



New Brunswick  
Public Library  
Service

# New Brunswick Public Libraries

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## **A Strategic Plan for Indigenous Library Services 2019-2022**

### Acknowledgement:

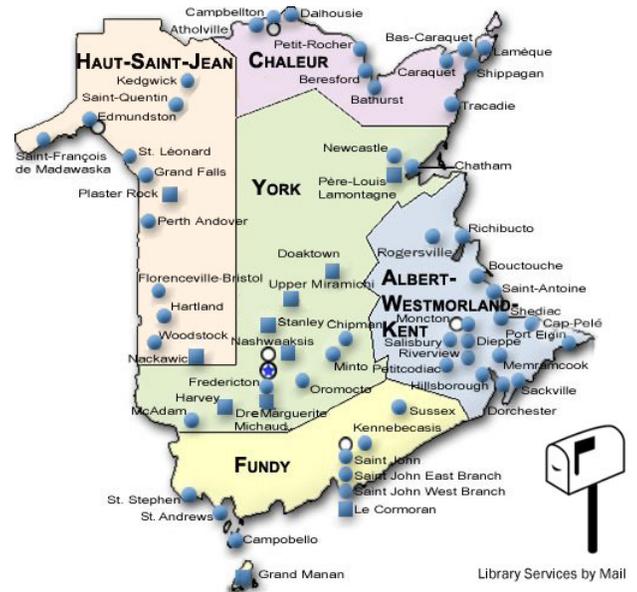
We would like to acknowledge that our public libraries are located on the traditional unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Peskotomuhkati.

# BUILD. SHARE. CREATE. REACH.

New Brunswick public libraries consist of a network of 64 public libraries, an online branch and a provincial library services-by-mail.

Our network of public libraries have many strengths: a community-based service; one provincial library card; one shared provincial online catalogue and collection; a borrow anywhere, return anywhere service; welcoming facilities and inclusive open hours; computer, Internet and Wi-Fi access in all libraries; and dedicated and passionate employees, trustees, volunteer, partners.

New Brunswick public libraries are unique in Canada as library services are free to all residents of our province, which includes First Nations.



## Libraries & Truth and Reconciliation

New Brunswick public libraries are committed to supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action and endorses the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)'s Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations. This 2017 report includes recommendations on how Canada's libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions can advance and implement meaningful reconciliation and the TRC's 94 Calls to Action through decolonizing and indigenizing library services.

## Decolonize and Indigenize

In support of reconciliation, decolonizing is a long-term process of re-evaluating established ways of knowing and doing things within an organization in order to make space for non-colonial views.

Indigenizing is about recognition and incorporating Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, ways of doing and expressions into an organization.

To be successful in decolonizing and indigenizing library programs, services and spaces, it will involve NB public library staff being open and engaged in learning and collaborating with local Indigenous peoples.

## Our plan

This 3-year plan is influenced by CFLA-FCAB's Truth and Reconciliation Report and Recommendations, NBPLS' 2017-2020 strategic plan, and how NB public libraries can continue to support and be active in the reconciliation journey. It will cover our key activities to continually improve library collections, programming, spaces and reaching out to Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations.

## Our goals

- 1) **BUILD** vibrant collections that are shaped by Indigenous voices.
- 2) **SHARE** stories and build knowledge of local Indigenous histories, cultures, and languages.
- 3) **CREATE** welcoming and trusted spaces for Indigenous peoples.
- 4) **REACH** out and support Indigenous community development.

## Our Indicators of Success

How will NB public libraries know if they are successful in their key activities? NB public libraries will be reflecting on their activities by looking at the following key indicators:

- Increased number of people with public library cards who live within a First Nation community.
- Increased use of Indigenous resources within libraries.
- Increased number of programs with Indigenous themes and number of participants.
- Positive feedback from Indigenous peoples about public library services.

# BUILD vibrant collections that are shaped by Indigenous voices.

## What New Brunswickers can find in NB public libraries:

- Indigenous collections for all ages in every service point with a focus on Indigenous authors and creators.
- Indigenous spine labels on books and films to make discovery easy.
- Books in Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati-Wolastoqey languages.
- Featured collections, displays and promotions to inspire reading and learning.
- Staff with knowledge of Indigenous resources.



## Key Activities

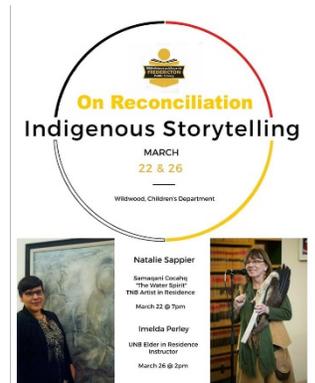
1. To invest in collections that are written/spoken in Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati-Wolastoqey languages to be made available in all libraries.
2. To follow recommendations from the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques' Indigenous Matter Committee to decolonize standard subject heading terms used within North American libraries to classify collections.
3. To invest in Young Adult and Adult Indigenous collections to support programming in all libraries.
4. To develop marketing/promotional tools for Indigenous collections.
5. To dedicate a line in the New Brunswick Public Library Service budget for purchasing Indigenous collections that is distributed at a regional level, with collections purchased available throughout the province.



SHARE stories and build knowledge of local Indigenous histories, cultures, and languages.

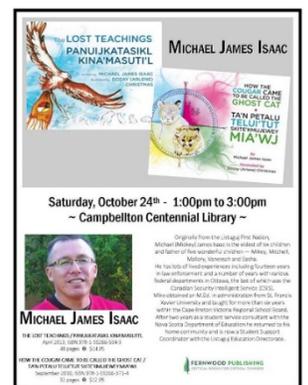
### What New Brunswickers can do in NB public libraries:

- Attend Indigenous themed story times.
- Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Join a drum or reading circle.
- Attend programs by Indigenous guest speakers.
- Participate in local and national Indigenous book clubs.
- Enjoy Indigenous film screenings.
- Learn about Indigenous histories, cultures, and languages in fun and engaging ways.



### Key Activities

1. To investigate funding opportunities to offer dedicated tablets equipped with Indigenous language apps and games to be made available in libraries close to First Nations.
2. To explore offering the program “Let’s Talk about Reconciliation,” developed by the Canada Commission for UNESCO in partnership with several organizations, including the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques.
3. To explore offering library storyteller in residence programs that are focused on Mi’kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati cultures and histories.
4. To explore funding opportunities to offer Indigenous author visits.
5. To explore offering *Peace and Friendship Reads* book clubs with the aim of fostering friendship, understanding and equality.



# CREATE welcoming and trusted spaces for Indigenous peoples.

## What New Brunswickers will find in NB public libraries:

- Smudging as part of a ceremony or group meeting.
- Welcome signs in Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati-Wolastoqey languages.
- Acknowledgement of traditional territory during key library ceremonies and events.
- Exhibits and displays by Indigenous artists.
- Library staff who receive Indigenous awareness training.
- Welcoming space for conversations.



## Key Activities

1. To explore ways of incorporating Indigenous language, art and design into library spaces.
2. To integrate Indigenous visual representations into promotional materials.
3. To promote the traditional territory acknowledgement prominently in our facilities.
4. To promote employment and volunteer opportunities within First Nation communities.

# REACH out and support Indigenous community development

## What New Brunswickers will find within NB public libraries:

- Library staff attending local Indigenous events, First Nation offices, Head Starts and schools to promote library services.
- Library staff sharing best practices on Indigenous themed programs and services.
- Library staff serving as a community partner.



## Key Activities

1. To offer library program and service workshops based on the needs and interests of Indigenous community members (e.g. Every Child Ready to Read).
2. To promote library programs, services and resources to First Nations and First Nation schools.
3. To conduct library membership drives within First Nation communities.
4. To offer advice and leadership when First Nation communities are interested in establishing library services or joining the NB public library system.

## About NB Public Libraries

In New Brunswick, public library service is provided in partnership between the provincial government and participating municipalities. In the case of public-school libraries, participating school districts are a third partner. Public Libraries are regulated by the *New Brunswick Public Libraries Act*.

New Brunswick Public Library Service is made up of 64 libraries, a library services by mail unit, and an online branch, five regional offices and a provincial office.

### Contact Information

New Brunswick Public Library Service  
Provincial Office

570 Two Nations Crossing, Suite 2

P.O. Box 6000

Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

[nbpls-sbpnb@gnb.ca](mailto:nbpls-sbpnb@gnb.ca)

Tel: (506) 453-2354

Fax: (506) 444-4064

[www.gnb.ca/publiclibraries](http://www.gnb.ca/publiclibraries)