has been hired part time for the Kitikmeot Campus library service, & Rae-Lynne paid her October visit to the Kivalliq campus as well.
- *Nunavut Public Library Services:* Diane has been working at Iqaluit Centennial since August; she was formerly the French school librarian. Carol has also been working at the public library on a part-time basis since July. There was a 100% turnover of staff over the course of the summer, so she is trying to keep things organized, training and documenting procedures for new staff. She was happy to welcome Grant Karcich as the new Head Librarian for Iqaluit Centennial. He had just landed the day before, and was pleased to have the opportunity to meet his library colleagues in town so soon after arriving.
- Ken Su reported that the NPLS HQ office in Baker Lake was busy preparing for a community librarians' workshop, to be held the week of Nov. 5. Topics in the workshop will include a review of what is going in NPLS, and some basic library skills training as there are many new community librarians with very little training. Other initiatives include the opportunity to obtain software program donations at 5% of market price, and web hosting of a patron information database in Toronto to facilitate merging data with overdues information from the Virtua database in Virginia to provide overdue notices and other patron data-related functions of the ILS. Yvonne expressed an interest in this development as one that could possibly

be used by all members of the Virtua consortium to facilitate automated circulation without jeopardizing the security of patron data by having it in the U.S. He is looking for an opportunity to obtain training with VTLS in December or early next year, but is still have trouble getting Virtua fully installed in Baker Lake.

- On an individual note, Carol is working on her master's thesis on multilingual and multiscript cataloguing issues, and is arranging interviews with all Nunavut library managers and cataloguers to obtain their views on this subject. She would also welcome comment from anyone who is interested in and has opinions on these issues.
- Janice, as the Aboriginal Health Librarian for Manitoba, reviewed her role serving the information needs of nurses and physicians in the Kivalliq. She has been involved with the CHRT circumpolar health program, dealing with the challenges of serving patrons at a distance. She will be attending the Arctic Research Health Network meeting in Rankin Inlet the week of Nov. 13. She also brought to the group's attention a Call for Proposals issued for the International Polar Year (IPY) in training, research and outreach. She is interested in putting together a proposal to make subscriptions to research databases available to Nunavut users, and will post information to our distribution list on the proposal. From her standpoint, there is an issue of need for information and research support for health care workers here, with little access available. \$200K per year for 3 years might be available under this program.

3. Literacy Council update:

Yvonne convenes the Iqaluit Literacy Committee, and Dan Page is the Nunavut Literacy Council treasurer. This year their AGM will be held in Yellowknife (for weather reasons) Nov. 17-18.

After the flurry of protests against the cuts to literacy programs initiated by the federal government earlier in the year, she was happy to report that funding has been put back into literacy programs as core funding. Nunavut will be getting \$160K per year, which will keep the Nunavut Literacy Council office running. They are also appealing to the GN for core funding.

A workshop is being held in Iqaluit next week, Nov. 6-8; the same workshop has already been delivered in the Kivalliq & Kitikmeot. It will cover mother tongue literacy, development of literacy in other tongues, and highlighting ECE materials the council has developed.

It is still undecided whether the next Peter Gzowski Invitational golf tournament will be held in Nunavut or the NWT next year.

4. The Partnership update:

Rae-Lynne represented our association at the meeting in August of Partnership members. The Partnership is an association of library associations from all provinces and territories; most have 2 representatives (president and vice-president). It differs from CLA in that it is not an advocacy group, but rather supports individual provincial/territorial associations and runs programs and training. They have 4 main initiatives:

- Education Institute—the flyer of courses was sent out recently. Registration fees received are distributed out to members, and courses are available at a member's rate. If we were to develop a course we would also receive proceeds from others taking it.
- National Job Site: this is under development by the BCLA. There is a charge for posting: libraryjobs.ca
- E-Journal: issued twice a year, this is an open-access peer-reviewed journal with news and articles.
- Career Centre: this is a new initiative to support library workers, still in development by the Saskatchewan LA.

Action: Rae-Lynne will send out links to these various activities. Major support comes from OLA for funding. **Action:** Rae-Lynne will also maintain her practice of forwarding monthly updates on courses being offered.

5. *NLA Newsletter:*

Leigh-Ann unable to attend tonight. She would appreciate a deadline for text submissions so she can put together a first issue of our newsletter. **Action:** The group agreed on Nov. 23 as a deadline for submissions. She hopes to have a regular column profiling different Nunavut libraries; Ainsley Hunt in Pond Inlet will do a library profile of Rebecca P. Idlout Library in Pond for the first issue. The goal is to have the first issue out before Christmas.

6. *NLA Logo:*

The group also discussed the logo developed by Leigh-Ann's husband and circulated by her as a possible logo for the association & newsletter. The group agreed it was a good start, although some are concerned about the general prevalence of inuksuit in logos & graphics, especially with the Winter Olympics using an inuksuk. There was also some discussion of whether we should entertain or ask for an alternate concept. **Action:** Several had some specific suggestions for development, such as seeing how the logo looks shrunk to letterhead size, so comments should be passed back to Leigh-Ann, with thanks for the volunteer contribution.

7. *Mission Statement:*

Carol had drafted a mission statement and organizational description for the NLA, which had just been circulated to members earlier in the day. It was felt it would be good to have a one-page description of our purpose and mode of operation, which would form a basis for the whole group to move with the group vision, or to have a foundation for discussion if a change of direction or operation was needed. Everyone has the draft.

Action: Comments should be sent to Carol by Nov. 16, after which time she will revise and circulate a second draft to the membership.

8. *JK Rowling Reading in Toronto contest:*

Rae-Lynne reported that it happened. OLA hosted a JK Rowling booktalk and distributed tickets to provincial & territorial library associations. A contest was held to determine the Nunavut winner, to be accompanied by an adult. Nunavut Literacy Council paid for the

airline tickets and accommodation. Terry Kusugak of Rankin Inlet was the winner, selected by the committee—which consisted of Rae-Lynne as judge.

9. *Library Book Rate update:* CLA website has posted a recent press release which indicates that the rates will be unchanged for 2008. Canada Post is still collecting and analyzing data from use of the new online Book Rate shipping tool, as they want a full year's data. So we have a 1-year extension of the current structure.

10. *School libraries letter update:*

At the last meeting, it was suggested we send a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the need for support of school libraries. Rae-Lynne and Carolyn Mallory were tasked with producing the letter. Rae-Lynne has done some research, and Carolyn has this material to draft, but the letter has not been completed yet. Yvonne noted that School Library Day was celebrated recently as part of Library Month, so this could be used as a lead-in to the letter. Carolyn is currently out of town. **Action:** Rae-Lynne will see if it can be pulled together quickly on Carolyn's return.

11. *CCBW:*

Yvonne reported as coordinator of the school visits for Canadian Children's Book Week on behalf of the Iqaluit Literacy Committee. The Baffin is getting an author tour this year, by Liam O'Donnell, author of a number of graphic novels, e.g. the "Max Finder" series. He will be visiting Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Igloolik. Ron Knowling at NPLS has arranged the logistics, and Sue MacIsaac, who has just started as A/Community Services Librarian at NPLS HQ, had now taken over the territorial coordination. Yvonne will be arranging the Iqaluit school reading schedule, the Iqaluit Library Board is supporting a public reading on Nov. 18 at Iqaluit Centennial, and on Nov. 23 he will be speaking to the NTEP students at the College. TD Bank has put more money into supporting the school readings, so there will be 4 free readings for Iqaluit and 10 in total for the territory. They are also providing free books to be given away in the schools.

12. *Other business:*

Community librarians will be passing through Iqaluit on their way to and from their Baker Lake workshop. Yvonne asked Ken to tell Ron that she would be happy to give any community librarian a tour of the legislative library and the assembly building if they are interested while in transit.

13. *Next meeting:*

We will plan to try to get together again in 6 months or so, as is our average. We may also try to hold a social event in mid-November.

The meeting concluded around 9 p.m.