

**Canadian Library Association
Library and Information Needs of Native Peoples Interest Group
Mid-Year Update January 2004**

1. Thank you to Jim Bruce, College Librarian, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, for his ongoing commitment to and leadership of the Interest Group and the yahoo listserv. Ann Doyle, librarian, Xwi7xwa Library is serving as convenor of the group for the year 2003-04.

2. CLA/ALA Conference June 2003, Toronto Ontario
The Interest Group offered three events at the Toronto conference:

Event 1: "Public Library services to U.S. and Canadian First Nations" was a joint session presented with the American Indian Library Association (AILA) convened by Jim Bruce, CLA Interest Group chair, (College Librarian, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology) and David Ongley, AILA, (Tuzzy Consortium Library of Barrow Alaska). The speakers included: Mary Anne Hansen of Montana State University – Bozeman libraries; Jean Whitehorse from the Tribal Libraries Program, New Mexico State Library; Wendy Sinclair of the Albert Community Branch of the Regina Public Library; Gene Joseph (Environmental Aboriginal Guardianship through Law - EAGLE) and Kim Lawson (Union of BC Indian Chiefs) from BC; Patty Lawlor of the Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS); and Deborah Pelletier, Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Resources and Services - National Library and Archives of Canada.

Event 2: A First Nations Walking Tour was organized by Gloria Reinsberg, Spadina Public Library and Patty Lawlor. We began at the University of Toronto First Nations House with a warm welcome by elder Antoine and an introduction to the collection. We moved on to a display of historic materials at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Next stop was the newly renovated neighbourhood library at the Spadina branch of the Toronto Public Library. Many thanks to Gloria Reinsberg and Patty Lawlor for a wonderful tour and for their work as the local arrangements committee with the able assistance of Janine Cheung.

Event 3: After the tour, we gathered for an educational program and lunch of traditional food co-ordinated by Robert Adams, Director of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. We were introduced to the Toronto Native Community History project and the exemplary Visiting Schools program. Thank you to the National Library and Archives of Canada, Aboriginal Resources and Services for co-sponsoring this culturally rich and informative event.

Interest Group members Wendy Sinclair and Patty Lawlor also participated on the "Serving Native American/First Nation Youth Populations in Libraries" panel organized by ALA's Association of Library Service to Children.

The American Indian Library Association (AILA) Business meeting was attended by CLA and BCLA representatives: Gene Joseph, Kim Lawson, Ann Doyle and Patty Lawlor.

3. Jim Bruce, Interest Group convenor and Janice Linton, Aboriginal Health Librarian, Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library, University of Manitoba (Interest Group member) were Guest Editors of the Aboriginal Theme issue of Feliciter "Information Resources for Native Peoples" Vol 49 N5 2003

3. The CLA Library and Information Needs of Native Peoples website was revised and updated by Janice Linton of the Interest Group with the assistance of Peter Wilson, CLA IT Co-ordinator. The Feliciter theme issue was profiled on the site, as well, there are

new sections “Links to First Nations Information” and “Policy Documents” which includes the [Aboriginal Services Resolution](#) passed at the Canadian Library Association 57th Annual General Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia (June 22, 2002); [Public Library Services for First Nations: Recommendations for the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services](#) the British Columbia Library Association, First Nations Interest Group (November 6, 2003) response to the Public Library Strategic Planning process in BC; the [Final Report of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Library Services for Aboriginal People](#) ~ Minister's Advisory Committee on Library Services for Aboriginal People, Saskatchewan. (October 2001)

4. Planning continues for the BCLA/CLA Conference June 16-19 2004 in Victoria. The joint program proposal has been accepted.

Working title is: Talking Circle: First Nations and Libraries

DATE and TIME: Saturday June 19 10:30 am - noon

Planned Speakers:

Lorna Williams, St’at’yemc Nation educator, Director of Aboriginal Enhancement programs at the BC Ministry of Education. Lorna will speak about the relationship between libraries and Aboriginal education and the Aboriginal community.

Deborah Pelletier, Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Programs and Services, National Library and Archives of Canada, will describe new initiatives to improve access to the national repositories of Aboriginal resources.

Maureen Woods, newly appointed Director of the Public Library Services Branch, British Columbia will celebrate Canadian and B.C. public libraries that partner with First Nations to provide exemplary services to their communities, and discuss strategies for developing public library services with First Nations.

5. The Interest Group’s response to a request for information from Stephen Abraham, CLA VP-President elect re: the next federal election emphasized universal access, broadband access, and equitable hiring and recruitment of Aboriginal people to libraries and the profession. He was referred to the website Policy Documents section for more information.