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north west **library federation**

NWLF Fall Conference

October 19-20, 2018

Hosted by the [Northwest Library Federation](#)
in partnership with [Houston Public Library](#)

Friday, October 19th

9:00 – 9:50

Registration with Continental Breakfast

Please arrive by 9:45 a.m. at the latest if you plan to attend the first session.

9:50 – 10:00

Welcome

Melissa Sawatsky (NWLF Director) and Sara Lewis (Houston Public Library Director)

10:00 – 11:00

How We Connect: Libraries, Access and Poverty

Colleen Nelson (Vancouver Island Regional Library)

Session Description

At the heart of library values is access—that library resources should be equally and equitably available. It is an often quoted value, but people living in poverty still lack access to many essential library resources and services. Many of the barriers to access are directly implemented by libraries through policy, institutional culture and practice. As neoliberal policies have decimated social services, people living in poverty have increasing informational, recreational, and social needs that are going unmet. Some libraries have slowly begun adapting to meet these needs but stigma, ignorance and entrenched policy and practices contribute to a reluctance to embrace this role fully.

However, all libraries have the opportunity to develop meaningful library service for people living in poverty. The Courtenay branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library has developed Connect, a program aimed at improving access to library resources, providing lifelong learning opportunities, developing relationships and building communities. The program is a model for expanding library service and resources to underserved populations, addressing stigma and dismantling internal barriers to access.

The development and implementation of Connect is the story of a branch's culture shift, away from stigma and towards understanding. It is about community development and relationship building, as well as failure, resistance and hope. This session will also explore the role of libraries in community poverty reduction strategies and the role of library workers as advocates for poverty reduction.

Colleen Nelson is a Library Manager with Vancouver Island Regional Library in the awe-inspiring Comox Valley. Colleen knows a public library is a reflection of its community and her work as a librarian is informed by her commitment to social justice and her activism within the labour movement. She is interested in the ways libraries can use community development and partnerships to knit the library into the fabric of the community, and how these relationships can improve access and outcomes for vulnerable members of the community.

11:00 – 12:00 **Awareness of Mental Health in the Workplace**
Canadian Mental Health Association

Session Description

This workshop is designed to help build comfort in talking about mental health and mental illness, and learn how to respond in a supportive way to co-workers who may be experiencing a mental illness. The session begins by building an understanding of the continuum of mental health, and the risk and protective factors that influence our current state of mental health. It uses personal stories to help build awareness of what it is like to experience mental illnesses like anxiety disorders or depression at work. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and leave with a list of resources available to help support your mental health.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is a national charity that helps maintain and improve mental health for all Canadians. As the nation-wide leader and champion for mental health, CMHA promotes the mental health of all and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness.

12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH** (catered lunch provided)

1:00 – 2:00 **Lightning Talks: Re-imagining Library Collections/Programs**
David Tremblay (Terrace Public Library), Sara Lewis (Houston Public Library),
Patrick Siebold (Vancouver Island Regional Library, Haida Gwaii)

Session Description

Join three Library Directors from different communities in northern BC for short lightning talks (with Q&A periods) on innovative projects and programs they have enacted in their respective libraries. David Tremblay will discuss the development of the "Library of Things" at Terrace Public Library. Sara Lewis will give attendees the inside scoop on the reorganization of Houston Public Library's classification system. Join Patrick for a discussion on how to meet the needs of our diverse and ever-growing senior population. Patrick will describe some of the programs, partnerships and outreach he has worked on while at Vancouver Island Regional Library.

David Tremblay is the Library Director at Terrace Public Library. **Sara Lewis** is the Library Director at Houston Public Library. The third speaker is still TBC. **Patrick Siebold** is a Library Manager with Vancouver Island Regional Library on Haida Gwaii.

2:00 – 3:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session A: **Library Staff Roundtable**
Facilitated by Kathy Wilford (Smithers Public Library)

Session Description

Join your regional staff colleagues in this opportunity to share and discuss common workplace challenges, successes and strategies. This session will be moderated by Kathy Wilford of Smithers Public Library and registrants will determine the agenda by contributing topics in advance.

Session B: **Library Directors Advisory Group (LDAG) Meeting**
NWLFL Library Directors & Federation Director

3:00 – 3:30 **BREAK**

3:30 – 4:30 **Evergreen 3.1: Navigating a New Interface**
Christine Burns (BC Libraries Cooperative)

Session Description

This session will focus on tips, tricks, and troubleshooting related to the recent upgrade and online migration of Sitka's Evergreen (version 3.1). There will be an opportunity for Q&A with Christine Burns of BC Libraries Cooperative.

5:30 – 7:00 **Dinner/Social at Happy Jack's (optional)**

7:30 – 9:00 **NWLFL Board Meeting (location TBD)**

Saturday, October 20th

8:30 – 9:00 **Continental Breakfast**
Please arrive by 8:45 a.m.

9:00 – 12:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session A: **Trustee Orientation Program**
Melanie Wilke (BCLTA)

Session Description

TOP is a full-day session that explores the roles and responsibilities of library trustees in British Columbia. Participants are introduced to the provincial context for public library governance, effective board practices, current public library issues, and strategies for success. While designed with new trustees in mind, the broad content of the workshop makes it a useful experience for all trustees, whole boards, and library directors. **Attendees are asked to please register for this session [HERE](#).**

Session B: Getting Change Done Vantage Point

Session Description

This workshop will empower you to shift from responding to change, to leading and inspiring change. It will provide you with a strong foundation for implementing change leadership practices. Learn practical tools to embrace the human dynamics that lead to success or failure in implementing change. Participants will gain an understanding of the difference between change and transition, and identify concrete steps to build their organizational capacity to lead, implement and manage change.

12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH** (catered lunch provided)

1:00 – 4:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session A: Trustee Orientation Program (continued) Melanie Wilke (BCLTA)

Session Description

Afternoon portion of the Trustee Orientation Program. See workshop description above.

Session B: Fund Development Vantage Point

Session Description

This workshop is targeted to board members who want to learn how to develop a culture of fund development within their organization. By the end of this session you will:

- Understand the current limitations and opportunities in fund development and be able to assess which fundraising approaches would work best for your organization
- Be able to bring more prospective donors to your organization
- Increase your confidence in talking to prospective donors about funding opportunities
- Have concrete tools for increasing donor retention

With an interactive, discussion-based format, this workshop is suitable for board members, executive directors, and senior leaders (i.e. Directors, Managers).