



Nunavut Library Association

Nunavut Library Association Statement of Mission, Vision and Value

Mission: The mission of the Nunavut Library Association is to promote the value and use of all types of libraries in Nunavut, and to connect people who work in and with Nunavut libraries for mutual support and professional development.

Vision: The members of the NLA envision a future where all Nunavummiut have equitable access to library resources, both in person and online, and appreciate and use them. We see all libraries being adequately supported and funded, and all library staff and advocates feeling welcome to be part of our association.

Association Values:

The Nunavut Library Association provides a forum for discussion, encouragement and professional development for its members. Our members uphold the following values:

- Providing library services and materials to all Nunavummiut in the official language or languages of their choice (Inuit language, English and French)
- Advocating for and helping to provide equitable access to information for all Nunavummiut
- Supporting the rights of Nunavummiut to intellectual freedom, freedom of expression, and freedom of access
- Promoting literacy in all of Nunavut's official languages
- Supporting all persons who work in and with Nunavut libraries, whatever their level of library training or professional status, in their professional development
- Providing a forum for everyone working in Nunavut libraries to discuss challenges and opportunities and to share solutions to problems
- Providing a channel for those who may be working in isolated circumstances to maintain and extend professional networks and feel part of the broader Canadian library community

Association Goals:

Short term:

- Continue to represent all types of libraries in Nunavut
- Advocate for excellent library services for Nunavummiut with all levels of government and other agencies
- Promote library services and literacy in the official languages of Nunavut
- Ensure that the Association stays connected with our peers in other territories and provinces through participation in The Partnership and in other Canadian and international library working groups
- Continue active advocacy efforts on behalf of rural and remote libraries throughout Canada

Medium term:

- Connect with library staff throughout Nunavut and build up the membership

Long term:

- Establish the NLA as a formally registered society

Nunavut Library Association

nunavutlibraryassociation@gmail.com

<https://nunavutlibraryassociation.ca/>



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Association Value to Members:

- ✓ It is a great way to make connections with other people working in the library field in Nunavut, from community librarians to library assistants to managers of larger library systems
- ✓ It can help you feel less isolated in your work, especially if you live in one of the smaller communities or if you are new to Nunavut and its huge distances between people
- ✓ It's cost-effective: we currently do not charge for membership
- ✓ It's easy: just contact the association e-mail and ask to be put on our e-mail distribution list for updates and information
- ✓ It gives you access to the privileges of membership in The Partnership, including discounts for their professional development program offered through the Education Institute (webinars and courses), and participation in Partnership meetings to represent NLA
- ✓ It gives you a forum to bring up and discuss library issues that are important to you, and to add your voice in support of library services both locally and nationally (e.g. maintaining the library book rate, getting fair prices for e-books, etc.)
- ✓ If you participate in NLA meetings, you get a chance to meet and talk to other members in person or by telephone, to hear about what is happening in their libraries and discuss your own successes and challenges
- ✓ You have an opportunity to build your skill set in a supportive and appreciative environment by volunteering to help with various NLA initiatives
- ✓ Taking courses, volunteering, participating in local and national committees and advocacy initiatives all add up to significant professional development

Organization Structure and Activities:

Our membership is open to all persons serving residents of Nunavut who are interested in or work with library issues, regardless of their professional qualifications or geographic location. Our members can be professional librarians or library technicians, library support staff, literacy workers or archivists who work in or with libraries, and supporting members of the public (e.g. members of Friends of a Library group, library board).

We operate in an informal, consensual manner, on a purely volunteer basis. We are not at present formally registered as a society, given the highly mobile nature of the Nunavut workforce and the geographic spread of our membership, although we revisit the need for such registration from time to time. Currently we charge no fees and do not do fundraising directly. We have a variable and small income from participation in Partnership activities. We carry minimal financial obligations in order to support our website.

We select a leader for the group in a consensual manner, referred to as "President" for the purposes of communication with other national library groups. This person presides over meetings, confirms dates and places of meetings, and offers an agenda for discussion. Records are kept of meetings by a volunteer referred to as the Secretary. Funds received from The Partnership are held by a volunteer referred to as the Treasurer. Correspondence is held and signed by the current President, though drafted on a volunteer basis and reviewed collectively.



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Through the year, an e-mail list is maintained by the President, and information, questions, and issues of interest are conveyed to the membership through this list. NLA also maintains a website that is used for news postings and archiving of publications and correspondence, as well as external promotion of the association. NLA also has a Gmail account for public contacts.

Meetings are called when required or as desired by the group. Participation is welcome and encouraged by teleconference for all members, including those who provide service to Nunavummiut from outside the territory. Members in Iqaluit, which has the largest library community, may meet in person along with teleconferences. Meetings tend to be held in the spring and in the fall.

We are regarded as the territorial equivalent or equal of other provincial and territorial library associations, and are members with them in The Partnership, Canada's association of provincial and territorial library associations. The Partnership provides NLA members with the following:

- access to continuing library education at reduced or no cost
- The Partnership open-access journal
- its national library job board
- an opportunity to communicate with our peers across the country on issues of national interest

We also receive small royalties from The Partnership from NLA member participation in Partnership training programs and their job posting board.

Our President is usually invited to participate in Partnership meetings and national gatherings of library associations as our representative, although other members of NLA may represent the association if the President is unable to travel.

Some of the activities we engage in include:

- Meetings to discuss current activities of members and issues of interest (usually two times per year)
- Conducting correspondence campaigns to advocate for library and literacy issues such as maintenance of the Library Rate, restoration of funding for literacy groups, need for new national library facilities, new national union catalogue accommodating Inuit language and scripts, better broadband access, etc.
- Promoting and coordinating library activities, e.g. Literacy Week, visits by the National Librarian, etc.
- Social events to allow library staff to get together with their local peers

Statement of Mission, Vision and Values last updated and adopted: