



## Pahkisimon Nuyeh'ah Library System

*The mission of the Pahkisimon Nuyeh'ah Library System is to provide library services and educational and cultural resources to the people in northern Saskatchewan in cooperation with the existing library and educational structures and to communicate the uniqueness of the north to other regions of the world.*

### Pahkisimon Nuyeh'ah Library System

#### Advocacy Committee Meeting

#### Minutes

1 November 2019

3:00 PM

PNLS Headquarters, Air Ronge

**In Attendance:** Darlene Morin; Chairperson, Lorna Black; Vice-Chair, Delilah Aubichon, Laura Custer, Richard Thommes

**Staff:** James Hope Howard; Director, Linda Collins; Financial Manager & Office Administrator

**Unable to Attend:** Harriet Roy; Assistant Director, Barb Flett

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by D. Morin at 3:00PM

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION: AC 2019-05**

To approve the agenda as amended

**R. Thommes/L. Custer**

Carried

**3. Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2019**

**MOTION: AC 2019-06**

To approve the minutes of August 2, 2019 as presented.

**L. Black/L. Custer**

Carried

**4. Business Arising From the Minutes**

**4.1 Ministry of Education / PLLO Saskatchewan Libraries Review and Sector Planning Follow-up**

James gave the Board a brief history of the libraries review. The Government had cut the funding for libraries, and after a backlash from the public, the funding was reinstated. At that time there was a commitment to do a review as a sector. Through discussions and surveys with the regional libraries, there has been a summary of eight points. The poll went to the public and it was determined that these points were relevant. From there, they have committed to a sector plan for libraries within the Ministry of Education. This plan will provide more information rather than just circulation stats. James is headed to Saskatoon on Monday to have another sector planning meeting.



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This plan will be a part of the overall strategic planning of the Ministry of education. We haven't started our strategic planning because we are waiting on the sector planning from the Ministry of Education.

### 4.2 SCILS / OTC Strategic Alliance

The SCILS committee has been on hold until there is a new Chair, until it has been decided on the mandate to follow.

There had been an issue as to who has been sent to these meetings and who has been given authorization to make decisions.

The OTC didn't get back to James in time to get someone to talk at the Northern Libraries Conference, although he had sent his request was sent in time.

The request had been sent to the wrong area and it fell through the cracks.

Essentially, we now have the OTC is now booked for next year.

### 4.3 2019 Northern Area Teachers Administration (NATA) Conference, mid-October

James spoke at the NATA convention on the 14th, and was back for our conference for the next day.

### 4.4 NITEP Program Outreach

We have had a couple of NITEP classes tour the Library and Archives, and James did a presentation on the information available to the classes. We now have the Direct Library Borrowing from here.

There was a discussion about the numbers of our librarians who have been with us for over 25 years and will soon be retiring. Is there something in place to get people involved and interested in working at the libraries? How can we get more people involved?

## 5. Ongoing Business

### 5.1 PNLS Branded Items / Stationery / Merchandise / Etc.

We ordered four items from 4Imprint for branded merchandise. Each of the board and those who attended the Northern Libraries Conference was given a bag with each of the items. We have not got mugs or jackets yet. This will potentially be in the next year's budget.

There was a discussion about other items that would be interesting for branded items, including credit card sized windshield scrapers and pop sockets.

### 5.2 Community Outreach Opportunities

We have not yet gone to the Ice Wolves games. There was a new donation just dropped off from Claren Turner.



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Long term and other care facilities, hospitals and the clinic are now allowing books to be dropped off again, so we will be doing up boxes of books for those places.

### **5.3 PNLS Website and Social Media Updates and Engagement**

#### **5.3.1 PNLS Website Careers Section**

The PNLS website Careers Section is pending. James is waiting on the new website infrastructure to be put in place before he inserts it on the current site, and then have to change it to the new site.

#### **5.3.2 Major Website Infrastructure Updates Coming**

There will be an upgrade done to the SILS website in the next few months. The website template is managed at the SILS level, and this enables each region to have a similar look and everyone get the same experience from the website. Everyone gets the same mobile app and the same access to the information across the province.

All of the content will be moved over, and that will be done by James, potentially by the end of the year. It will be a lot more efficient and streamlined for searching items.

#### **5.3.3 SILS Feature Development Survey**

The Web Satisfaction Survey has been essentially abandoned since the website is changing. The Feature Development Survey is being run currently, but it will only have submissions from each region. It will focus on what features people might like to see on the website or the mobile app. Some of these features are already in place.

The idea lab has submissions from across the global Polaris User base. The submissions are voted on and those that have the most votes are moved to the top and Ill will prioritize the development of these features at no extra charge, since they will benefit the greatest number of users.

For our features, since we are looking at this through a consortium, they may not be as universal for users. There is an accelerated development fee depending on the feature; some will be a small amount, but others may be a significant investment.

Initially, our fees were a set percentage, locked at one or two percent, with development fees assessed separately. In the most recent round of negotiations, there will be a zero percent increase in our fees, but as a consortium, we will put a percentage of our fees into the feature development pool. One of these features is auto-complete.



## Pahkisiṃon Nuyeháh Library System

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### 5.4 PNLS Makerspace Kits 2019

James did a demonstration of the cubelets at the Northern Libraries Conference, since they were not available last year.

There was a workshop on how to use the button makers and how to make buttons using the dust covers from books.

There is a contest currently on, showcasing book spine poetry.

New kits and supplies purchases will be done this year.

If there are any kits or activities that are of interest, please let James know.

### 5.5 Athabasca Denesuline Education Authority

The Athabasca Denesuline Education Authority broke off from the Prince Albert Grand Council Education Authority. It encompasses Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Wollaston Lake Schools.

James has a contact now, and will be going there to help them out.

It is challenging because there is nothing in place yet for a library program.

Prince Albert Grand Council changed the library portal, and it was not set up by a library person. James will help set up and help them, but as of now, they are not sure what program will be used.

There is a new Cumberland Education Authority as well, and the PBCN and LLRIB Education Authorities are changing its systems.

## 6. Fundraising Activities and Targets

### 6.1 Northern Saskatchewan Archives + University of Saskatchewan Digitization Contract Update

There is a contract in place, for \$3200.00, which will cover the salary for Graham.

The University has the materials now and are in the process of uploading to the University of Saskatchewan server. Graham will need to get access to the server, which should be available in the next few days. None of the items will be available for the public until Graham has a chance to go through the items for sensitive material, or consent from those who are being shown in the videos.

### 6.2 PNLS Book and Garage Sale, August 16 & 17 + Every Friday until Oct. 18

This was initially planned for only the one weekend, but it was so well received that it will continue until October 18th. During the first weekend, we made about \$600.00 for the Archives fundraising.

During the week of the Libraries Conference, the doors were opened to the Library Staff. There were many items taken back to the various libraries.

We will do a "Last Hurrah" at the end of November.



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### 7. New Business

#### 7.1 Edna Mirasty Retirement Come-and-Go Tea, November 2

After forty years of working at the Kitsaki School/Senator Myles Venne School, Edna finally retired! We had a retirement cake and going away gift at the conference, since many of the staff have known each other for about thirty years.

Elisha Charles, our Circulation Clerk has taken over for Edna.

We will be having a Come and Go Tea for Edna at the PNLs Boardroom on November 2, 2019.

#### 7.2 Saskatchewan Library Association Fall Happy Hour Social(s), November 6

The SLA does this each year, to promote awareness of libraries and the programs that are available. SLA provided \$300.00 for appetizers.

James will co-host the event this year with Sean Stares from Alex Robertson Public Library, at Kosta's on November 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8PM.

#### 7.3 SUMA + SARM 2020 Convention Trade Shows

This came about after the funding crisis of 2016-17. The government identified that they would be talking to SUMA and SARM since this is where the rate paying comes from. The Directors thought it would be a good forum to get the correct information out to the various municipalities. It would be a way for the municipalities to get information on what they get for the money paid, what programs are available through the libraries and how to access their information.

#### 7.4 National Librarianship Issues

The history on this issue is as follows:

There had been a court case in September of this year regarding the Ottawa Library Board refused a showing of a movie called "Killing Europe". Initially, the Library had allowed for the rental of the public space, but after receiving feedback from the community that this would raise issues. After previewing the movie and deciding that it was not part of their standards, they cancelled the event. The event planner sued the Library, stating it curtailed their free speech.

The Supreme Court of Ontario found that the library mandate to provide books and materials to the public does not extend to the private right of the Library to lease out a space, nor does it curtail the planner's freedom of speech, because they are free to book another venue somewhere else at their leisure. In fact, the planner did go to another venue.

This past month, the Toronto Library Board and the City Librarian rented out a public area to a transphobic speaker, under the grounds of free speech and free expression.



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There is a definite line between free speech and hate speech, and the Toronto Library has clauses in their room booking policy that if there is sufficient cause to believe that if a speaker or an event will cause damage to an individual or group as a whole, it can be cancelled at their discretion. The City Librarian went ahead with the event, knowing this policy is in place. There was a major outcry, where staff and performers resigned. They are not allowed to march in the Toronto Pride parade. Even the Mayor of Toronto objected.

There was a read-in protest of about 800-1000 people at the Palmerston Library. The police, who were the security for the event locked the protesters in the library for about half an hour. It got very weird.

The Toronto Public Library administration went ahead with the event, the Toronto Public Library Union spoke out against it. The Edmonton Public Library CEO stood with the Toronto Public Library CEO, and the Edmonton Public Library Union was against their CEO.

The CFLA-FCAB issued a statement in support of the Toronto Public Library ability to host the event, even though the event was a dehumanization of civil rights of an entire group of people.

BCLA spoke out against the CFLA, stating that the CFLA does not speak for them.

Saskatchewan Library Association Board Advocacy Committee has not decided either way, which way they will stand. However, James also stated that if the SLA stands in support of the Toronto Public Library, he will pull PNLS from the SLA conference, and with the Board's approval, he will pull from our library from the SLA, in support of vulnerable peoples of our region.

The books that we have in our libraries are already weeded, and we make sure to have those books that do not infringe on the human rights of others.

### 8. Policy Review and Approval

Policies are good for now. James will bring forward any policies that require attention.

### 9. Other Business

None

### 10. Next Meeting

In conjunction with the next Executive meeting, which will be decided November 2, 2019.

### 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM by D. Morin.