

News from the York Library Region, New Brunswick

Mikey Colborne, Public Services Librarian, York Library Region

NBPLS Goes to Camp 2021

On March 19, 2021, all New Brunswick public library staff came together (virtually) for our very first all-staff conference. The theme of the day was *NBPLS Goes to Camp*, and we aimed to connect all 250 of our staff across the province to learn from each other and to have fun. The provincial initiative was led by the York Library Region with an organizing team of 8, plus over 35 presenters, moderators, and troubleshooters. Our day consisted of 20 learning sessions, including a question and answer session by NB author Beth Powning.



Our organizing team had leads for logistics, communications, conference programs, and official languages, as well as a project manager and two project owners. We sent out a call for proposals from library staff, and the result was a wide variety of creative and informative sessions. We hosted sessions on Zoom and encouraged presenters to offer them in engaging and interactive ways. We were inspired by the quality of the expertise in our own backyard!

Library staff embraced the theme, with tents, decorative bonfires, and sleeping bags making appearances in libraries across the province. We also created conference packages of camp day materials for each employee, with customized pads of paper, camp pencils, and even a commemorative badge.