

News from New Brunswick

News from New Brunswick Public Library Service

Kate Thompson, Head of Public Services Development

- New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) staff are currently being trained on how to deliver physical literacy programming. The training was developed in-house, in consultation with Jenn Carson – an internationally renowned expert on physical literacy – who is also the Director of the L. P. Fisher Public Library in Woodstock, New Brunswick. The training helps define what physical literacy is, as well as explore how it can be incorporated into existing library programs.
- This summer, the Government of New Brunswick hired a consulting firm, which was tasked with conducting a study and preparing a report containing findings and recommendations concerning ways that NB public libraries could improve services. The company that was selected to conduct the work was Malatest, from Halifax. The work the firm carried out included the following:

-5 regional in-person engagement sessions with public library stakeholders;

-1 in-person engagement session with members of the NB Public Libraries Board, members of the NB Public Libraries Foundation Board of Trustees, and members of the board of the NB Library Trustees Association;

-An online survey of all NBPLS employees; and

-A telephone survey with a random sample of library patrons and non-users.

The consultations took place over the course of the summer and a report is in the process of being finalized.

- The New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training (NB-IRDT) recently published a report on *The Use of Public Libraries in New Brunswick, 2010 to 2018*. The report examined data related to a variety of public library services and resulted in the following key findings:
 - There has been remarkable stability and growth in the use of NB public libraries;
 - Disruptions to library services (i.e. closure, renovations) did not lower demand for library services;
 - Library use significantly increased between 2015/2016, likely as a result of
 - More flexible ways of providing library cards

- Eliminating overdue fines for children
- Opening all public libraries on Saturdays (and some on Sundays)

The full report is available on [the NB-IRDT website](#)