Breaking Down Barriers: On-Reserve Programs and Services for Indigenous Communities

Alexandria Daum, Parkland County Libraries
Britney Robinson, Spruce Grove Public Library
Allison Stewart, Stony Plain Public Library
Presentation Outline

Context: Indigenous Services & Paul First Nation

Strategies for Building Relationships

Programs & Services

Leveraging Partnerships

Additional Resources

Questions
Who We Are
Reconciliation: Unpacking our own stereotypes/assumptions that are based in a colonial worldview and still grounded in the “civilizing” and assimilating mission of colonialism

Context: Paul First Nation

- Paul First Nation is located 87 kilometres west of Edmonton; population of about 1,300 on reserve
  - Nakota/Sioux/Stoney and Plains Cree
- Closest library is Duffield Public Library
- Lots of barriers to library access including transportation, history, perceptions
Strategies for Building Relationships
Community-Led Library Service

“A particular kind of community engagement, where the library works collaboratively with community members so that we can understand the needs of the community, and use this understanding to inform the direction of library work and policies.”

Our Approach

- Learning about community needs
- Engaging outside library walls
- Bottom-up instead of top-down

Building Relationships

● Leverage existing relationships
● Find the gatekeepers
● Do your homework
● Be Present… consistently!
Protocol and Working with Elders

**Protocol**: The bridge that promotes accountability and unity between seeker and teacher.

**Mother Earth Tobacco**: ceremonial, organic tobacco
Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Building relationships takes time and can be difficult. You will make mistakes.
- Dealing with ambiguity
- Traditional forms of evaluation don’t work

Programs & Services
Programming Kits
School/Daycare Programming
Programs and Services: Little Library
Summer Kick-Off Party at PFN School
Featuring indigenous author Richard Van Camp
Treasure Chests & Classroom Collections
Traditional Knowledge Project

Preserving our Indigenous Culture and Tribal Heritage
Ceremony Walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
Leveraging Partnerships
Library Partnerships
External Partnerships

CC0 Creative Commons
Conclusion
Additional Resources

Protocol/Educational:
Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.: http://www.ictinc.ca/blog
Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre: http://www.sicc.sk.ca
CBC 8th Fire: http://www.cbc.ca/8thfire/aboriginal101.html
BearPaw Education Videos: http://www.bearpaweducation.ca/videos/
Additional Resources

Publishers/Books:
EP_SB FNMI Website: https://sites.google.com/a/epsb.ca/fnmi-education/literacy-resources
EP_SB FNMI Book Reviews: https://reviews.epsb.ca/reviews/
Good Minds: http://www.goodminds.com/
Kegendonce Press: http://kegedonce.com/
Turtle Island Voices: http://canada.turtleislandvoices.com/
Empowering the Spirit: http://empoweringthespirit.ca/
Ningwakwe Learning Press: https://www.ningwakwe.ca/
Eaglecrest Books: http://www.eaglecrestbooks.com/
Strong Nations: https://www.strongnations.com/
Questions?

Contact us!

Alex - adaum@pclibraries.ca

Allison - allisons@mysppl.ca

Britney - britney@sgpl.ca

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