

## **Nunavut Library Association (NLA) Meeting by Teleconference, Sept. 19, 2005—Minutes**

The meeting was convened at the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, and held by teleconference from the Legislative Librarian's office, starting at 7:30 p.m.

### **Attendance:**

Present at the meeting: Yvonne Earle, Legislative Librarian; Tori-Lynne Evans, Librarian, Iqaluit Centennial Library; Carolyn Mallory, Technician for Nunavut research library coalition; Rae-Lynne Patterson, Manager of Library Services, Nunavut Arctic College; Gary Pon, Librarian, Nunavut Court of Justice Library; Carol Rigby, freelance cataloguer.

Present by teleconference: From Baker Lake: Petra Mauerhoff, Manager of Library Policy, Nunavut Public Library Services (NPLS); Marc Bragdon, Electronic Services Librarian, NPLS. From Cambridge Bay: Kim Crockatt, Executive Director of Nunavut Literacy Council and chair of the Kitikmeot Heritage Society and Cambridge Bay library board; Ian Critchley, Local Librarian (NPLS) and school librarian for Cambridge Bay.

Meeting Chair: Rae-Lynne Patterson

Recording secretary: Carol Rigby

### **1. Agenda:**

The agenda circulated by Rae-Lynne before the meeting was reviewed (attached) and two items added: An update from the Literacy Council on Literacy Week, and information from Rae-Lynne on The Cochrane Library.

### **2. Introductions:**

Participants briefly introduced themselves, as several were new to the group.

### **3. Discussion of Structure and Function of NLA:**

- ❖ Yvonne gave a brief history of the genesis of the group, as an attempt to bring together people across Nunavut interested in libraries and library services in response to the 1999 visit of then National Librarian Roch Carrier. The effort was spearheaded by the Legislative Librarian at the time, Gayle Jessop. The group continued to meet ad hoc, frequently in response to specific library issues that came up. Meetings were held in Iqaluit, with attempts made as much as possible to include those outside Iqaluit by teleconference. When Gayle left Iqaluit, Yvonne continued to maintain the NLA contact list, coordinate NLA responses and organize meetings as necessary. The group has never been formally constituted as a society, had membership dues or fees, or formal positions or responsibilities assigned.
- ❖ Discussion followed on whether it was appropriate to establish the association on a more formal basis. Some felt that was not necessary, as a potential duplication of activities carried on by CLA, PTLDC, etc. The group has also responded successfully in the past to issues even without formal organization. Others pointed out that if at any time the association wished to do fund-raising, obtain grants, etc. it would be easier to do so with a formal non-profit society status. Other benefits of formal organization could be continuity for the group, and the possibility of joining the Partnership for continuing

education for members. The issue of funding advocacy initiatives was also brought up, as there was an example in the past year of NLA members having to put personal funds forward to support, for example, the advertisement on the copyright legislation initiative promoted by CLA. Even if set up as a formal society, the group could possibly be constituted on a relatively informal basis, not necessarily with a lot of formal positions or roles.

- ❖ It was generally agreed that, whatever formal or informal structure the group would take, it should be inclusive, and be open to anyone interested in library issues in Nunavut, and not restricted solely to those with “professional” training or designations.

**ACTION:** It was decided that some members of the group should examine the options, develop a couple of possible structures with details regarding society structure, membership etc., and circulate to the participants for discussion and consideration at the next meeting. Rae-Lynne agreed to undertake this with assistance from Kim, given Kim’s knowledge and experience in setting up societies, fund-raising and grant protocols, etc.

#### **4. Membership in The Partnership:**

Rae-Lynne brought forward the possibility of NLA joining The Partnership, which is a group of provincial/territorial library associations that together offer continuing education options. Yvonne indicated that the Ontario Library Association (OLA) started the group and then brought in the other provincial associations. Membership in the group would give us discounts on continuing education courses sponsored by the group. It is unclear whether there is any cost associated with membership; Rae-Lynne consulted the NWT Library Association, and their response was that NLA would just have to ask. Participants generally felt membership would probably benefit the group.

**ACTION:** Rae-Lynne will follow up with Larry Moore at OLA regarding conditions of membership and whether there is a cost associated.

#### **5. Canadian Library Week /National School Library Day:**

- ❖ Participants were referred to the CLA website for information on Canadian Library Week: [www.cla.ca/clw](http://www.cla.ca/clw) (October 17-24)
- ❖ NPLS is in contact with CLA for promotion of this week for public libraries.
- ❖ Public libraries are the primary focus of the week’s programming, but other libraries (Legislative Library, NAC Library) will at least be putting up publicity materials and promoting the week.
- ❖ Yvonne indicated that the Minister of Education has also expressed interest in the associated National School Library Day (Oct. 24), but she has had no further information on developments or support from the Department at this point. Petra indicated that NPLS will be getting the National School Library Day toolkit and distributing it to those public libraries that are co-located with school libraries.

#### **6. Canadian Children’s Book Week, Oct. 29-Nov. 5**

NPLS has been supporting Canadian Children’s Book Week for many years by organizing tours by children’s book authors. Petra reported that this year, Margriet Ruurs will be the

touring author, accompanied by NPLS Community Services Librarian Taryl Gula. She will be visiting Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet.

### **7. Library Book Rate and Community Access Program:**

CLA recently sent out a call on its mailing list for advocacy efforts on the issues of continuing the Library Book Rate and Community Access Program, as CLA feels these are critical information access tools for Canadians. The group discussed whether the NLA should embark on a letter writing campaign in support. The two issues were discussed separately:

- ❖ **Library Book Rate**
  - is generally regarded by the group as critical to the support of library service in Nunavut, given the distances over which library systems operate here (e.g. NAC, NPLS). The group has organized letter campaigns on this subject before.
  - Although the federal minister responsible has indicated strong support for continuing the rate, there doesn't appear to be movement on the part of Canada Post to settle a new agreement for the service. Petra indicated that the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors Council have this as a high priority item, and pressure from the group got this onto the agenda of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Culture Ministers. The F/P/T Ministers are advocating continuing and even expanding the rate to include library materials other than books (videos, CDs etc.).
  - It is felt by PTLDC that any lobbying efforts should praise Canada Post for efforts made to date and encourage further good work (i.e. carrot rather than stick approach). Yvonne also pointed out that literacy is a priority issue for Canada Post, and support for the book rate would be in line with their existing social priorities.
  - The general view was that lobbying would be more effective coming from organizations rather than individuals, and it would be good to get responses not only from NLA but also from associated groups such as local library boards, the Literacy Council, etc. Kim indicated the Literacy Council would be willing to write a letter.
  - A letter should be sent to Nancy Karetak-Lindell as our MP, with copies to the federal minister, the minister responsible for Canada Post, etc.

**ACTION:** Yvonne will provide Rae-Lynne with copies of previous NLA correspondence to Nancy Karetak-Lindell on the library rate. Rae-Lynne will prepare a draft and circulate to the group for approval.

- ❖ **Community Access Program (CAP)**
  - Funding for the federal CAP program is being progressively cut over the next year. CLA is advocating retention of the program funding, but the group did not see this issue as being of such significance to our current situation, given difficulties experienced in the past with accessing and administering the program.
  - Marc indicated that there is some equipment originally funded by the CAP program in several public libraries (e.g. Clyde River, Arviat) but that there are no dollars coming in for staffing.
  - NPLS staff generally felt that CAP sites located in public libraries created difficulties with staffing and administration. Tori indicated that public Internet access at Iqaluit Centennial works well because it is using equipment funded by the Gates program

and run by library staff. She regards it as an essential service, but not in the form of CAP funding.

- Ian noted that last year, there was a CAP site in the Gjoa Haven school, and no one from the community ever came in to use it, although Internet access elsewhere in the community was used.
- Difficulties with administering federally-funded programs were also brought up. Gary indicated that in the time he served with the Nuluaq Board, which ran the Iqaluit CAP site at the public library, reporting requirements became progressively worse, monies were slow in coming, and administration became a problem. There was clearly no political will to make the program easy to access or administer.
- Yvonne expressed concern about the federal government offloading responsibility for public Internet access to libraries, without providing supporting funding, while trying to promote “online” access to government programs and information.

**ACTION:** The group felt generally that the CAP program in its current form is not working anyway, and there is not a strong need to advocate for it specifically. However, there is a need to pressure the federal government to provide support for public Internet access in some form. No concrete action was agreed to at this point.

#### **8. Literacy Council Update:**

- ❖ Kim indicated that the Literacy Council did not get its usual grant for producing promotional materials for Literacy Week this year (pens, stickers, booklets etc.). The Council has produced promotional materials, however, and has posted them on its website to see if groups can access them this way. The Inuktitut version should be posted next week. Groups that find they need hard copies will have them mailed out as required. The website is [www.nunavutliteracy.ca](http://www.nunavutliteracy.ca)
- ❖ Literacy Week this year is October 2-8, with Read for Fifteen on Wed. Oct. 5. There will be a territorial challenge between the NWT and Nunavut (not between specific communities as in some past years).
- ❖ The Council hopes to have its usual Family Literacy Week promotional material in full, as in past years. This takes place in the new year.
- ❖ Literacy as an issue is also making headway with the National Council of Ministers of Education, who have put literacy at the top of their agenda. They have started discussions with some provinces and territories to provide federal funding to work on direct delivery of literacy programs, as these need to be in place for anything to happen.
- ❖ The national release of the International Adult Literacy Survey will be on Nov. 9. The Nunavut numbers are alarming. The Council has funding to develop an information campaign on the statistics and what they mean. Politicians will be scrambling to deal with the issue. Yvonne pointed out that literacy is becoming an issue with MLAs and that Nunavut Literacy Week may be a good focus point for libraries to obtain support from politicians.

**ACTION:** Kim will provide the group with information when the literacy survey is released.

## **9. Cochrane Library:**

Rae-Lynne reported on her work facilitating access to the Cochrane Library for Nunavut.

- ❖ The NWT Department of Health has provided funding to provide online access to The Cochrane Library for all three territories. This is an evidence-based health resource, based on the Cochrane Reviews, created by an international body, which provide systematic reviews of health treatments.
- ❖ The NWT has bought access to the full-text version, which is supposed to be accessible from anywhere within the three territories. Rae-Lynne has been helping with field-testing access. They have gone with an IP recognition route, and have provided addresses for public points of access such as Community Learning Centres, health centres, and public libraries. It has been tested and works for Rae-Lynne and Petra. She would like to see if other members of the group can access from anywhere, or have to be at a formally identified access point (such as a health centre). Depending on the response, then she will be able to develop appropriate publicity materials.
- ❖ The address is [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com); browse by Cochrane Reviews; if you are able to obtain a PDF/html copy of the full text, not just an abstract, then the access is working properly.

**ACTION:** Group members will check the site and report results back to Rae-Lynne.

## **10. Next meeting:**

Yvonne is willing to host the next meeting with teleconference.

**ACTION:** The group will continue e-mail correspondence on ongoing issues, and will meet with the full teleconference group sometime in January.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Attach.

Agenda (as adopted)

Nunavut Library Association (NLA) Meeting  
September 19, 2005  
7:30 pm

1. Agenda
2. Introductions
3. Discussion of structure and function of NLA
  - decide general goals and purpose
  - decide level of structure required
  - decide and assign roles
  - identify initial tasks
4. Membership in the Partnership
5. Canadian Library Week
6. Canadian Children's Book Week
7. Library Book Rate & Community Access Program
8. Literacy Council update on Literacy Week etc.
9. The Cochrane Library
10. Next meeting