



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 18, 2017
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Meeting Date: July 17, 2017
TO: Library Board
FROM: Christina de Castell, Director, Collections & Technology
SUBJECT: CFLA/FCAB Truth & Reconciliation Recommendations

SUMMARY

This report identifies the recommendations from the CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee and recommends that VPL endorse them.

PURPOSE

This report is for decision.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board endorse the recommendations from the CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee had a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion about various recommendations put forward by the CFLA-FCAB, including: whether decolonizing space applies to the location of branches (beyond design); reclassification of books on residential schools; the work already happening by Indigenous librarians across Canada on Indigenous knowledge classification systems Library and Archives Canada's work on reviewing Canadian Subject Headings; the importance of considering ownership of stories and CFLA-FCAB's national policy work on intellectual property, including consideration of what recommendations to make for the upcoming review of the Copyright Act; how to better relay to the public the many actions VPL is taking, including how to make the Library's commitment to reconciliation more visible on the

website, and how to authentically enrich the Library's recognition of unceded homelands with additional information; the endorsement by several library associations and libraries (including BCLTA and BCLA) of the recommendations; and that costs associated with specific local initiatives will be brought forward to the Board in the fall with the third staff report on the Library's work to address the Calls to Action. The Committee moved to recommend the Board endorse the report.

POLICY

VPL 2020 includes an initiative to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action under the Sharing & Collaboration outcome, and the City of Vancouver continues to be committed to action in this area as a City of Reconciliation. The CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee recommendations are aligned with these efforts.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS

The Chief Librarian concurs with the recommendation.

BACKGROUND

VPL has undertaken actions across the pillars of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, described in Board reports of [January 20, 2016](#) and [November 23, 2016](#). These actions have included training more than 200 staff through the "Fire Across the Land" workshop, implementing procedures for patrons to reclaim Indigenous names, and reviewing collections procedures and approaches. Our work since January 2016 builds on our previous efforts through programs such as the Aboriginal Storyteller in Residence since 2008, our relationships with Indigenous community organizations in Vancouver, and the naming of néća?mat ct Strathcona branch.

When the Canadian Federation of Library Associations formed in 2016, its first priority was establishing a Truth & Reconciliation Committee to advise libraries on how to respond to the Calls to Action. Manager Neighbourhood Services Megan Langley and Trustee Karen Hoffmann represented VPL on the committee and Megan Langley participated in the team analyzing the TRC calls to action.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations Truth & Reconciliation Committee included representatives from across Canada geographically with nominees from member associations and the library community. The mandate of the committee was to promote initiatives in all types of libraries to advance reconciliation by supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and to promote collaboration in these issues across the Canadian library communities. The Committee met for the first time on September 30, 2016 and delivered a report on February 1, 2017 recommending further actions that the CFLA-FCAB

should undertake to support Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) peoples of Canada over the long term.

The full report of the CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee is available at <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/programs/truth-and-reconciliation/> (87 pages). The text of the committee's recommendations is provided below.

DISCUSSION

The recommendations of the CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee align with VPL's plans described in the Board reports of January 20, 2016 and November 23, 2016 to implement the TRC Calls to Action. VPL's staff working group has reviewed the recommendations and agrees with endorsing them. They see opportunities for VPL staff to expand our work on the TRC Calls of Action and to take action on many of the recommendations. Within VPL, the recommendations that will be most relevant are those related to: implementing the TRC Calls to Action; considering opportunities for change in our information systems; acknowledging Indigenous cultures, languages, and knowledges in our spaces, planning, and programming; and supporting related continuing education and professional development opportunities for staff. In VPL staff's engagement with professional organizations, other opportunities will arise to support the recommendations of the committee.

In late 2017, staff will recommend a specific action plan for 2018 and 2019 at VPL that considers the CFLA/FCAB committee's recommendations and expands our commitment to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee Recommendations:

The following ten (10) overarching recommendations have been agreed upon by the T&R Committee with specific, granular recommendations being addressed by each of the four team's chapter of the report:

1. As CFLA-FCAB is a national voice with the ability to influence national and international policy regarding issues of importance, we request the CFLA-FCAB create a permanent Standing Committee on Indigenous Matters utilizing the medicine wheel framework developed by the Truth & Reconciliation Committee;
2. The T&R Committee supports and endorses the CFLA-FCAB Position Statement on Library and Literacy Services for Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) Peoples of Canada;
3. Encourage libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 94 Calls to Action, several of which have been identified as having a direct impact on libraries and archives and are prioritized in this

report, and to implement a status report on a yearly basis to monitor their implementation;

4. Ensure accessibility moving forward by continually reminding stakeholders that material produced and programming planned in the future should be accessible to all Canadians. CELA (the Center for Equitable Library Access) and NNELS (the National Network for Equitable Library Service) are positioned to support these efforts.
5. Decolonize Access and Classification by addressing the structural biases in existing schemes of knowledge organization and information retrieval arising from colonialism by committing to integrating Indigenous epistemologies into cataloguing praxis and knowledge management;
6. Decolonize Libraries and Space by recognizing and supporting Indigenous cultures, languages and knowledges through culturally appropriate space planning, interior design, signage, art installations, territorial acknowledgements of geographic-specific traditional territories and public programming in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders;
7. Enhance opportunities for Indigenous library, archival, and information professionals as well as the inclusion of Indigenous epistemologies in the Canadian library and archives profession through culturally appropriate pedagogy, recruitment practices, professional and continuing education, and cross-cultural training in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders and partners;
8. Recommend the implementation of Indigenous Knowledge Protection protocols and agreements with local and other Indigenous groups who have holdings in libraries, archives, and/or cultural memory institutions to respect the Indigenous cultural concept of copyright with regard to Indigenous history or heritage, which is often located in but not limited to oral traditions, songs, dance, storytelling, anecdotes, place names, hereditary names, and other forms of Indigenous knowledges; recommend that CFLA-FCAB actively participate in reforming the Canadian Copyright Act to include protection of Indigenous knowledges and languages while advocating for changes to include traditional knowledge as outlined and recommended by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/>). We join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in calling upon Library and Archives Canada to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #69 (Appendix D) by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf and the Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity (2005), more commonly known as the Joinet/Orentlicher Principles <http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/impu/principles.html>;

9. Establish an online database of “living documents” to highlight existing Best Practices of Indigenous Services in libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions that will serve as a foundation to help disseminate those best practices and for this “living document” to be updated preferably on a quarterly basis but minimally semi-annually;
10. Maintain a database of Indigenous organizations or groups committed to preserving cultural memory primarily, but not limited to, libraries, archives, language preservation, cultural history/museums to build relationships; to support the development of an Indigenous association of library, archives and cultural memory institutions; and to support in principle the National Aboriginal Library Association (NALA) regarding their stated intent of developing First Nations public libraries on reserves.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing the recommendations does not have financial implications. Additional financial implications of individual activities planned at VPL will be addressed when the updated action plan is presented to the VPL Board in the fall of 2017.

FINAL REMARKS

Endorsing the CFLA/FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee recommendations demonstrates VPL’s support for action by library associations and libraries across Canada. VPL has a history of efforts to connect and partner with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities and is committed to inclusive, accessible, and relevant services to our residents that represent their diverse culture, knowledge, and history.