



The NLPL Indigenous Collection

Bonnie Morgan

Newfoundland and Labrador Collections Librarian

The Indigenous Collection Initiative is designed to benefit primarily the Indigenous peoples of Newfoundland and Labrador and to advance appreciation of Indigenous cultures and perspectives. Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries is working towards indigenizing and decolonizing its library collections and services.

Started by Executive Director Andrew Hunt and coordinated by NL Collections and Reference Services Librarian, Bonnie Morgan, this work is proceeding in a spirit of reconciliation and consultation with different Indigenous communities, groups and nations of Newfoundland and Labrador. Emma Craig, Regional Librarian for St. John's, is providing support and assistance with this important project.

We recognize that public library planning in Newfoundland and Labrador has been dominated by settler perspectives. As one step to correcting this, we have dedicated funds to add new library materials that accurately and respectfully represent the experiences, values, ways of learning, worldviews and priorities of diverse Indigenous peoples of NL and their ancestors.

While Indigenous Collection materials can be found at various locations (including the Digital Library) there will be core collections at St. John's (A.C. Hunter), Corner Brook, Grand Falls-Windsor, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay available for province-wide borrowing.

“As we move forward with making our materials, programming, services and spaces more welcoming for Indigenous users and informed by Indigenous perspectives, we are not only striving to correct past wrongs, but working to make our public library system a truly inclusive one, reflecting everyone who calls (and has called) Newfoundland and Labrador home.”

Province-wide borrowing



just got easier!

ONE LIBRARY, ONE CARD

Promotional graphic for System Wide Holds

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The creation of dedicated space to display Indigenous materials and celebrate local Indigenous language, art and traditions is planned for core Indigenous Collection locations.

With the advice and cooperation of local nations, communities and organizations, we are striving to add new programs and services, as well as enhance Indigenous cultural content and representation in existing programs such as story time. We have been honoured to meet with representatives from the Miawpukek and Qalipu First Nations, as well as from First Light (St. John's Friendship Centre), who have graciously provided guidance and feedback. We are thankful and hopeful that this communication will continue to inform our planning and delivery.

Consultation with Indigenous groups helped us realize the important role NL Public Libraries can play in facilitating access to resources to support preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages and traditions. This became a priority item in our new LibGuide, "Resources for Indigenous Patrons" which will be launched in June on the NLPL website in recognition of National Indigenous History Month. Spearheaded by Emma, it includes links to national and provincial governing bodies and organizations, library materials featuring Indigenous voices, learning resources related to Truth and Reconciliation, Language and Storytelling, as well as Youth, Women, Health and 2SLGBTQIA+ supports.

As we move forward with making our materials, programming, services and spaces more welcoming for Indigenous users and informed by Indigenous perspectives, we are not only striving to correct past wrongs, but working to make our public library system a truly inclusive one, reflecting everyone who calls (and has called) Newfoundland and Labrador home.



Throughout this issue you will find pictures of the new mural painted in the NL section of the Brigus Public Library. Submitted by Library Technician Raelene Wall, they were painted by her nephew and have been very well received.





Direct patrons to our What to Read Next Info Guide, which has sections about how to use the new holds system, what's new, finding books in the eLibrary, our Youtube channel's Book Talk videos, and more! Find it online at guides.nlpl.ca/ReadNext

System Wide Holds Implementation

Andrew Lockhart

Division Manager, Eastern Division

We are pleased to say that System Wide Holds soft launched in April and has now been fully implemented across the library system.

Library material from around the province can now be requested directly through our catalogue system by patrons. This system removes barriers and increases access to the collection for all patrons. Enabling this system and training staff on its operation required a significant amount of work from many staff members in across divisions, and from IT and Technical Services.

Patrons in automated sites have always had the ability to place holds on their own library's material, and branches in the metro St. John's area have shared material this way for more than a decade. Our old Interlibrary Loan system did allow a patron to request material from another library, but each request was a separate email sent between branches. Under the new system, any patron can place a hold on material in any library via the catalogue or by asking a staff member. Holds are automatically assigned to a library with the material without needing staff to contact each other with requests. Holds will be filled in the order they are placed. An embargo is in place on new items leaving technical services for 6 weeks to ensure that patrons have a chance to see material on the shelf. The embargo was not enabled in metro St. John's as patrons there were already familiar with holds and branches were used to material leaving immediately upon initial check in to fill holds in other metro branches.

To support the new feature and promote it across the province, printed catalogues of new and popular material have been sent to each library, with more packages planned for the fall.

All of this information can be found on our new What to Read Next portion of our website, located under Info Guides on our main webpage nlpl.ca. It compiles all of our existing Reader's Advisory information with explanations of all the ways that patrons can place holds on books or suggest new titles for us to purchase.

Thanks to everyone across NLPL who had a hand in the implementation, promotion, and training surrounding the launch of this new feature.

Summer Reading

Emily Blackmore

Children's and Youth Collections and Services Librarian

Another year has passed and the TD Summer Reading Club is upon us again. Last year we faced the challenge of running a reading club while we were closed, then open for curbside pickup. We went online, our Youtube channel and social media platforms becoming a crucial part of our programming. This year we will be doing a hybrid program– a slate of online programming like last year, with the hope that we can do more with many of our branches open to the public. Even though it's still not a normal year, we're excited about what we have planned and hope you will be too!

This year's TDSRC will start the week of June 18th, and we will have a Get Your Summer Read On video ready for the Youtube channel encouraging kids to sign up and to use the library and read over the summer. The theme is the same as last year's– Game On. We will have weekly Challenge videos, Youtube Storytimes, and weekly Summer Fun activity videos, all easy to share to your branch's Facebook page. Every week there will be a chance for a child to win a prize pack of a new book and bag, just by signing up for the club, participating in one of our challenges, or sharing a book they are reading with us. Another exciting thing we are doing this year is partnering with a library system in Ontario for a pen pal program! Kids across the province can sign up to be partnered with patron from another library and exchange emails or letters about what they're reading this summer. Expect more details about this soon! Here are some ways you can promote the Summer Reading Club in your branch:

- Share the TDSRC videos posted on our NL Public Libraries Facebook page to your branch Facebook page. A couple of posts a week is enough to keep your page active and let members of your community know what kinds of things we're offering. You can even tag local schools and groups in your posts!
- If your library is open, make book displays of summer reading books, favourite picture books, or themed children's books where kids can see them. You can also display a good book or two face out if there is room on your shelves. Books on displays move!
- Talk to patrons who visit the library about the reading club! Tell kids and caregivers that it's happening and if they're interested give them the materials and sign them up! Email your local school or children's groups.

Remember that the library is an integral part of the community, and an important resource for kids! Summer Reading Club is about keeping up your literacy skills, but also about having fun!



Some of the official pictures created for the 2021 TD Summer Reading Club

NL Book Club Kits to Go!

John Griffin

A.C. Hunter Public Library, Newfoundland Collection

Even during the pandemic, Book Club Kits remain extremely popular with library users across the province. The majority of kits are housed here at the A.C. Hunter Public Library in St. John's. While we could not offer in-library services to our patrons last summer it did afford us the opportunity to do some much-needed maintenance in certain areas of the NL Collection, including the NL Book Club Kits.

Myself and Susan Rubin, and Bonnie Morgan, the NL Collections Librarian, met one morning to see if we could come up with a plan to refurbish the kits in order to freshen up some of the older kits and begin a branding of new ones. We decided to do a couple of things.

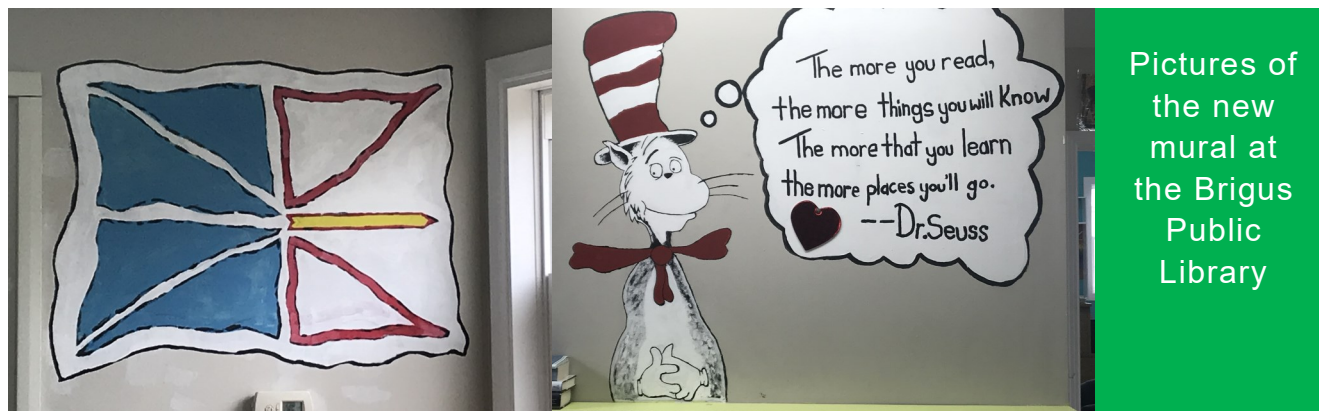
New bags were purchased. All NL Book Club Kits now have the same blue colour bag which helps identify them more easily on the shelf (regular Book Club Kits are in black bags). Previously, the call number of the kit was written on the side of the bag using a gray marker. We thought we could do better. We replaced the small tag with the barcode and date due with two much larger tags. One tag identifies the kit as being housed at the Provincial Resource Library in St. John's. On the back it has the call number, barcode, a listing of the contents, and date due sticker. The second tag has the cover of the book on one side and the call number and pocket for the hold slip on the other. A similar project is underway for the general collection kits. It will take much longer given there are three times as many Book Club Kits in the general collection.

We came up with a new label to identify the books as belonging to an NL Book Club Kit and replaced the spine labels with numbers 1 – 10. We now include a sign-out sheet with each kit as well as a feedback form and a full listing of all 81 NL kits. Susan Rubin refreshed the information package in each kit. The Book Club Central Reader's Guide contains: 1) a summary of the book; 2) a short biography of the author; 3) discussion questions and ideas for further reading; 4) general information sheet about NL Book Club Kits.

Where possible we were able to replace worn or damaged copies in each kit with copies from our donation shelf. One of our most popular kits, "Latitudes of Melt" by Joan Clark had been out 30 times and the books had completely worn out. Replacement copies were purchased.

When kits are returned each one is thoroughly checked for condition and to make sure nothing is missing before it gets re-shelved.

We are happy to offer these more attractive and useful kits to our patrons throughout the province.



Book Club Resources

guides.nlpl.ca/bookclubs

- Lists of our book club kits
- Tips for moving your book club online
- Digital Book Club Central schedule
- Beginners guide to borrowing eBooks
- And LOTS more



A promotional graphic for our Book Club Info Guide

Patrons interested in starting a book club can visit our Book Club guide, located under Info Guides on our website. It includes information about starting a club, tips for moving your club online, lists of all of our various book club kits, our digital book club titles, and more!

Book Clubs Thrive During a Pandemic

Courtney Crocker

Regional Librarian, Central Division

COVID-19 has changed all facets of life, including how we offer library programming. NLPL has shifted many of their programs to take place online. In Central Division, we have three successful book clubs hosted by staff in Botwood Library, Point Leamington Library and Harmsworth Library (Grand Falls-Windsor). Patrons enjoy this new way of attending library programs from the safety of their own home but still feel like they are connecting with other patrons virtually.

A successful book club has engaging discussions about a good read. One of the best parts of a book club is that it forces you to read books that you may not have read before. Everyone brings their own experience and perspective which makes for a lively discussion. This past winter these book clubs have read books such as *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, *I Let You Go* by Claire Macintosh and *Ask Again, Yes* by Mary Beth Keane. All have generated great discussion and made for an interesting meeting. If you are looking for a new program to try in the virtual space, consider giving book clubs a try!

International Women's Day Donation

Trudy Andrews

Library Technician, Margaret Butt Memorial Public Library

The Margaret Butt Memorial Public Library in Labrador City was pleased to accept a wonderful selection of new children's books in honor of International Women's Day. This donation was provided by the Iron Ore Company of Canada and is valued at \$500.00. The donation of children's books, both fiction and non-fiction, will enhance our collection by highlighting women and their many achievements and contributions throughout the world. These books will empower our young readers with clear and positive perspectives on women and their wonderful influences in today's world and beyond. We are also delighted to be in a position to share these resources with many other patrons within our province using our System Wide Holds. This donation, therefore, is for everyone!



Books from the IWD donation at the Labrador City Public Library

Making the Digital Physical

Kristina Walters

Marjorie Mews Public Library

Marjorie Mews is trying something new in terms of our physical displays – we are turning the eLibrary's eCollections into physical displays.

We thought this would be an efficient way to create a display – the eCollections provide a list of titles, many of which have print counterparts available, as well as the title for the display and descriptions for the types of books that would be featured in it. If your library does not have print versions of the books in the eCollection – search for some Read Alikes using those titles as a jumping off point.

This is also a great way to advertise the eLibrary and eCollections to patrons and provide them with even more title choices.

The first version of this concept that we have done is for the UpLit collection – something to brighten the mood after all the RDF St. John's experienced in May.

The display features a poster with the title of the collection and the accompanying blurb in the eLibrary as well as a smaller mini-sign or poster with the suggestion that patrons check out NLPL's eCollection of the same name for digital copies of more great titles.



The UpLit display at the Marjorie Mews Public Library

New Look for Michael Donovan!

Jan Moffett

Michael Donovan Public Library

During the summer of 2020, the staff at Michael Donovan Library were able to rearrange the shelves and re-vamp our library into a more user-friendly space. This was partly able to be accomplished by the closure due to COVID – so it was a silver lining to a difficult time. Over the course of a week and a half, all of the books and shelves were removed from the shelves, and the shelving units were rotated by 90° before putting everything back again!

What a difference it made! By changing the direction of the shelves, staff are now able to see patrons as they browse and help them with ease. The shelves are now aligned with the ceiling lighting, making the space appear bigger and brighter. New display space opened up and a study nook became available. The children's section and adult section also have a clear divide between them, making it easier for families to find what they are looking for. Our long-neglected Juvenile Non-Fiction section has had new life breathed into it.

As the library re-opened in the fall, patrons praised the new look! All of this was accomplished without renovations, simply a rearrangement of the furniture by three hard-working staff.

Lastly, a little humour – since the shelves had been in place for so long, we discovered a few long-lost things beneath them. There were several books and DVDs (some that had been missing since 2009!), a mountain of crayons, flyers from years past and just enough spare change to get a doughnut split three ways!



The new look at the Michael Donovan Public Library

Wabush introduces Wellness Bags

Alicia Hodder

Library Assistant, Wabush Public Library

Congratulations to the Wabush Public Library and Alicia Hodder, Library Assistant! Alicia applied for and was awarded a \$655 grant from the Labrador Regional Wellness Coalition to purchase Wellness Bags. Alicia had initially started a small collection with funds from her local library board. The bags were so popular she decided to apply for the grant in order to create more bags. Each Wellness Bag features items for self-care such as an adult colouring book with coloured pencils, a motivational book, puzzle, affirmation cards, and a relaxation CD.

Each health region has a Wellness Coalition which issues yearly community grants for projects which support health and wellness. If you're interested in learning more visit:

- Eastern: <https://easternwellnesscoalition.com/>
- Central: <https://www.centralwellnesscoalition.com/>
- Western: <http://www.westernwellnesscoalition.com/>
- Labrador: <http://www.lrwc.ca/home/>



The staff at the Marjorie Mews Public Library know we're supposed to "stay the blazes home" so they are emphasizing "bloom where you are planted" with this new display!

Pandemic Programming: A Virtual Silver Lining

Julia Mayo

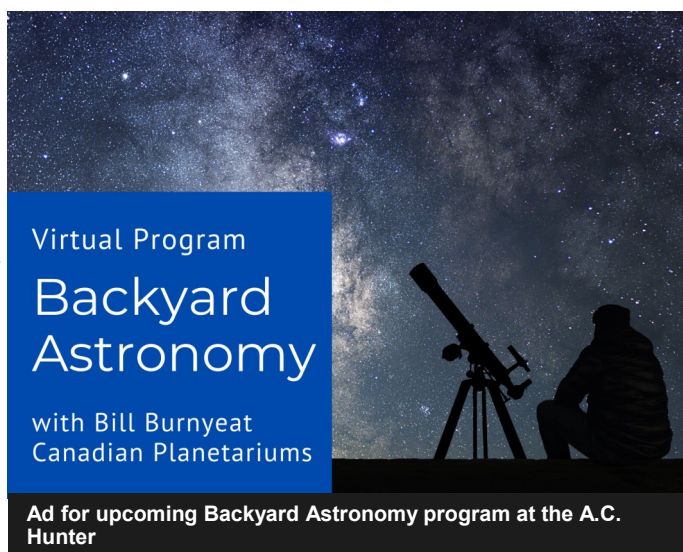
Library Technician, A.C. Hunter Public Library

I had just started my new job as the Adult Program Coordinator at the A.C. Hunter Library when the pandemic happened. Previously I worked as branch supervisor at the Marjorie Mews Library, where bringing people together and creating strong community bonds was one of the most fulfilling parts of my job. I was certain this new role would be just as satisfying. Library services had to change quickly when the first lockdown came and everyone piled on. We all helped to create material for our YouTube channel, increased our Facebook presence, and the e-library collection was drastically increased. Where would I fit in? How was I going to be able to do my job? Doing programs in a virtual arena was completely foreign to me. How would I tackle this?

I like to think that I am a pretty positive person and I always try to see the bright side of things. But a pandemic? Ok. That may be pushing it. No one was able to leave their homes. People were scared. How are we going to reach them and help normalize this crazy situation that the world is in? We initially started with a platform called Jitsi before settling with WebEx. All across the province libraries have created and presented programs and events that are diverse, fun and engaging, but just because something worked as a program before does not mean it will work as a virtual event. Sometimes you just have to jump in and try it out.

One of the first programs I did was a Murder Mystery with a group here in St John's called "Morrigan Mystery Evenings". They are a theatrical group who perform murder mysteries at parties and public events. We have done several events both at Marjorie Mews Library and the A.C. Hunter Library. They were always fun and well attended. How can we make this a virtual event? I contacted the group and as usual they were game for anything and had wanted to do something virtual, but were unsure where to start. My mystery buddy Christine Hennebury, the group leader, created the story and gathered the players. We met a week ahead of program to check out the platform and do a quick run through. This practice has become part of my program set up. It is always a good idea to check the tech beforehand. The night of the program I introduced myself and the group and we just dove in. We set up the scenario and the players each had a turn explaining their alibi. We encouraged the participants to type their questions to not interrupt the flow of the performance. It all worked well and was a great way to start our virtual programming journey.

I continue to look for interesting people who want to talk about interesting, informative and entertaining things, bringing people together from across Canada, or even the globe. Our programming opportunities are no longer limited by our geography! We can access speakers from anywhere, and for our upcoming Backyard Astronomy program, the speaker is tuning in from B.C. We have an author reading coming soon with an author from London! The speakers no longer have to travel to a specific place in order to present. No more trudging in materials and setting up chairs. Not the same as before, but I see it as exciting and a good kind of different.



Virtual Program
**Backyard
Astronomy**
with Bill Burnyeat
Canadian Planetariums

Ad for upcoming Backyard Astronomy program at the A.C. Hunter

Not only has our bank of presenters expanded, but our programs themselves are now accessible to everyone who has access to computers and the internet. Persons with mobility issues can attend programs from the comfort of their own homes. If there is a program happening anywhere in the province you can attend from anywhere in the province. All you need is a library card.

Pandemic programming may be challenging, but it is satisfying to be able to expand our program possibilities. Using the platform to the fullest of its capabilities and no longer letting geography dictate what we can offer is really exciting. I can't wait to see what is ahead for us.

Using Facebook to Engage Patrons and Deer Lake Update

Judy Dunne

Deer Lake Public Library

Here at the library, we have been making great use of our facebook page as a way to engage with our patrons during this past year living in the pandemic. Using inspiration from our Regional Librarian Natasha Wells, we have been posting book recommendations as "Reading Wednesdays" with the hashtag #ReadTogetherNL. We post recommended reads to our followers on facebook, and usually end with the question "What are you reading?" It's a great way to connect with our readers and gain suggestions for their next great read. One great post which reached 188 followers, was a book recommendation from Actor Reese Witherspoon's book club. Another which reached 155 followers was a book recommendation by a favorite Canadian author, serving up suspense with your afternoon tea. Share your love of reading with your patrons!

Natasha Wells

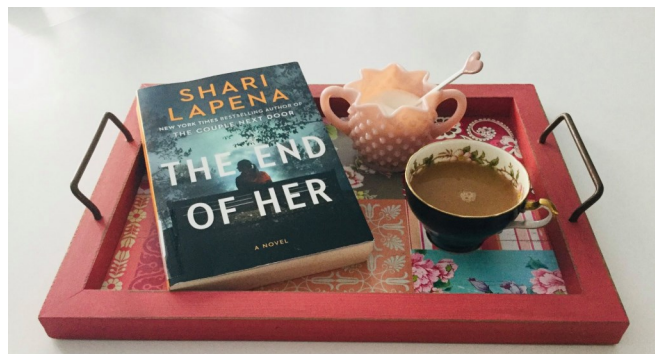
Regional Librarian, Western Division

The Deer Lake Public Library were excited to welcome their patrons back into the library! The Deer Lake community is a close-knit group and Worneta and her staff, Calla and Judy, do an excellent job of providing great service by always making patrons feel welcome, appreciated, and safe.

Since they've reopened, staff have created theme-based Grab and Go Kits for kids, ran a successful online Facebook promotion campaign which included an awesome prize give-away, and have also checked in on their senior patrons at home. They're a busy bunch and much appreciated!



Featured in this collage is Judy Dunne handing out a Grab and Go Kit to a young patron and Worneta Cramm giving away the Facebook promotional prize.



Displays at the Deer Lake Public Library

Black History Month at NLPL

Emma Craig

Regional Librarian, PRL Division

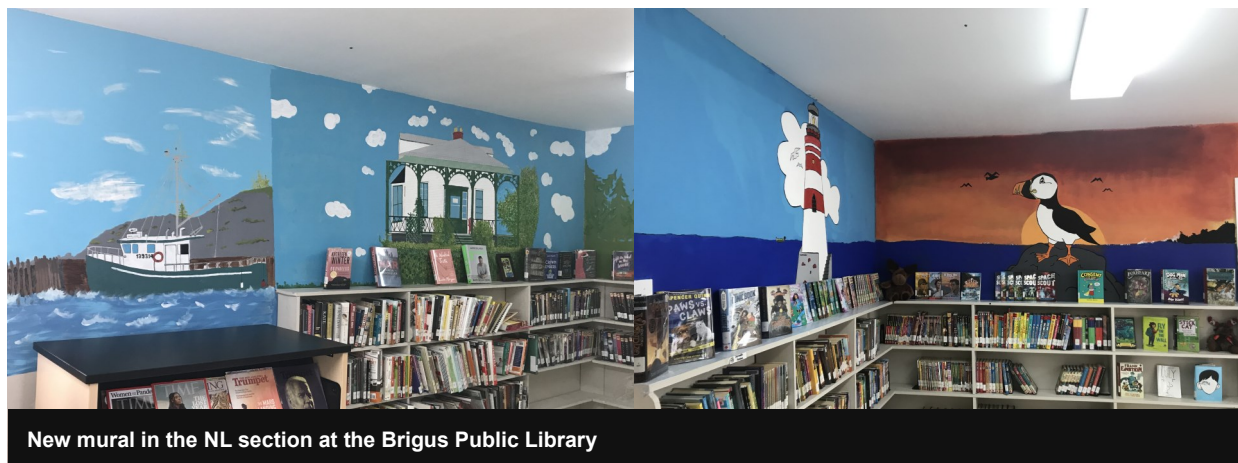
In February, Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries launched their first ever Black History Month program! This was a province-wide celebration of the Black community living within Newfoundland & Labrador, with free events and programming held online and in-person. This program was possible through funding from TD Bank through their TD Ready Commitment grant.

On February 1st, in partnership with Memorial University's Grenfell Campus, the program began with a talk from Dr. Afua Cooper about the history of Black people in the Atlantic Provinces. Corner Brook had an in-person viewing of the movie "Harriet", which was moved into March following the second lockdown. The NLPL Youtube channel shared a video from Black Lives Matter NL, which explained how to discuss racism with children. Our program concluded with the Black in Newfoundland panel, where members of the Black community participated in a discussion about the Black experience in our province.

The funds from the TD Bank grant was also put towards collection development. New releases by Black authors were added to the NLPL's digital library, and book club kits were created in St. John's. Two books, *I've Been Meaning to Tell You* by David Chariandy and *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad, were chosen as our digital book club titles for the month. Both titles were available with unlimited, eBook access for all of February in Overdrive. The remaining funds are being put towards purchasing acquiring more books by Black authors for our physical collections.

I would like to extend my thanks to the staff that served on our planning committee, as well as our staff across the province who assisted in spreading the word and supporting the program. I would also like to thank the various partners and members of the Black community who collaborated with us to create our programming.

Despite it being an unusual time to begin new programs and initiatives, I received many thanks and congratulations from our partners for organizing this celebration. We hope that the Black History Month program will be something we can expand on in the future!



You Can Contribute to Insights, Too!

Have a cool program at your branch? Is there something you would like to learn more about? Reach out to your Regional Librarian and they will be sure to bring all ideas for future Insights to the editing team!

Your contributions are greatly valued and appreciated, please let us know what you have going on at your location.

Submissions for the next Insights Newsletter can be sent to:

Editor:
Emily Blackmore
eblackmore@nlpl.ca

Central: Courtney Crocker
ccrocker@nlpl.ca

Eastern: Sarah Bartlett
sbartlett@nlpl.ca

PRL: Emma Craig
ecraig@nlpl.ca

Western: Natasha Wells
nwells@nlpl.ca



Newfoundland & Labrador
Public Libraries