

La Loche won the "Readingest Community" competition as part of the **SaskPower 2023 Northern Reading Program**.
The 2023 Program theme was
"Read: Spark Your Imagination".

For more information on the SaskPower Northern Reading Program, including promotional material and 2024 contest results, please visit our new NRP website at www.northernreadingprogram.ca.

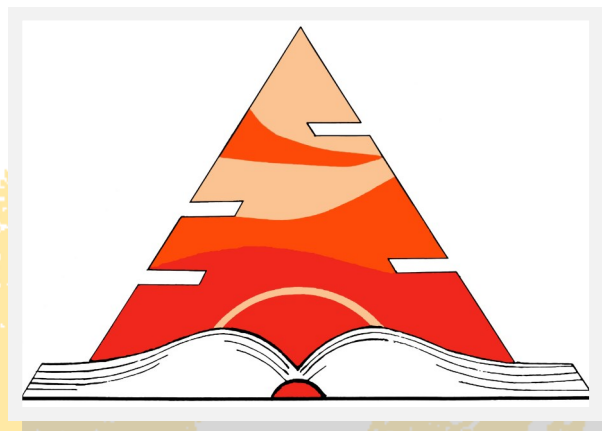
Thank you to all participants, and congratulations to all winners!

Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS)

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Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System



Sparking New Inspiration

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Chairperson's Report

2023 was a year of productive revitalization for the Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System, which continued its restoration of pre-pandemic services and functions, established new strategic direction, and welcomed new staff and new partnerships into the fold. Demand for library services remained strong across our northern region, as our numbers for item checkouts and total circulations increased in 2023 over the numbers from 2022, which had shown major increases from our numbers in 2021. Our website usage also increased from 2022 to 2023 in both session counts and pageview counts.

The year began with the 2023 Northern Reading Program, its final year under longtime program administrator Harriet Roy, as it ran through the months of January and February and crowned La Loche as the "Readingest Community" winner for the year. Congratulations to La Loche on winning the NRP Reading Challenge, and of course congratulations to Harriet Roy on her retirement; her incredible career was celebrated by the Saskatchewan Library Association, who recognized Harriet with their 2023 Frances Morrison Award for outstanding service to libraries, and by Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Russ Mirasty, who presented her with the 2023 Saskatchewan Literary Award of Merit for Professional Leadership in Literacy.

PNLS entered its second year of participation in the Regional Park Pass Lending Program—a collaboration with the Saskatchewan Library Association, Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association, and Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Association—and also entered its first year of partnership with the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council and its Notice Nature outdoor program. As part of its ongoing fundraising for the Northern Saskatchewan Archives, PNLS staff also set up a mobile book sale at the Napatak Ramble Music and Arts Festival for the first time, including a TD Summer Reading Club StoryWalk™ around the festival grounds.

With the arrival of new PNLS Teacher-Librarian Roseanne Dery, who joined the organization to a warm welcome in May of this past year, PNLS debuted a new monthly newsletter for libraries and schools in 2023, PNLS Pages, available both by email subscription and through the PNLS website. Roseanne also created and introduced an all-new, year-round Northern Library Planner, making both print copies and digital copies available to all library staff across northern Saskatchewan. We are thrilled to have Roseanne as part of the PNLS team and look forward to more excellent work to come.

The PNLS Northern Library Conference was able to return to an in-person format in October of 2023, for the first time since 2019, and was a resounding success that brought library staff from all across northern Saskatchewan together for professional development and exciting learning opportunities. The PNLS board and staff were also able to meet during that time for our long-awaited strategic planning session, facilitated by the Provincial Library and Literacy Office, which has now led to the establishment of the 2024–2027 PNLS Strategic Plan.

The PNLS Headquarters staff are a special crew of hardworking and talented people, and everyone in the north benefits from their tireless efforts throughout the year. I want to extend special congratulations to Lisa Ulriksen, who became Assistant Director of the organization following Harriet Roy's retirement.

This is the final year of my term on the PNLS Board of Trustees, and as outgoing Chairperson I want to thank all of our board members for their contributions to our system and for their dedication to strengthening services for northerners. I have learned a great deal in my time as the Chairperson of PNLS, and I know that everyone on our board and staff will continue the organization's fantastic work in the years to come. As always, ***The Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System will lead the North to information.***

Delilah Aubichon, Outgoing Board Chairperson, Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System

PNLS in 2023



8,314 Patron Records
867 New Patrons

173,937 Titles Held
6,516 New Titles

354,007 Items Held
10,267 New Items

14,406 Website Sessions
57,214 Website Pageviews

49,632 Item Checkouts
59,583 Total Circulations



PNLS board members and staff gathered at the Coronet Hotel in Prince Albert, also the site of the 2023 PNLS Northern Library Conference, to participate in a strategic planning facilitation session. This work then led to the creation of the 2024–2027 PNLS Strategic Plan, presented at the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM).



PAKISIMON NUVE?AH LIBRARY SYSTEM 2023 NORTHERN LIBRARY CONFERENCE CONTACT: JILL LEE, 1-800-665-4444, 20-241-1100 (TOLL FREE) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023 & THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023	
8:00AM - 9:00AM	Breakfast Provided by PNLIS & Registration Guests Register by 8:00AM to receive additional door prize entries and increase your chances of winning fantastic prizes for your library!
9:30AM - 10:00AM	Opening Prayer, Introductions, Event Schedule and Housekeeping
10:00AM - 10:30AM	Interactive Makerspace Activities: Paper circuits, straw connectors, button making, built tape construction, Cables & Cables PNLIS Headquarters Staff
10:30AM - 10:45AM	Break
10:45AM - 11:00AM	Scotiabank Library Association (SLA): An Overview Of Our Programs and Membership Benefits
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Lunch - Provided by PNLIS
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Book Tasting with Jeffrey Binks Wayne Nichol, Jeffrey Binks and Roseanne Dery, PNLIS
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Break
2:00PM - 2:30PM	Introduction to Archives, Northern Saskatchewan Archives Overview, and Archives Basic Programming James Hope Howard, PNLIS
2:30PM - 3:00PM	Exploring Basic Requests in P.L.O. Multilingual Collection and PNLIS Resources Lisa Ulriksen, PNLIS
3:00PM - 4:00PM	Introduction to the Northern Library Planner & Using Canvas in Your Library Roseanne Dery, PNLIS
4:00PM - 4:30PM	End of Day Gala

The full two-day programming schedule for the **2023 Northern Library Conference**, which ran October 11 and 12 in the Main Ballroom of the Coronet Hotel in Prince Albert.

This was the first Northern Library Conference held as an in-person event since 2019, as the 2020 Conference had been cancelled by the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 and 2022 Conferences were held online via Zoom as virtual events.



2023 Northern Library Conference participants enjoyed a wide variety of interesting and fun professional development opportunities, like the Interactive Makerspace Activities session pictured here, which allowed them the opportunity for hands-on experience with several tables of science and crafting activities.

We encourage everyone to look forward to the 2024 Northern Library Conference!



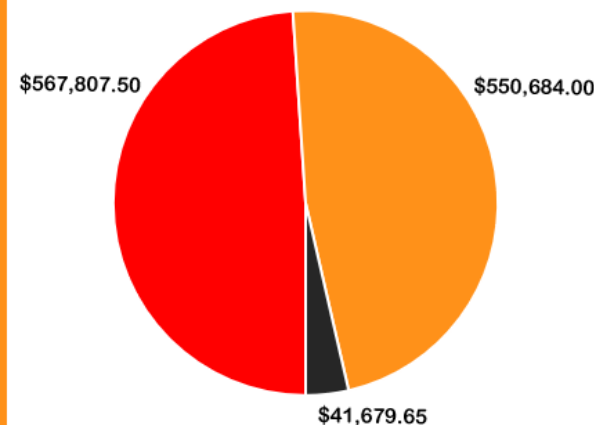
The 2023 **PNLS Headquarters Staff**, pictured here in the annual year-end holiday card. From left to right: Roseanne Dery, Brayden Thomas-Langlois, Lisa Ulriksen, Allyson Brown, James Hope Howard, Graham Guest, Linda Collins (inset) and Serena Roy-Morin.



Director **James Hope Howard** and the 2023-2024 **PNLS Board of Trustees Executive Committee**, photographed at the 2023 PNLS Annual General Meeting (AGM).

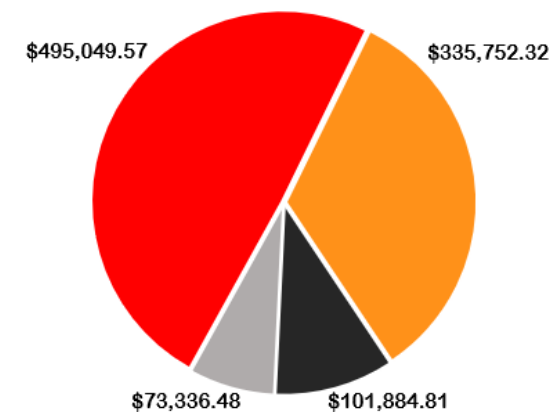
The 2023 AGM, like the 2022 AGM, was held in the gymnasium of the Churchill Community High School in La Ronge as a social distancing precaution against COVID-19.

PNLS 2023 Revenues



- Base Provincial Funding
- Provincial & Federal Grants
- Donations / Fundraising / Other

PNLS 2023 Expenditures



- Services to Member Libraries
- Administration
- Direct Library Services
- Governance