

CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matter Committee Update AGM 2020

During its formation, CFLA-FCAB recognized that libraries of all kinds, archives and cultural memory institutions have the opportunity to act as leaders, facilitators, and champions in the national effort to uphold and maintain the momentum created by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and support reconciliation by answering the TRC's Calls to Action. In order to provide direction to information professionals across the country, the Canadian Federation of Libraries (CFLA/FCAB) created the Truth and Reconciliation Committee composed of committee members appointed by member associations across all provinces and territories. The Truth and Reconciliation Committee was charged with delivering a report and recommendations to the incoming CFLA-FCAB Board, recommending further actions to support Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) peoples of Canada over the long term, and to form a Standing Committee on Indigenous Matters to further these recommendations.

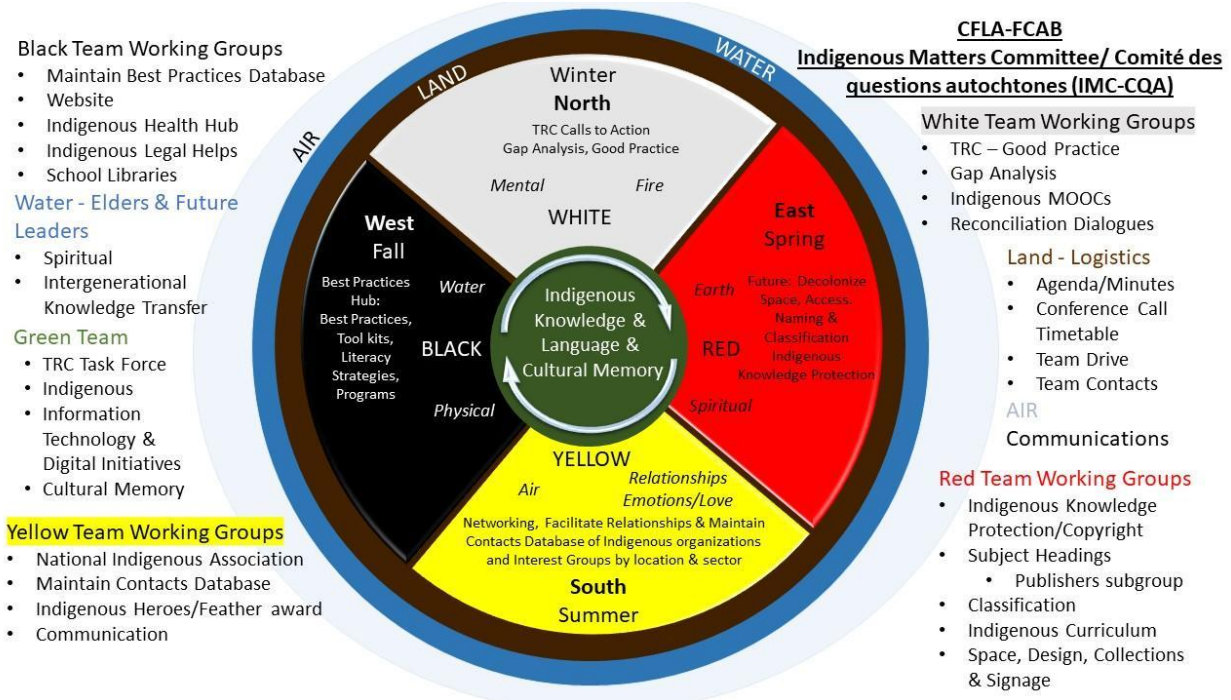
The Truth & Reconciliation Committee report and recommendations is a comprehensive document covering best practices and recommendations for libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions to participate in this national effort towards reconciliation and has been endorsed by the members of the CFLA-FCAB and other associations, institutions and libraries across the country.

T&R Committee Recommendations

The following ten (10) overarching recommendations have been agreed upon by the T&R Committee with specific, granular recommendations being addressed by each of the four team chapters of the report:

1. As CFLA-FCAB is the national voice with the ability to influence national and international policy regarding issues of importance, we request the CFLA-FCAB create a permanent Standing Committee on Indigenous Matters utilizing the medicine wheel structure developed by the Truth & Reconciliation Committee;

CFLA-FCAB has implemented the first call of the ten recommendations by creating the **Indigenous Matters Committee/ Comité des questions autochtones (IMC-CQA)** has been divided into teams and working groups to reflect the holistic nation of Indigenous knowledges with Working Groups to address the recommendations and logistical needs to implement the Truth & Reconciliation Committee report and recommendations.



2. The T&R Committee supports and endorses the CFLA-FCAB Position Statement on Library and Literacy Services for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Peoples of Canada;

Completed when CFLA-FCAB adopted as policy, 2017.

3. Encourage libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 94 Calls to Action, several of which have been identified as having a direct impact on libraries and archives and are prioritized in this report, and to implement a status report on a yearly basis to monitor their implementation;

Ongoing; White team has been using the survey to monitor and record progress of implementation.

4. Ensure accessibility moving forward by continually reminding stakeholders that material produced and programming planned in the future should be accessible to all Canadians. CELA (the Center for Equitable Library Access) and NNELS (the National Network for Equitable Library Service) are positioned to support these efforts.

On-going; CELA and NNELS reported back to IMC-CQA on making the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report accessible, all the First Nations Communities Reads were made accessible by NNELS and they are working on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report

5. Decolonize Access and Classification by addressing the structural biases in existing schemes of knowledge organization and information retrieval arising from colonialism by committing to integrating Indigenous epistemologies into cataloguing praxis and knowledge management;

The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - Indigenous Ontology (FNMIIO)

To mark National Indigenous Peoples Day the CFLA-FCAB's Indigenous Matters Committee's - The Joint Working Group on Classification and Subject Headings and the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance (NIKLA) released the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - Indigenous Ontology (FNMIIO).

This initial release of community names is a soft launch is a first step in a longer project and represents the equal and collaborative contributions of its members. This living ontology respects, acknowledges, and supports Indigenous sovereignty over knowledge. The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - Indigenous Ontology (FNMIIO) soft launch facilitates community feedback, corrections and expressions as needed and the Joint Working Group/NIKLA will respond to these contributions by updating this living document at regular intervals. The FNMIIO 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.

The FNMIIO Ontology was released through NIKLA and represents an initial effort to improve the representation of Indigenous peoples and communities in libraries, archives and other cultural memory institutions a group of volunteers, working with the Joint Working Group on Classification and Subject Headings and others that have joined this group via the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance NIKLA ANCLA, have compiled a working list of Indigenous Names to better reflect how Indigenous people currently prefer to refer to themselves. This is a living document https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSOKcm9HB-28iSqNN3sQd5hV7bMLMGpCeGL0dkQgyg2AiZAMWUF0sp98GyxlvLXYIWqSZ3nX_j_q4UN/pubhtm that will be updated and change as more information is gathered or realized in the course of research and/or consultations.

OLA 2020 Stream: Respectfully Supporting Decolonization of Canadian Libraries

The CFLA-FCAB's Indigenous Matters Committee's Joint Working Group on Classification and Subject Heading, in collaboration with other technical services librarians, sponsored a mini stream at the 2020 OLA Superconference entitled: Respectfully Supporting Decolonization of Canadian Libraries. This stream is comprised of six (6) sessions on Indigenous matters in technical services, ending with a roundtable, working discussion.

6. Decolonizing Libraries and Space by recognizing and supporting Indigenous cultures, languages and knowledges through culturally appropriate space planning, interior design, signage, art installations, territorial acknowledgements of geographic-specific traditional territories and public programming in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders;

The Working Group on Space, Design and Collection is releasing a report that will be posted on the Indigenous Resources Hub. The Indigenous Languages Working Group, as part of the Green Team, has been hard at work putting together an Indigenous Language Events Portal Guide for the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages.

7. Enhancing opportunities for Indigenous library, archival and information professionals as well as the inclusion of Indigenous epistemologies in the Canadian library and archives profession through culturally appropriate pedagogy, recruitment practices, professional and continuing education and cross-cultural training in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders and partners;

The IMC Indigenous MOOC Working Group provided Canadian libraries with online tools and resources located on the Indigenous Resource Hub to help support the delivery of the Indigenous Canada MOOC - 12 week online program.

Let's Talk about Reconciliation: The [Canadian Commission for UNESCO \(CCUNESCO\)](#) in partnership with the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation \(NCTR\)](#), the [National Film Board of Canada \(NFB\)](#), the [Indigenous Matters Committee of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations \(CFLA\)](#) and [Library and Archives Canada \(LAC\)](#) launched a series of dialogues about reconciliation starting in 2017.

8. Recommend the implementation of Indigenous Knowledge Protection protocols and agreements with local and other Indigenous groups who have holdings in libraries, archives and/or cultural memory institutions to respect the Indigenous cultural concept of copyright with regard to Indigenous history or heritage, which is often located in but not limited to oral traditions, songs, dance, storytelling, anecdotes, place names, hereditary names and other forms of Indigenous knowledges; recommend that CFLA-FCAB actively participate in reforming the Canadian Copyright Act to include protection of Indigenous knowledges and languages while advocating for changes to include traditional knowledge as outlined and recommended by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/>). We join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to call upon Library and Archives Canada to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #69 (Appendix D) by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf and the Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity (2005), more commonly known as the Joinet/Orentlicher Principles <http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/impu/principles.html>;

CFLA-FCAB's position statement "*Indigenous Knowledge and Copyright Act Statement*" was written jointly by the CFLA-FCAB Copyright and Indigenous Matters Committees is informed by and can be read in the context of the above Truth and Reconciliation Committee recommendations and the following overarching recommendation was to facilitate Indigenous knowledge protocol being developed in conjunction with Indigenous nation that were specific to their cultural protocols.

CFLA-FCAB recommends that the Copyright Act respect, affirm and recognize Indigenous peoples' ownership of their traditional and living respective Indigenous knowledge. Indigenous refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Canada. http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CFLA-FCAB_Indigenous_knowledge_statement.pdf

9. Establish an online database of "living documents" to highlight existing Best Practices of Indigenous Services in libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions that will serve as a foundation to help disseminate those best practices and for this "living document" to be updated preferably on a quarterly basis but minimally semi-annually.

On Indigenous Peoples Day in 2017, CFLA-FCAB presented the Indigenous Resources page as hub where matters related to Indigenous people and libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions. The best practises database will be updated on an ongoing basis.

10. Maintain a database of Indigenous organizations or groups committed to preserving cultural memory primarily, but not limited to, libraries, archives, language preservation, cultural history/museums to build relationships; to support the development of an Indigenous association of library, archives and cultural memory institutions; and to support in principle the National Aboriginal

Library Association (NALA) regarding their stated intent of developing First Nations public libraries on reserves.

For many years, there has been an acknowledged need in Canada for a national Indigenous association in areas related to Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage. An association or an alliance that could bring together cross-disciplinary professionals, para-professionals, Indigenous knowledge keepers and Indigenous grass-roots community organizations to address matters of importance around Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) ways of knowing, knowledges, language and cultural memory/heritage is crucially needed for those working in libraries, archives and museums (LAM). It is vital to provide a voice as Indigenous voices have traditionally been marginalized with the LAM space.

The decision was made to host an initial meeting in January 2019 and to begin using the term “alliance” so other associations, interest groups etc. could join, and to move away from naming mainstream institutions such as libraries, archive or museum but to use the holistic terms “knowledge and language”. Therefore, the name of National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance/Alliance nationale des connaissances et langues autochtones (NIKLA-ANCLA) was agreed upon as a placeholder. Currently NIKLA ANCLA is still developing and plans to meet around OLA Super Conference 2020.

Other Initiatives undertaken

The IMC-CQA was directed by the CFLA-FCAB Board to work on the 2019 Elections Platform Campaign ToolKit and worked collaboratively on a statement regarding Indigenous peoples and library needs.

The IMC-CQA responded to the release of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report and created a statement for public release through CFLA-FCAB to create awareness in cross-sectoral libraries.

Membership & Future Directions

IMC-CQA Chair, Colette Poitras, will complete her term as Chair at the 2020 AGM becoming Past-Chair. In order to maintain a smooth succession, Stacy Allison-Cassin, who has been Indigenous Representative to the Board and Vice-Chair for the past year will become Chair. Current IMC-CQA members and Past Chair, Camille Callison have completed their terms. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude for their time and commitments. Recruitment for new members has begun with a Call for Interest in Fall 2019.

All of the Working Groups developed workplans with deliverables and much of this work has been completed. Some of the work is cyclical and will be ongoing. Other projects have a longer completion timeframe.

Teams and Working Groups will develop closer links to NIKLA-ANCLA, an Indigenous led alliance described earlier in this report. This Indigenous-led alliance NIKLA-ANCLA, fulfills the Truth & Reconciliation Committee Recommendation #10 to provide an Indigenous voice currently unrepresented in the Canadian landscape. IMC-CQA and NIKLA-ANCLA will be working closely on the extremely important matters related to Indigenous knowledges and language.

Respectfully submitted by Colette Poitras (Chair), Stacy Allison-Cassin (Vice-Chair & Indigenous Representative to the Board), and Camille Callison (Past-Chair)