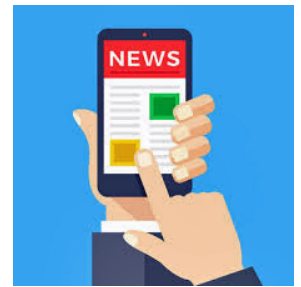


Ex Libris News and Views

*News, information, and statements from the Ex Libris Association.
Toggle the headings to view (or hide) messages and statements.*



NEWS

Ex Libris Association welcomes Library and Archives Canada's intellectual freedom statement

ELA has sent a letter congratulating LAC for its stance on intellectual freedom which reaffirms its core principle for the right of Canadians to seek and access information, learn, and share ideas without restrictions. The ELA letter is at this link.

Ex Libris Association Position Statement on Alberta Bill 28

26 April 2026

The Ex Libris Association has grave concerns about the content and implications of the Alberta Government's Bill 28.

The Ex Libris Association (ELA) is a national organization whose more than 200 members are chiefly retired information professionals, many with deep experience in and knowledge of the public library sector. We believe that the basic premises informing the reasons for this bill to be unfounded and fundamentally false.

We affirm the position of the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) in that "public libraries in Alberta do not collect or distribute illegal, obscene, or pornographic materials. Collections are developed by trained professionals using established policies, industry standards, and community-informed processes. We intentionally and thoughtfully consider age appropriateness in everything we do - from materials we select, to how we support families, to how we design welcoming spaces for children and youth."

We are deeply concerned about the government overreach in this bill that allows government inspectors and officials to overrule the local authority of library directors, library boards and local governments to determine what is appropriate for their communities in regard to library materials, processes, and policies. Such measures would undermine a trusted system that Albertan library users rely on and value.

A further concern, in the words of Ron Sheppard, Director of the Parkland Regional Library System, is that Bill 28 will “undermine access to informationand the privacy of Albertans.” And it would “place library workers in gatekeeping roles that don’t reflect how public libraries operate” in the 21st Century.

A recent survey of Albertans found that 82% trust their local libraries to make appropriate decisions about what materials are available in their collections, while 69% believe that decisions about library materials should be left to locally trained library staff.

The Ex Libris Association stands with the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries and the Library Association of Alberta in asking the Government to reflect the trust of its constituents in how Alberta’s public libraries are managed.

We strongly urge the withdrawal of the changes to the Libraries Act proposed in Bill 28.

Advocacy Committee
Ex Libris Association

Ex Libris Statement on the Elimination of Librarians in Correctional Services Canada Federal Penitentiaries, April 14, 2026

The Ex Libris Association of Canada is deeply concerned about the decision by Correctional Service Canada (CSC) to eliminate all librarian positions in federal penitentiaries across Canada. Coupled with its intention to end funding for the CEGEP education program serving incarcerated people in Quebec’s federal institutions, this represents a sweeping and regressive dismantling of rehabilitative infrastructure within our prison system.

The Ex Libris Association’s over 200 members are retired librarians, archivists and information professionals. We have decades of experience offering library and information services to community members, students and faculty at all educational levels and government libraries. We are clear that a prison library without a librarian is not a fully functioning library.

CSC librarians are trained educators and information specialists who curate collections, protect equitable access, support legal research and literacy, deliver programming, and ensure that the most marginalized individuals in CSC’s custody can exercise their rights and pursue personal growth. There are at least 31 CSC librarians employed across 38 unique federal prison libraries who hold vital institutional knowledge — knowledge of security protocols, inmate learning needs, culturally appropriate collections, and trauma-informed service — that cannot simply be “absorbed” or replaced without consequence.

CSC’s own mandate under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act is to contribute to public safety by assisting offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens. We firmly believe that access to education, information, and literacy is central to that mandate.

Rule 64 of the United Nations Nelson Mandela Rules (United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners) is explicit: “Every prison shall have a library for the use of all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreational and instructional books, and prisoners shall be encouraged to make full use of it.” These commitments require professional oversight and sustained investment.

These librarians are among the lowest-paid professionals in the federal system. The savings will be marginal, the damage - to rehabilitation, to institutional stability, to legal literacy, to mental health, and ultimately to public safety - will be profound.

This is not merely a budgetary adjustment. It is a policy choice that disproportionately harms those already marginalized and contradicts Canada's stated commitment to evidence-based corrections and human rights leadership.

Ex Libris joins with Book Clubs for Inmates to urge The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety to direct the Commissioner to immediately undertake a genuine and substantive consultation with frontline professionals in education, social programs, and security across the country to identify alternative, responsible savings that meet budgetary mandates without dismantling foundational rehabilitative services.

We therefore call on the Minister of Public Safety to:

- Immediately suspend the elimination of all librarian positions in federal institutions;
- Reverse the termination of the CEGEP education program in Quebec federal prisons; and
- Publicly clarify how CSC intends to uphold its statutory and human rights obligations with respect to access to education and information by May 1, 2026.

Public safety is not strengthened by shrinking the pathways to literacy, learning, and lawful reintegration. It is strengthened by investing in them.

Signed,

Advocacy Committee, Ex Libris Association

Message of Condolence to the People of Tumbler Ridge, BC, February 18, 2026

To the people of Tumbler Ridge, BC

On February 10, 2026, in the northern BC town of Tumbler Ridge, a lone shooter killed eight persons at random, including four students and an Educational Assistant in the library of the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. Twenty-seven others at the school were injured before the shooter committed suicide.

Ex Libris Association extends its condolences to the people of Tumbler Ridge, and especially to the families of the victims. We grieve the loss of life, and will not forget those who died. We hope that those who suffered injuries will recover completely and resume their normal lives. Our thoughts are with you.

As librarians and information specialists, we have always worked to ensure the personal security of our patrons while providing them with the resources they need. To the best of our ability, we will strive to ensure that such a tragedy does not occur in future. While many of us are retired, we remain influential in our profession. We will do our best to ensure that everyone is safe in our libraries as well as our communities.

David I. Harvie
President
Ex Libris Association of Canada

The W.K. Lamb Award presented at the Ontario Library Association, January 29, 2026

The Ex Libris Association is pleased to announce that the Kingston Frontenac Public Library received the W. K. Lamb 2025 award for its “Older Adults Hub” operating out of the library's Rideau Heights Branch located in a low-income neighbourhood with limited services. ELA President David Harvie and W. Kaye Lamb Committee member Donna Burton presented the Award to KFPL Chief Librarian and CEO Laura Carter at the OLA Library Awards Gala in Toronto on January 29, 2026.

The Older Adults Hub was developed in partnership with Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) to provide an opportunity for all to be a part of their community in a positive way. A key part includes the Monday morning Older Adults Day program that includes KCHC-facilitated Seniors Strength, Fitness & Balance Maintenance Exercise Group, a café for chatting, and a Super Seniors Speaker Series alongside the Library-facilitated Board Game Café, Monthly Book Club, Tech Tutor sessions and a mobile library that brings lending collections into the program space. Library staff reported successes beyond the program’s growth as seniors started to gain confidence and form relationships with each other and the program facilitators. Staff commented that the participants had found real friendships in the group. The 'Hub' model has provided multiple accessible programs offering a variety of fun and free activities where they can meet their neighbours. We strongly believe that it can be replicated in other libraries and community centres across the City and potentially across Ontario.

The library will receive \$500, the W.K. Lamb Award plaque/certificate and an honorary Ex Libris Association membership.

As in recent years, when the awards notice resulted in a wide and varied response, the ELA Committee has recommended an Honourable Mention nominee. In keeping with this previous action, the Edmonton Public Library is acknowledged for its inter-generational program, “Together We Grow.”

The Edmonton Public Library's Together We Grow program expands the reach of the library’s services to underserved communities, reaching seniors who cannot visit the library due to mobility, memory, or other health issues, while nurturing positive relationships between generations by bringing early literacy programming into retirement residences. This program provides engaging activities for seniors, especially those with memory care needs, and gives young children and their parents a chance to connect with another generation. By fostering empathy and understanding between age groups, Together We Grow seeks to combat seniors’ social isolation and to help older adults find joy in interacting with the youngest members of our community, contributing to a more inclusive and connected community.

The Edmonton library will receive \$100, an honourable mention certificate and honorary membership in the Ex Libris Association.

The selection process was difficult because all the submissions were worthy efforts to further the cause of service to seniors.

Savannah Simon awarded ELA Indigenous Student Bursary, January 1, 2026

We are pleased to announce that Savannah Simon, an MLIS student at Western University, is the 2026 recipient of the Indigenous Student Bursary. She has sent her thanks to us in the following testimonial:

"I extend sincere gratitude to the Ex Libris Association for awarding me the Indigenous Student Bursary. Receiving the bursary has supported me by easing the financial burden of the high cost of living. As a graduate student in Library and Information Science, the workload is extremely heavy. Finding time to pick up a part-time job is nearly impossible. Thankfully, the ELA's support has allowed me to devote my focus to my studies and excel in my program, stress-free of any financial burden. To be supported and recognized by the Ex Libris Association is an honour, as a Mi'kmaw woman I am forever grateful to have your financial support and investment in my future. Wela'lin (Thank you)."

More information about the bursary, including how to donate to the fund for the next recipient, is [at this link](#).

Our [ELA flyer](#) provides more information about the bursary and how to donate to it.

Heather Turnbull of PAVE Prevention Speaks on Library Violence and Safety, November 20, 2025

Heather Turnbull of PAVE Prevention (Proactive Anti-Violence Education) examines the current landscape of problem behaviours in Canadian libraries and the United States. She offers effective practices for mitigating disruptive or threatening incidents in libraries. Emphasis is placed on an innovative, trauma-informed approach to prevention that measurably improves staff resiliency for physical, emotional and psychological safety. Her presentation discusses how public libraries can provide safer environments for staff and patrons while protecting their privacy and maintaining open, accessible and welcoming spaces.

Her session is available for viewing on the [ELA Presentations page](#).

Call for Awards Applications: W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors - Apply by November 6, 2025

Every other year, the ExLibris Association, in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques, invites Canadian libraries to be considered for the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors. The deadline to apply this year has been extended to Thursday, November 6, 2025.

The award is given to the library (band, post-secondary, public or special) that provides innovative and excellent service to seniors and elders. To get a sense of the scope and level of innovation, view the list of previous award [recipients](#) on the Ex Libris Association's website.

Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library received the 2023 award for "Kits and Community," an innovative program connecting older adults socially both in the library and remotely as they work together on a variety of programmed projects and gain proficiency using new technologies.

W. Kaye Lamb award recipients receive a cash award of \$500.00 and a commemorative certificate named after Canada's first National Librarian, William Kaye Lamb, OC, FRSC.

To apply, visit: <https://www.exlibris.ca/awards/application-for-wk-lamb-award>. Completed applications or notification of the intention to apply must be submitted by THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 to: exlibrisaward@gmail.com

Use the subject line "W.Kaye Lamb Award Application 2025" and include your library's name or acronym when submitting your library's application, along with library contact information.

For more information on William K. Lamb's contribution to the development of Canadian library services, view his biographies at [Wikipedia](#) and [Ex Libris biography](#).

ELA Receives Governor General Vice-Regal Patronage, August 8, 2025



The Ex Libris Association of Canada is proud and humbled to have been granted vice-regal patronage by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

The Governor General plays a key role in promoting national identity by supporting and promoting Canadian values, diversity, inclusion, culture and knowledge. As such, the Governor General recognizes exceptional contributions to Canadian society by associations and organizations through awarding vice-regal patronage.

As a national association of retired librarians, archivists, publishers, and information professionals that seeks to bring attention to significant issues affecting the provision and advancement of information services in Canada, we are deeply grateful for this recognition.

Her Excellency's priorities and clear commitment to equity and inclusion are shared by Ex Libris' focus on building an informed, inclusive, and equitable society through the promotion of intellectual freedom and access to information.

Ex Libris hopes to continue to earn Her Excellency's support through its activities, which include a

bursary for an Indigenous student in library sciences and an award for library services to seniors.

ELA letter to Alberta Government regarding content guidelines to limit materials in school libraries, July 28, 2025

ELA sent a letter from its President and Advocacy Committee on July 28 to Demotrios Nicolaides, Alberta Minister of Education and Childcare, expressing the Association's growing concerns about the Alberta government's announcement to introduce content guidelines to limit materials in Alberta school libraries. Ex Libris strongly urges the Minister to meet with representatives to the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) to discuss their concerns. ELA stands behind school librarians as experts in early literacy.

The letter by ELA is available [at this link](#). The reply to ELA by the Alberta Minister is [at this link](#).

More information on ELA's advocacy activities for intellectual freedom can be viewed [at this page](#).

Michael Dudley speaks on Public Libraries, City Planning, and Pluralism: Redefining Library Neutrality, May 27, 2025

Librarianship in the 21st Century has become increasingly fraught with controversies and conflict over collections and spaces, with competing factions within their user communities protesting or championing particular books or events. Michael Dudley introduces major theories of city planning that can better support librarianship in the public interest and within pluralist societies. The presentation will first explain the many commonalities between librarianship and planning before setting out and applying the ways in which planning theory can enrich library practice in challenging times by better defining the oft-debated concept of library neutrality and its different value meanings. His video is available on the [ELA Presentation page](#).

ELA requests the Government to acquire the 1670 Royal Charter for the Hudson's Bay Co., May 25, 2025

ELA has sent a letter from its Advocacy Committee on May 25, 2025, to Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Culture and Identity, requesting that the 1670 charter for the Hudson's Bay Company be kept in Canada at Library and Archives Canada. This charter is a vital historical document that should be accessible to all Canadians: "The acquisition of this Charter would align perfectly with the mandate of Library and Archives Canada to preserve and make accessible the documentary heritage of our nation. Furthermore, it would demonstrate the government's commitment to protecting irreplaceable cultural treasures for future generations of Canadians." ELA is joining its voice with other library, archival and historical associations in urging the Ministry to acquire this document and keep it in Canada, where it will be accessible to Canadian researchers.

The letter is available [at this PDF link](#).

Underfunding of Ontario College and University Libraries, April 2025

In April 2025, the President of ELA, David Harvey, forwarded a letter to the Ontario Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security about the Association's concerns regarding the underfunding of colleges and universities, specifically libraries. ELA maintains that the provincial government must recognize the fundamental importance of colleges and universities and the financial problems threatening these institutions. Increased government investment can assist post-secondary institutions to meet the economic challenges of today and provide a better future for the Ontario graduates of tomorrow. ELA strongly urged the government to provide (1) an emergency infusion of \$1.4 billion into college and college libraries; and (2) an additional \$1.34 billion annually to bring Ontario up to the national average for per-student funding.

The ELA letter is [at this link](#)

Guy Robertson outlines Disaster Planning for Libraries in ELA webinar, June 18, 2024

Libraries have to consider many issues for disaster plans to be successful. Guy Robertson is a senior instructor based in Vancouver at Langara College, where he teaches library history, reference and readers' advisory services, and records management. He works as a consultant to organizations across North America. Guy's 45-minute webinar covers a broad range of risks involved in future planning for natural disasters, human-caused problems, technological accidents, security breaches and threats, as well as organizational difficulties. His survey highlights the need for planning to mitigate risks and ensure staff preparedness in the event of an unexpected threat arising. The entire presentation in audio format can be accessed here (requires software for WAV files):

[Guy Robertson on Disaster Planning, June 2024](#)

An accompanying brief resume of his talk is available as a PDF download [at this link](#).

William Fayant awarded ELA Indigenous Student Bursary, February 2, 2024

The Ex Libris Association Board is pleased to report that the Indigenous Student Bursary, created in 2023, has been awarded to William Fayant, a student with an excellent GPA in his second year in the Library and Information Technician Program at RRC Polytechnic in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



William sent us the following thank you message:

"I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Ex Libris Association for their support in the 2023-24 academic year. As a Library and Information Technology student, and as a Cree/Metis man from Treaty 4 Territory, receiving this bursary has been a life-changing experience for me: I am now enrolled full-time in my studies, and can begin my path to a life-long career in the library field much sooner than I could have without the Ex Libris Association's generous support. Thank you very much, ELA, for your kind investment towards my future!"

— William Fayant, Ex Libris Association Indigenous Student Bursary recipient (2023)

We are currently fundraising to ensure we can fund the 2024 award. We have a healthy start but welcome further donations. If you would like to donate to the bursary, please contact bob.exlibris@gmail.com.

More information on the [bursary award is available at this link](#).

W.K. Lamb Award presented at Ontario Library Association on Friday January 26, 2024

Congratulations to Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, winner of the 2023 W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors !!!

The Ex Libris Association (ELA) and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) are pleased to announce that the W. Kaye Lamb Award for Innovative Services to Seniors recipient for 2023 is the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library. ELA's W.Kaye Lamb Award Committee was unanimous in selecting Innisfil ideaLAB & Library for their outstanding work for *Kits and Community: Activity Kits for Older Adults*. The award was presented by ELA's chair of the Lamb Committee, Christina Wilson (below on the right-hand side) at the OLA Super Conference. Accepting the award, from the left, Kathryn Schoutsen, Director, Community Development & Advocacy, Jocelyn Martin, Library Programmer, Programming & Outreach, and Erin Scuccimarri, CEO, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library.



The W. Kaye Lamb Award is named for Canada's first National Librarian and is given biennially in recognition of library service specifically designed to meet the needs of seniors.

Please read our [full official statement on the winner of this year's W. Kaye Lamb award](#) in both French and English.

Presentation by Dick Ellis on intellectual freedom at the ELA AGM, Nov. 6 2023

On November 6th, Dick Ellis made a presentation via Zoom on intellectual freedom for members attending the ELA annual general meeting.

His presentation outlined current issues and addressed problems libraries face with the issues of drag storytimes, controversial speakers in public libraries, and, of course, "offensive" books in school libraries. His presentation has been reworked at a PDF and can be accessed [at this link](#).

ELA webinar, Monday, October 24th, 2023: Kayla-Larson

Kayla Lar-son is the Indigenous Programs and Services Librarian for the Xwi7xwa Library at the University of British Columbia. Her webinar on Indigenous Data, Knowledge, and Cultural Sovereignty and Libraries was arranged by the Ex Libris Association and presented to members on Monday, October 24, 2023. It is approximately fifty minutes in length with closed captioning and an auto-generated transcript. The session is viewable to the public on [YouTube](#).

ELA Member, Peter McNally, attends April 2023 book launch

ELA member Peter McNally attended the April 2023 launch of a new book on library and book history. Peter published a chapter, "Administrators and Scholars: Directors of Libraries at McGill University, 1964-2010," chapter 12, pages 247-264, in Carol Couture et Éric Leroux, eds., *Le Livre et la bibliothèque: la quête des savoirs et de la culture: Mélanges offerts à Marcel Lajeunesse*. Québec,

Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2023.

The photo below shows Peter with Marcel Lajeunesse, who is a professor emeritus at the Faculté des Arts et des sciences, Université de Montréal.



The Ex Libris Association Indigenous Student Bursary - March 2023

March, 2023 —The Ex Libris Association (ELA) is excited to announce the launch of its Indigenous Student Bursary. ELA's goal in offering the bursary is to encourage more Indigenous voices among staff in all types of libraries. ELA has partnered with [Indspire](#) to manage the bursary, and is also pleased to acknowledge a significant donation from [Library Bound Inc.](#) in the bursary's inaugural year.

The \$2,500 bursary will be awarded annually to an Indigenous student in the first year of library or archival studies at the master's or technician level.

Donors can find more information about the bursary and ways to donate at <https://www.exlibris.ca/doku.php?id=awards:indigenous-bursary.>

Applications will open in May. Students can find more information on the Indigenous Student Bursary and how to apply at <https://indspire.ca/programs/students/bursaries-scholarships/>

[ELA](#) is the national Canadian association of people who have spent an important part of their work lives in libraries, archives, publishing houses, and adjunct fields, and who are now attracted to historical and current issues related to those institutions, as well as to issues concerning the personal welfare of their fellow members.

Having grown into one of the Top 10 Charities of Impact in Canada, [Indspire](#) is an Indigenous charity that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families and communities, and Canada. Since 1996, Indspire has provided over \$190 million in financial support to more than 59,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

[Library Bound](#) is Canada's largest wholesaler solely dedicated to serving the needs of public libraries. For more than twenty-five years, its committed and experienced staff have been striving to develop innovative and cost-effective solutions for the changing needs of Canadian libraries.

Richard Beaudry - Ex Libris Annual General Meeting speaker on censorship (2022)

In November 2022, Richard Beaudry spoke to the Ex Libris Association annual meeting about the censorship of materials in Canadian libraries and current threats to intellectual freedom. His presentation is available on YouTube [at this link](#).

OLD NEWS AND VIEWS ARCHIVE

Older ELA statements, conference presentations, and items of interest are archived [at this link](#).

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