

Marigold News

2024 Marigold Conference

We had an unprecedented turnout at our Marigold Conference on May 15th, with 269 people in attendance. We hope everyone enjoyed our keynote speaker, Nick Tanzi, who spoke about how artificial intelligence is reshaping our information landscape, and that while the future may seem uncertain, there is no doubt that libraries are essential in the age of AI. Thank you everyone for taking part in this year's conference!

Be sure to fill out our [conference evaluation survey](#) and help us make next year's conference even better!



2024 Making a Difference Award!

Marigold celebrated the 14th Annual Making a Difference Awards by recognizing four of our member libraries who demonstrated excellence in programming, outreach, advocacy, partnerships, and increased cardholder initiatives. A winner from our two library size categories – populations under 2,000 and populations over 2,000 – were chosen by the Marigold Board Standards & Services Committee. Each library received an award certificate and cheque for \$1,000. We also presented two libraries with a certificate and cheque for \$500 for honourable mention in each category. A total of 15 entries were received this year. We congratulate and thank everyone who submitted an application and encourage all libraries (including past winners and libraries that submitted this year) to send in applications next year.

Below are the 2024 award winners:

Large Library Winner – Airdrie Public Library – Library as a Community Warming Centre
Large Library Honourable Mention – Sheep River Library - Podcast Recording Room
Small Library Winner – Morrin Library – TD Summer Reading Program
Small Library Honourable Mention – Rockyford Library – Drama Camp



Conference Follow-Up Resources

Public Library Safety & Security Toolkit

As mentioned in Safety and Security session with Heather Roberston and Vicky Varga, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council Public Library Safety & Security Toolkit can be found [here](#).

Regional Systems Advocacy Committee

As mentioned during the Advocacy session with Sue Heuman from Focus Communications, the Regional Systems Advocacy Committee, comprised of the seven regional system Board Chairs and CEOs, collaborated on the preparation of an advocacy How-To-Guide and a Handout/Takeaway document. Please share these documents with your library boards. Community members may like to see the handout to encourage them to write their own letters or tell their stories.

For large libraries, the first page of the Handout says “Libraries are the heart of rural Alberta”, which does not necessarily reflect your urban centres! If you have staff that could edit that wording to “urban” or “small urban” or “medium urban” or how you identify yourself, you are welcome to do so. Font is “Work Sans SemiBold”. There is also a “LARGE LIBRARIES” version that simply states “Libraries are the heart of Alberta.”

These resources have been [added to our website](#).

COMING SOON! A municipal advocacy toolkit is now under development with the Regional Systems Advocacy Committee, which is focused on how to tell your story to your Council. This will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Kits & Games: Summer Craft Kit!

There's plenty to do in [this summer kit](#)! Kids can bedazzle old cd's to hang up, or make tissue paper wreaths, fancy ribbon flowers, or a cute picture hanger! All the supplies to make this a fun time are included.

Submitted by Barb Froese
Library Services Assistant



Minecraft has returned to Marigold!

Marigold HQ has been working through a pilot project with Airdrie Public Library for the past few months that will allow us to reintroduce Minecraft licensing for member libraries. Many of you had a preview of this at the Marigold Conference Minecraft session with Jamieson Gardiner from Airdrie!

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Richard in Marigold IT at richard@marigold.ab.ca. Minecraft licensing rules have changed, which has also changed the process of rolling it out to your library and providing access to patrons. We

have also installed Minecraft licenses on our Mobile Lab laptops, which can be loaned to your library for public programming.

Connecting the Digital Dots: A Symposium on Digital Literacy

Monday, June 10 – Tuesday, June 11

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2024 Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) Symposium, Connecting the Digital Dots: A Symposium on Digital Literacy. This free in-person event will focus on what digital literacy means in the Alberta public library context. Participants will learn how to access, analyze, and apply digital literacy concepts in their roles and providers of public library service. Topics will include technology planning, understanding misinformation and disinformation, and navigating the digital divide. Speakers from Alberta public libraries will highlight some of their own digital literacy initiatives to inspire and provide practical examples of what you can do in your library. Registration deadline is May 31, so register early as space is limited. For any questions regarding the symposium, please email PLSB at libraries@gov.ab.ca.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA): statement on Canadian school libraries

The CFLA has issued a statement on the status of Canadian school libraries. They believe that school libraries are an integral part of students' learning experience and call for a national consensus on the importance of the role of school libraries. Read the full statement [here](#).

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA): Endorsement of the American Library Association's (ALA) statement regarding labeling systems

In essence, they stated that labelling systems should label based on broad reading levels rather than content to avoid biases and marginalizing certain groups. Read more [here](#).

LAA VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

POLARIZING CONVERSATIONS: HOW TO TALK ABOUT TRIGGERING TOPICS

MAY 28 1:00 PM

Learn how to maintain relationships when discussing potentially triggering issues in this one hour workshop.

communication@libraryassociationalbertainfo.com
libraryassociationalbertainfo.com

Polarizing Conversations: How to Talk about Triggering Topics.

Date: **Tuesday, May 28 at 1 PM**

Do you want to learn how to maintain relationships when discussing potentially triggering issues? This workshop equips you with skills for managing your own emotions and understanding the various dynamics of having polarizing discussions so you can confidently ensure they are productive and respectful.

You can register for the workshop via the Events page on our website [here](#). Simply click on 'RSVP Now' and fill out the details! A Zoom link will be emailed after you register.

Curious about other upcoming sessions in our Virtual Speaker Series lineup? Check out our [other events!](#)

Emily Manderville – Summer Program Assistant

Hello everyone!

It is good to be back at Marigold this summer delivering virtual and in-person programs to member libraries. For those of you who do not know me, or need a reminder, I am Emily Manderville, last year's Marigold summer student. Last year I took 41 in-person programs to libraries and oversaw the programs and Teen Summer Reading Challenge on marigoldprograms.ca. I am looking forward to seeing some familiar, and new, faces this summer. As well as bringing engaging programs to patrons. So, keep an eye on those emails,



summer program registration will be sent out soon.

Email: emilym@marigold.ab.ca

phone: 403-934-5334 ext. 259

Indigenous Information

The Nehiya Pwat or Iron Confederacy

When you read about residential schools or treaties it is not Indigenous history you are learning about. Those kinds of events are about colonial history. Recently, while doing some family tree research I came across some information that was new to me and I thought perhaps it would be new to others as well.

The Nehiya (Cree) and Nakoda/Assiniboine (Pwat) had long standing alliances, the earliest settler evidence of this, found in Henry Kelsy's journal, indicates it predates 1692. They supported each other in military, political and trade matters. The alliance was also known as the Iron Confederacy.

Between 1692 and 1740 the alliance expanded to include the Saulteaux, Haudenosaunee and the Métis. As the Hudson Bay Company and Northwest Company moved into the west the Nehiya Pwat moved with them. They controlled trade in furs, guns, and other European trade goods and later pemmican, which was a crucial commodity.

The relationships between nations were often volatile and the added pressure of the growing settler population caused more friction. I suggest reading the documents listed in "The Nehiya Pwat" by Lawrence Barkwell at the Louis Riel Institute. The list does not offer any editorial interpretation, just reports of incidents and is fascinating reading. You can find it [here](#).

From 1800 to 1850 the alliance was at its peak, controlling trade across much of western Canada.

In 1821 Hudson Bay Company and the Northwest Company merged, closing many forts, and putting great pressure on the alliance. In addition, the American and Canadian governments began to constrain the free crossing of the border for Indigenous hunting parties. There were probably a variety of motives for this change in policy, but it had a huge effect in terms of subsistence for all the nations involved.

By 1850 the decline of the bison population weakened the alliance even further. In 1869 Canada purchased the Hudson Bay Company's interest in western Canada. The Métis did not want to lose the land they had developed for generations and created a bill of rights, a remarkable document for the time. Read about it [here](#).

The Canadian government agreed to honour this document and to having Louis Riel represent the people of Manitoba, but they did not follow through and history shows that perhaps they never intended to. In 1869 and 1870 the Red River resistance began but without the strength of the Nehiya Pwat they were unable to defeat the Canadian government. One can't help wondering how different the history of our country might have been.

Submitted by Rose Reid
Indigenous Outreach Specialist

There are two more Indigenous resources that we are sharing this month:

1. An interesting new documentary series on Indigenous History, entitled *Understanding Indigenous History: A Path Forward* is available on YouTube. From the page: The series, 'Understanding Indigenous History: A Path Forward', discusses the history of the First Nations peoples of Canada and, through the shared knowledge and lived experiences of interviewees, and aims to offer a pathway forward for truth and reconciliation in Canada” [Understanding Indigenous History: A Path Forward - YouTube](#).

2. *Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples: A Holistic Approach. Toolkit for Inclusive Municipalities in Canada and Beyond*
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/canadacouncil/K34-7-2019-eng.pdf. You will need to click the English “Continue to this publication” bar in order to access the resource.

Professional Development

The Professional Development Newsletter is Back!

You asked, and we listened! The Professional Development Newsletter will be back this summer!

Inside this monthly newsletter, you will find a round-up of free or affordable professional development and training opportunities, including live or recorded webinars, in-person training sessions, articles, and more, on topics relevant to library managers, staff, and board members.

[Click here to subscribe](#)

hoopla News

As previously announced, Marigold's subscription to hoopla will be discontinued as of June 1. Marigold users will no longer be able to access hoopla online or through the app as of that date.

We ask all libraries to remove the hoopla brochure from their libraries before June 1. The "eResources" and "eResources for Young Readers" brochures have both been updated to remove mentions of hoopla, so libraries are welcome to submit printing requests to get new copies of those brochures.

We have many other eResources that are similar to hoopla. Libby and cloudLibrary are fantastic resources for both eBooks and audiobooks. Read Alberta and Biblioboard both feature eBooks from local and indie authors. Freegal provides free music streaming. Kanopy, which we recently expanded, has a large collection of streaming video with no waitlists, and includes Kanopy Kids, a curated and separate collection of children's television and storybooks.

Share with Us!

What's happening in your library? We'd love to hear from you!

- News or updates about your library
- Programs or events you'd like to share
- Pictures of your library or events at your library

Email your Consultant with any newsletter submissions you'd like to share with the Marigold Community.

[Subscribe Now!](#)



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