



The Keepers of Knowledge

Fourth International Indigenous Librarians' Forum

Daily Forum Newsletter

Wednesday – 14 September 2005

Welcome!

Our daily newsletter will provide a recap of the previous day's Forum experiences and serve as another communication medium for Forum delegates.

We come from the four directions to the homelands of the Cree and Metis people.

Darren Okemaysim, Forum MC, carried us through the day's events. Elder Isidor Pettetier shook hands with us all, opening the Forum with a prayer in Cree for our children, grandchildren and the loved ones who keep the home fires burning. Edna Mirasty's singing of "O Canada" in Cree, allowed us to further frame our discussions in our host country.

In her welcome, Wendy Sinclair-Sparvier reminded us that knowledge is inherent in all things. Each of us brings information –from the east (the place of renewal and new beginnings), the south (the place of the heart), the west (the

place of sacrifice), and the north (the drawing place of our true wisdom).

Assistant Minister of the Department of Learning, Gillian McCreary, reported that, in 10 years, almost half of the youngest residents of the Province will be a First Nations member. The necessity of developing and supporting services for Indigenous peoples will only increase in the future.

Regina Public Library Director, Jeff Barber, highlighted the outstanding aboriginal collections and culturally based programming of the Albert Branch Library here in Regina, the site of one of our tours this week.

Keynote: From the Eastern Door

Diane Hill brought us, through the Mohawk and Anishinabe creation stories, to an understanding of an innovative healing/therapeutic learning model.

Today's Sessions

Morning sessions laid our foundation for understanding the

status of Indigenous library services in Canada. Lunch brought sustenance through food and a visitation from the northern lights through the reading of Skysisters. We continued in the afternoon sessions on more about First Nations community libraries and a virtual tour of tribal college libraries in Montana. Jeff Burnham, President of GoodMinds.com, gave a thorough demonstration of searching his database of Native educational resources. Deborah Pelletier and Marie-Louise Perron updated us on services from Library and Archives Canada.

After today's sessions, a reception was held at the First Nations University of Canada. Reception attendees enjoyed Native cuisine and were entertained by tales retold by Dr. Neil McLeod. The attendees also enjoyed the unique architecture and art of the campus.

Announcements

David Ongley has a galley copy of the proceedings from the Third International Indigenous Librarians Forum held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in November 2003.

Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets! Stop by the registration desk. The best value is to purchase the 10 for \$10 package!

Watch Aboriginal Peoples Television Network at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 September. The program will air interviews with Forum delegates Tania McGregor, Melissa Jackson, and Loriene Roy.

Congratulations to the winners of today's door prizes:

Luci Ivanoff

Marilyn Russell

Marilyn Jenkins

David Jones (winner of prize that was graciously declined by Harriet Roy)

Congratulations to Kathie Tenold, the newly appointed Coordinator of Aboriginal Library Services in Regina.

The staff of the daily newsletter invites your comments and suggestions for content. Contact Sandy Littletree (Navajo/Shoshone) or Rob Yazzie Jr. (Navajo/Slovenian), MSIS students, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin.

We look forward to another day of networking, meeting people, and sharing ideas with colleagues.

Tanīsī nīwīciwakanhk kā
sīhtoskatinano Unoc ka kī sikak.
Hello, my friends! We will help each other today.