



**Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques**

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

**March 13, 2019, OTTAWA—CFLA-FCAB SIGNS ON AS PARTNER IN THE UNESCO
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, in collaboration with community groups and organizations, supports the ongoing work of Indigenous language and literacy with, and for, Indigenous communities.

CFLA-FCAB is committed to advancing the calls to action related to language as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Report released by the Canadian government related to cultural heritage institutions.

"I am most pleased that the Canadian Federation of Library Associations is endorsing the United Nation's Declaration of the "2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages". Stated Colette Poitras, Red River Métis, Chair of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations Indigenous Matters Committee. "Indigenous culture and ways of knowing are rich, diverse and deeply interconnected with language. There are more than 60 Indigenous languages within Canada, many of which are in danger of being lost. As librarians, we have a duty and the privilege to partner with Indigenous community to assist and support the protection, preservation, revitalization and promotion of these languages."

CFLA-FCAB will be using many avenues and activities to support the International Year of Indigenous Languages including:

- Promoting the visibility and impact of language programs;
- Promoting professional development programming.
- Supporting and promoting the availability of information about language initiatives taking place in libraries
- Increasing awareness of subject heading and vocabularies in Indigenous languages
- Supporting and promoting initiatives related to physical and online spaces such as signage and online interfaces.

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“CFLA-FCAB’s Indigenous Matters Committee has been working tirelessly the last few years to develop a long-term structure and direction for CFLA-FCAB to address Indigenous issues related to libraries.” Stated Alix-Rae Stefanko, Chair, CFLA-FCAB. “The work of the committee has been driven by the wish to identify and promote best practices identified by libraries and associations to promote education regarding Indigenous issues, to support reconciliation, and to meet the needs of Indigenous communities. As such, we are very pleased to be a partner organization in support of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages”.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération Canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) is the national voice of Canada's library associations. Our purpose is to advance library excellence in Canada, champion library values and the value of libraries and influence national and international public policy impacting libraries and their communities.

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