

## News from Newfoundland & Labrador

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It's been a busy year for Newfoundland and Labrador libraries. As we are all aware, in April of 2016, the provincial government announced the potential closure of 54 of our public libraries. Not surprisingly, the announcement was met with a large and passionate outcry, both from within our province, as well as on a national level. As a result, on June 30, 2016, the day before the proposed cuts were to come into effect, the government announced that it would suspend the closures pending a review by the consultation firm Ernst and Young. It was a difficult year for NLPL branches and workers who remained unsure of the future of our province's public libraries.

On May 5, 2017, the final report was released. The 126 page document highlights the issues and offers some recommendations going forward. The Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA), the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA), and library workers and supporters have been vocal about the desired outcomes of the review, and which recommendations should be prioritized. While there are still many questions to be answered, and no concrete decisions are outlined in the report, we are hopeful that this document will jumpstart a planning process that will result in an improved and well-funded system for our libraries, library workers, and the communities they serve.

For the full report, [click here](#).

On the topic of planning for the future, Memorial University Libraries is currently in the process of creating its Strategic Plan for the next five years. A Strategic Planning Steering Committee has been formed. Committee members are busy reaching out to the University community and stakeholders and are gathering feedback, planning events, and collaborating and consulting to create what will be the Libraries' next Strategic Plan.

For more information, [click here](#).

In other news, Memorial University Libraries is currently reviewing the Sage journal package for cancellation at the end of the year. To date, the Library has cancelled five big deal journal packages (Cambridge, Oxford, Wiley, Springer, and Taylor & Francis), as a result of a weak Canadian dollar, and rising and unsustainable publisher prices. As with past cancellations, the library will buy back as many individual titles from the package as possible. The deadline for response in the consultation process is September 15, 2017.

For more information, [click here](#).

As always, our public libraries have been busy! There's no way to completely capture all of the amazing things that they do, but here are some highlights of recent events:

- On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the A.C. Hunter Public Library in St. John's presented "An Evening with Lisa Moore, Paul Rowe, and Eva Crocker."
- On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the A.C. Hunter Children's Library held its National Launch Party for the TD Summer Reading Club.
- On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Morigan Mystery Evenings presented "A Strange Turn of Events" murder mystery at the A.C. Hunter Library.
- On July 5<sup>th</sup>, the A.C. Hunter Library hosted "Chair Yoga" with Meghan Morgan.
- On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Michael Donovan Public Library celebrated Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. "Hear a story, play some miniature curling, and design your own flag." The celebration was open to all kids aged 6-10.
- On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Julie Temple Newhook from *Parents of Trans and Gender Diverse Kids, NL* offered an information seminar for adults called "Gender Diversity." The event took place at the A.C. Hunter Public Library Community Room.
- Also on July 13<sup>th</sup>, the A.C. Hunter Children's Library presented, "Crazy Colours School Age Program for Kids Who Have Completed Kindergarten and up."
- The Pasadena Public Library held its "Literary Fanart Contest." "Choose your favorite book, or comic and draw/paint your favorite character." The contest closed July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Throughout the summer, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, and August 26<sup>th</sup>, the public libraries will be available at the St. John's Farmer's Market to answer questions about signing up for a library card, their new digital library, locations, hours, programs, services, and resources. Also join them for storytime, adult colouring, and *Lego* building!
- Also through the summer, the Marjorie Mews Public Library in St. John's will hold its Summertime Storytimes (June 30, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 25).

In Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association (NLLA) news, this year's Spring Conference and General Meeting (GM) was held in St. John's on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It was an educational and fun-filled day that highlighted the dedication of our library workers in accordance with the theme, *Survive and Thrive*. New NLLA executive members elected at the Spring GM were Melissa Feaver (VP/President elect), Liam Whalen (Treasurer), Jennifer Budden (LTA Representative), and Alison Ambi (Director of Memberships and Recruitment). Fall Conference planning has begun. Date, to be announced.

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