



# Maziniigan

Connecting First Nation Public Libraries

Volume 1, Issue 1 October 2015

## Sneak Peeks



Special awards were distributed at the First Nation Banquet on September 22. Full story on page 3.



Remember!

Various application and reporting deadlines are coming up soon. Find detailed information on page 6.

## Welcome to the first issue of Maziniigan!

Maziniigan is a tri-annual online publication that reaches First Nation Public Libraries across Ontario. Published by Ontario Library Service - North, the goal of the newsletter is to provide a contemporary platform for enhanced communication, awareness and information-sharing among FNPLs and their service agencies. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Andrea Crawford or Rashed Ahmad at OLS - North. (contact on p.8)

## OLS - North Conference 2015



L to R: Sheri Mishibinijima, Jason Restoule, Christina Beaucage, Danielle Big Canoe Snake and Virginia McKenzie at the OLS - North conference on September 23, 2015.

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# OLSN CONFERENCE 2015

## INDIGENOUS LITERACY FUNDAMENTAL TO LIBRARIES

When asked to think about the concept of literacy, very few people would picture birch-bark scrolls and the signing of ancient friendship treaties. For Niigaanwewidam Sinclair, assistant professor at the University of Manitoba, that's what he sees.

In his edifying keynote speech at the 2015 Ontario Library Service – North conference, Sinclair challenged the modern understanding of literacy by reminiscing about the ways Indigenous peoples preserve their knowledge and history.



"You have the ability to choose the Kanata that the world sees by including the resources that make a difference."

- *Niigan Sinclair*

"The instance of text does not always appear as the written word," said Sinclair. "Indigenous writing systems – Indigenous literacies – have been going on for tens of thousands of years."

The Anishinaabe speaker, from Peguis First Nation, explored different forms of writing, such as the rock-face carvings of the Anasazi and the paper scrolls of the Mayans. His goal was to encourage listeners to realize the unique possibilities that exist within the preservation of text, knowledge and history.

Sinclair's woodland-embroidered shirt made the perfect example of a unique preservation of text. "This is a writing tradition that is as powerful, as creative, as intellectual and as worthwhile as any other text that has been performed in the last 500 years."

When it comes to the role of Indigenous libraries in defining literacy, Sinclair believes they have the ability to profoundly affect change in how literacy is both expressed and understood. Sinclair reminded his audience that Indigenous peoples continue to challenge and push the boundaries of what literacy can be.

Listeners reflected on the concept that literacy is not just about text but about relationship. It is the relationship of engaging with and understanding the world, our surroundings and the land. Above all, literacy is the collection of relationships that we build with each other – as family, as employers, as leaders, as cultures and as nations. These relationships provide the premise for behaviour, for law, for curriculum, and they are found in the collections that make up our libraries.

As new definitions of literacy are constantly emerging, libraries have the potential to inspire and to accommodate the individualities of every patron. "The texts that you choose to include can fundamentally change every single person that walks into your library," said Sinclair.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Twelve First Nation librarians were honoured at this year's First Nation Banquet on September 22, 2015. The banquet is part of the OLS - North conference, held annually in the fall. The theme of the evening centred around the four natural elements of fire, air, water and earth. The awards gave recognition to the librarians for their dedication and commitment to First Nation Public Libraries, their patrons and their communities. Each of the awards honoured librarians who exemplify attributes associated to each of the elements.



The Fire Award was dedicated to individuals who exhibit characteristics similar to those connected with the natural element of fire. These traits include energy, activity, passion, creativity, vision, strength, enthusiasm and assertiveness.

Christina Beaucage - Nipissing FNPL  
Danielle Big Canoe Snake - Mnjikaning FNPL  
Candace Kaiser - M'Chigeeng FNPL



The Air Award was dedicated to individuals who exhibit characteristics similar to those connected with the natural element of air. These traits include communication, intelligence, learning, thinking, knowledge, optimism and kind-heartedness.

Sheri Mishibinijima - Wiwemikong FNPL  
Jason Restoule - Dokis FNPL  
Natalie Durette - Naotkamegwanning FNPL

The Water Award was dedicated to individuals who exhibit characteristics similar to those connected with the natural element of water. These traits include being a dreamer and a healer, having the ability to inspire regeneration, being devoted and selfless, and exemplifying modesty and compassion.

Irene M. Gray - Garden River FNPL  
Glenda Potson - Seine River FNPL  
Shannon Thompson - Akwesasne FNPL



The Earth Award was dedicated to individuals who exhibit characteristics similar to those connected with the natural element of earth. These traits include trusting and following one's intuition, exemplifying stability, permanence and security, being wise, dependable and respected, self-sustaining, and down-to-earth.

Colleen Eshkakogan - Sagamok Anishnawbek FNPL  
Virginia McKenzie - Temagami FNPL  
Lindsay Owl - Aundeck Omni Kaning



# FROM YOUR COMMITTEES

## FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK

The 2015-2016 planning committee is working hard to prepare for the annual First Nations Public Library Week celebration. This year's theme, *The Art of Storytelling*, provides great opportunity for the committee to develop new and interesting material.

The 2016 celebration is scheduled to take place **February 8-12, 2016**. The launch will occur on Monday, February 8, at a First Nation Public Library in the south (location to be determined).

As the committee works together over the next few months, updates will be provided by email and via the FNPL Week website ([www.olsn.ca/fnplw](http://www.olsn.ca/fnplw)).

### Your 2015-2016 committee members:

*Beverly Bressette* - Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point FNPL

*Virginia McKenzie* - Temagami FNPL

*Lindsay Owl* - Aundeck Omni Kaning FNPL

*Danielle Recollet-Saikkonen* - Wikemikong FNPL

For more information about FNPL Week, please contact Andrea Crawford at [acrawford@olsn.ca](mailto:acrawford@olsn.ca).

## YOU VOTED!

### 2016 Theme Results

Celebrating First Nation Authors	32%
Connecting our Elders and our Youth	33%
The Art of Storytelling	35%

With 35 percent of the vote, the 2016 First Nations Public Library Week theme is: ***The Art of Storytelling***.

## SOLS Fall Gathering

Southern First Nation public librarians held their annual fall gathering on October 26 & 27 at the Kanhiote library, in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

Librarians and representatives from 10 libraries attended the event, which focussed mainly on technology training and competencies.

Attendees also had an opportunity to meet via video conference with northern librarian, Sheri Mishibinijima, who provided an update on the various committees and issues she is working on. Chi-meegwetch to Karen Lewis for hosting this year's gathering and for being such an awesome person!

## FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES READ

The 2016-2017 First Nation Communities Read selections will honour children's titles from First Nation authors, illustrators, publishers, etc. In November, First Nation Communities Read will distribute its annual call for title nominations. If you know someone great - nominate!

First Nation Public Libraries can participate in the program by reviewing the program's participation checklist and by undertaking as many activities as possible.

You can also participate as a jury member for the final title selections! The FNCR committee is currently seeking three jurors from northern FNPLs to complete the jury panel. Responsibilities include participating in teleconference meetings and reading the nominated titles.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.sols.org/index.php/fn-communities-read>

or contact:

Nancy Cooper, FNCR coordinator

[ncooper@sols.org](mailto:ncooper@sols.org)

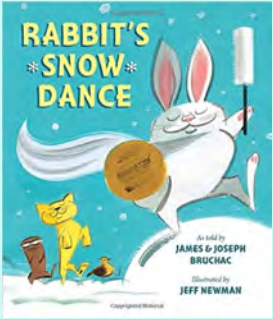
# BOOKS AND AUTHORS

## CHILDREN'S

### *Rabbit's Snow Dance: A Traditional Iroquois Story*

Bruchac, James and Bruchac, Joseph

Gr. K-3 32 pp. Dial



Illustrated by Jeff Newman. The Bruchacs retell an Iroquois tale that the author included in two previous collections (*Iroquois Stories* and *The Boy Who Lived with the Bears*). This version differs significantly

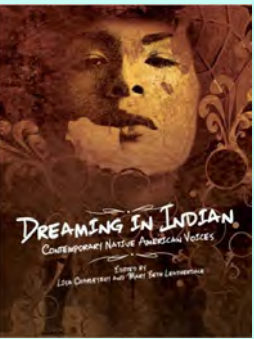
(unfortunately, there's no source note), but shorter sentences and more patterning and repetition make this a good preschool read-aloud. The classic watercolor, gouache, and ink illustrations of the mid-twentieth-century echo Simon and Weisgard.

## YOUNG ADULT

### *Dreaming in Indian:*

#### *Contemporary Native American Voices*

Edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale  
Middle School, High School 130 pp.



A dizzyingly eclectic anthology of contemporary Native American voices from Canada and the United States. Forty-six contributors present poems, paintings, drawings, photographs, interviews, and remembrances that reveal glimpses of what it means to be Indian today. Some entries explicitly reflect on this theme as it relates to boarding school, or bullying, or spirituality; others simply depict Indian people following a variety of pursuits, including music, sports, fashion, comics, and cooking. The book lacks a coherent design, with myriad competing graphic elements, but perhaps that is the point: that Native Americans are "tremendously diverse peoples with tremendously diverse life experiences ...not frozen in the past, nor are we automatically just like everybody else."

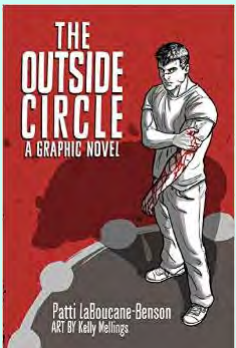
## ADULT

### *The Outside Circle*

Written by Patti Laboucane-Benson

Illustrated by Kelly Mellings

Publication Date May 02, 2015



In this important graphic novel, two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives. Pete, a young Aboriginal man

wrapped up in gang violence, lives with his younger brother, Joey, and his mother who is a heroin addict. One night, Pete and his mother's boyfriend, Dennis, get into a big fight, which sends Dennis to the morgue and Pete to jail. Initially, Pete keeps up ties to his crew, until a jail brawl forces him to realize the negative influence he has become on Joey, which encourages him to begin a process of rehabilitation that includes traditional Aboriginal healing circles and ceremonies. Powerful, courageous, and deeply moving, *The Outside Circle* is drawn from the author's twenty years of work and research on healing and reconciliation of gang-affiliated or incarcerated Aboriginal men.

## Remembering Basil Johnston 1926-2015

He was a decorated author, a historian, a keeper of the language - but he most often was remembered for being a magnificent storyteller.

Basil Johnston passed on to the Spirit world on September 8, leaving behind a legend that won't soon be forgotten. A citizen of the Chippewas of Nawash, Johnston lived through storytelling, and used his unmatched oratory gifts to educate, entertain and inspire generations of readers and listeners.

His stories came alive through his many books, through his work at the Royal Ontario Museum and through his Ojibwe language.

Some of Johnston's many works can be found at the following locations:

[www.kegedonce.com](http://www.kegedonce.com)

[www.goodminds.com](http://www.goodminds.com)

[www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

## ANNUAL SURVEY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Survey Completion Deadline:  
**October 31, 2015**

For assistance completing your annual survey, please contact your ministry representatives:

Adam Haviaras  
416 314-7158  
[adam.haviaras@ontario.ca](mailto:adam.haviaras@ontario.ca)

or

Rod Sawyer  
416-314-7627  
[rod.sawyer@ontario.ca](mailto:rod.sawyer@ontario.ca)

You can also contact your Ontario Library Service advisors:

Rashed Ahmad (north)  
1-800-461-6348 ext. 227  
[rahmad@olsn.ca](mailto:rahmad@olsn.ca)

or

Hélène Golden (south)  
1-877-532-2901  
[hgolden@sols.org](mailto:hgolden@sols.org)

## PUBLIC LIBRARY OPERATING GRANT & FIRST NATIONS SALARY SUPPLEMENT

Application Deadline:  
**November 30, 2015**

For assistance completing your application, please contact your ministry representatives:

Mima Casola  
Culture Programs Advisor  
416-314-7613  
[mima.casola@ontario.ca](mailto:mima.casola@ontario.ca)

Shannon Khan  
Program Assistant  
416-314-5186  
[shannon.khan@ontario.ca](mailto:shannon.khan@ontario.ca)

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/OSAPQA005132>

## ONTARIO LIBRARY CAPACITY FUNDING (Information Technology and Service Capacity)

2014-2015 Reporting Deadline:  
**October 30, 2015**

2015-2016 Spending Deadline:  
**March 25, 2016**

For assistance with this grant, please contact your ministry representatives:

Mima Casola  
Culture Programs Advisor  
416-314-7613  
[mima.casola@ontario.ca](mailto:mima.casola@ontario.ca)

Shannon Khan  
Program Assistant  
416-314-5186  
[shannon.khan@ontario.ca](mailto:shannon.khan@ontario.ca)

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/PRDR013723>

## Dreamcatcher Foundation

Upcoming Application Deadlines:

LNHL Grants: **January 31, 2016**

Winter Grants: **January 31, 2016**

<http://www.dcfund.ca/index.php?id=funding>

## Ontario Trillium Foundation

Upcoming Application Deadlines:

Grow Grants - **November 4, 2015**

Capitol & Seed Grants - **November 12, 2015**

<http://www.otf.ca/apply-grant>

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Spring Gathering for *northern* FNPLs will take place  
**May 17, 18 & 19, 2016**, at the Water Tower Inn, in Sault Ste. Marie.

# TRENDING IN THE FIELD

## BUILDING A LOCAL HISTORY REFERENCE COLLECTION AT YOUR LIBRARY

The beaver is the keeper of wisdom. One must watch and listen to find lessons in what is going on around them. The beaver teaches this lesson as it observes its environment, using the sound and movement of water to determine where to build its dam and lodge. Then, with its sharp teeth and keen engineering skills, it builds its community.

Similar to the beaver, librarians have a unique set of skills from which they build a lodge to preserve wisdom and knowledge that will be passed from generation to generation. Sometimes this “lodge” is called a local history reference collection (LHRC) and consists of a wide variety of materials. The first step in establishing a LHRC is to determine what to collect. You may already have local history materials scattered throughout your library and want to expand this collection. Besides local history items, consider materials that provide context to your community’s past.

Often in a local history reference collection you will find:

**Newspaper Clippings:** Clippings are wonderful additions to vertical files, but they require work to locate, as well as time to duplicate the acidic newsprint onto copier paper. Don’t accept large donations of random clippings unless you have the labour on hand to sift through them to find the local stories you want to copy and file.

**Oral histories:** These are valuable resources and can be particularly successful in capturing your community’s history. Consider having interviewees sign release forms making them aware that their words are becoming part of a research collection. Are the recordings on cassette tape, reel-to-reel, or something even older? Can your library preserve these media or digitize them? Transcripts are often what a patron will most want to review. Do you have the resources to create transcripts?

**Ephemera:** Bumper stickers, brochures, pamphlets, and flyers can speak volumes about the personalities of past residents who

shaped your community. Although paper-based items are not so difficult to store, consider how you will provide access to these items. Since theft can be a problem with small-sized ephemera, you will need to consider providing access under a watchful eye.

Materials such as institutional records, financial records, diaries, letters, photographs and artifacts are considered archival or museum materials. Housing archival or museum materials require additional resources in terms of secure storage, monitored reading room, and processing of collections. If you want to add these types of materials to your LHRC, you are moving in the direction of establishing an archive. If you’re thinking about going in this direction consult the Association of Canadian Archivists’ Aboriginal Archives Guide.

Get in touch with other First Nation Public Libraries and see what they are doing. What seems to fit best for your unique situation when it comes to staff, space,

administrative support and so on? You can also benefit your LHRC with a mission statement. When you need text about your collection for brochures, websites, and presentations, or when someone asks you about the collection, the mission statement comes to the rescue. It’s almost impossible to promote your LHRC to patrons if you can’t explain its value. It can serve as a public statement about what people can expect from your LHRC.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Local History Reference Collection for Public Libraries, by Kathy Marquis and Leslie Waggener (ALA Editions, 2015). Aboriginal Archives Guides. Canadian Church Historical Society Occasional Paper No. 8. Association of Canadian Archivist Public Awareness Committee 2007. [http://aabc.ca/STORAGE/Toolkit\\_storage/Toolkit\\_files\\_old\\_linked/toolkit\\_establishing\\_an\\_archives.html](http://aabc.ca/STORAGE/Toolkit_storage/Toolkit_files_old_linked/toolkit_establishing_an_archives.html)

# IN THE KNOW

## CHECK IT OUT!

**CBC - Unreserved** is the radio space for Indigenous community, culture, and conversation. The Unreserved team offers real talk from the people behind the headlines, with a soundtrack from the best in Indigenous music.



**radio one**

Tuesdays @ 1 pm

## OLA SUPERCONFERENCE 2016

*Library Lab: The Idea Incubator*

The 2016 conference will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on January 27-30.

For more information about the conference and registration, please visit:

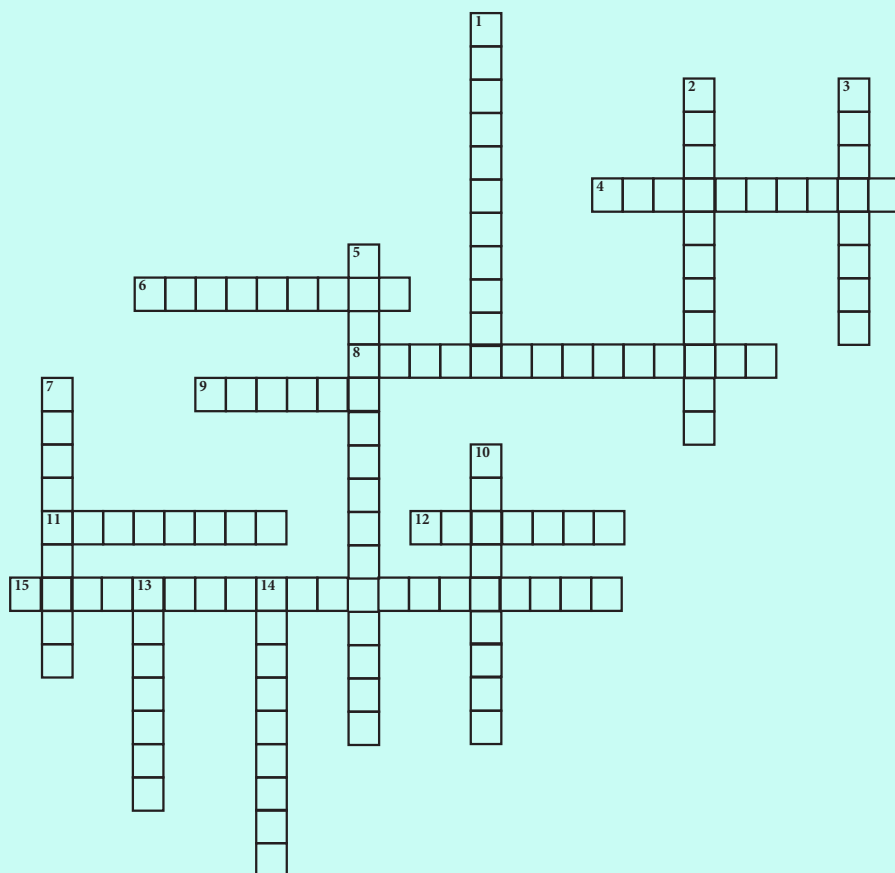
<http://www.olasuperconference.ca/>.

## FOREST OF READING 2016

Canada's largest recreational reading program is now open for registration! (*Registration fee is waived for First Nation Public Libraries*)

The Festival of Trees is scheduled for May 17-18, 2016, in Toronto, Ontario. For more information, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/jw7boch>.



### Across

4. First Nation author and 2014 Governor General's Literary Award winner (2 wds)
6. A group of people who work toward a cause, event, project, etc.
8. A system of grouping library materials by subject
9. Animal in the First Nation Public Libraries logo
11. An accumulation of historical records
12. Portable device that stores numerous books in digital format
15. 2015 First Nation Public Library Week Host (3 wds)

### Down

1. Ancient form of First Nations storytelling
2. First Nation \_\_\_\_\_  
Read (11 letters)
3. Famous Anishinaabe orator, author; b.1926-d.2015
5. 2015 First Nation Communities Read winning title (3 wds)
7. Dewey Decimal user
10. Public Library \_\_\_\_\_  
Grant (9 letters)
13. 2009 campaign for First Nation Public Libraries (2 wds)
14. Source for First Nations resource and reading materials

*Answers provided in the next issue of Maziniigan*

### First Nation Public Libraries Maziniigan

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Librarian contributions  
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