

News from Nova Scotia

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Nova Scotia Libraries Celebrate the Nation's Anniversary with 150 Books of Influence

In honour of the 150th Anniversary of Confederation, the Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) and Nova Scotia's nine regional library systems are excited to present **Libraries 150**, a province-wide library project to promote reader engagement in the celebration of Nova Scotia's writers and citizens, ideas and attitudes, culture and environment, stories and treasures.



The sesquicentennial project is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities Culture and Heritage's 150 Forward Fund as well as cooperation throughout Nova Scotia's library community. One Book Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) have agreed to partner in the project.

Libraries 150 has three main components, the cornerstone of which is the creation of the *150 Books of Influence*, a compilation of 150 books that Nova Scotians feel somehow influence or define them as a people.

Recommended by Nova Scotians themselves, the *150 Books of Influence* will be those books that have captured hearts and minds; books that tell Nova Scotia's stories and inspire its citizens. The *150 Books of Influence* will celebrate diversity of books and authors from and about different communities and cultures in Nova Scotia, and pay homage to the development and achievements of Nova Scotian book makers and its publishing industry. The selections will honour individuals and achievements, innovation, creativity and thought.

"Canada's 150th Anniversary is a perfect opportunity to examine and consider those significant books that reflect our current state as a people and province, as well as those books that mark our progress over the decades since Confederation," said NSLA President, Cynthia Lelliott.

“This project will memorialize the literary works of Nova Scotia, and leave a cultural legacy for future generations of readers that will be forever accessible to the public.”

In the spring a Working Committee of representatives from all of the regions and APLA will roll out plans for *150 Books of Influence* to their libraries and constituents. During the summer, library patrons, and all members of the public, will be asked to nominate book titles they feel should be considered for the *150 Books of Influence*. The nominated books can include children, youth and adult titles, fiction and non-fiction, scholarly texts, books of diversity, books in French, Gaelic, Mi'kmaq and/or English, current and historical titles.

Local library-driven programs and promotions will be held to support and fuel interest in ‘voting’ for books for the list.

Nominations for the *150 Books of Influence* will be compiled and reviewed, and the 150 books selected. The booklist will be printed and released to the public most likely in mid-September. The booklist will also be available in digital format.

The second component of ***Libraries 150*** will be public author and/or actor readings to promote Nova Scotian works, past and present. Readings will be held at Public Libraries to generate interest in Nova Scotia authors and books, and to fuel the booklist campaign discussions.

Finally, ***Libraries 150*** culminates in displays, discussions, author readings and special celebrations at the Joint NSLA/LBANS 2017 Conference in Cornwallis in late September.

“***Libraries 150*** is a perfect way to showcase Nova Scotia’s books, readers and libraries during this special year in Canada,” said Cynthia. “It is also an ideal opportunity to strengthen NSLA’s partnerships with other library associations and related organizations, and increase cooperation and support with the Regional Libraries.”

“It is a great project, and it will be exciting to see everything that develops over the next few months.”