



Canadian Federation of Library Associations  
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

**GATINEAU, June 21, 2019** – Join us in celebrating National Indigenous Day as CFLA-FCAB continues to work to promote initiatives to all types of libraries to advance reconciliation by supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and to promote collaboration on these issues across Canadian communities.

“As the Chair of the CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee, I ask you to join me in celebrating the many achievements of Indigenous peoples, cultures, history and languages for National Indigenous People’s Day.” stated Colette Poitras, Red River Métis, Chair of the CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee. “Libraries have an important role in creating safe and inclusive public spaces, providing access to the Internet, collecting and highlighting Indigenous titles, and providing programming and events. These serve to support Indigenous peoples while also creating general awareness of Indigenous matters today and everyday.”

CFLA-FCAB is showing our commitment by signing on as partner in the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages. We, in collaboration with community groups and organizations, support the ongoing work of Indigenous language and literacy with, and for, Indigenous communities.

“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”.

To mark National Indigenous Peoples Day we are pleased to announce that the CFLA-FCAB’s Indigenous Matters committee’s Joint Working Group on Subject Headings and Classification and National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance (NIKLA) released the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Ontology. This initial release of community names is the first step in a longer project and represents the equal and collaborative contributions of its members.

The Joint Committee acknowledges that the ontology builds on the work of many Indigenous peoples who have long advocated for the importance of respectfully representing Indigenous knowledge, culture, and communities in libraries. This living ontology respects, acknowledges, and supports Indigenous sovereignty over knowledge. The Joint Committee seeks community feedback, corrections and expressions of need and will respond to these contributions.

The FNMI Ontology is released through the NIKLA and further information and the initial data release can be found via the NIKLA website.

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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