



NEWS RELEASE

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Library Funded for Moving Through Project

Berwick, Nova Scotia: The Annapolis Valley Regional Library has been awarded a \$40,000 Anti-Racism Action Program grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage Multiculturalism Program.

Using the principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and the guiding themes of the Nova Scotia Culture Action Plan, **Moving Through** incorporates Indigenous ways of knowing and doing to the development of programs, library spaces, and materials, helps build relationships between Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) and three area First Nations communities of Annapolis Valley, Bear River, and Glooscap, and strengthens literacy connections for local Indigenous families.

Through education, *Book Talking Circles*, language workshops, and programming, the **Moving Through** project will work to eliminate demeaning stereotypes, foster social inclusion, and deepen cultural appreciation. By hiring Indigenous artists and performers, this project will showcase Mi'kmaq culture. A book collection and display will accompany the cultural events, providing literacy opportunities for Mi'kmaq cultural expression. Mi'kmaq language speakers will present workshops and talks.

Working with Marlene Joudry, Program Facilitator, Coordinator, Instructor, Educator, Designer, Master Artisan, and Cultural Facilitator, the project strives to build connections in the community, educate about Mi'kmaq history, and celebrate Mi'kmaq language and culture.

This two-year project will involve library staff, community members, and Mi'kmaq youth. Angela Reynolds, Community Engagement Coordinator, has been working on creating this project in coordination with Marlene Joudry for several years. "We've had some small successes in raising awareness and finding funds for a portion of this project. This grant will allow us to work on the bigger idea of relationship building, fighting racism through education, and celebrating together."

Joudry, who will be the Indigenous Outreach Liaison on this project, is excited to be working with the library. "It's important to me and as a Mi'kmaq Elder and Grandmother that the stories of the past be told correctly by our elders and Knowledge Keepers. This way more from the First Nations Indigenous Communities will feel more welcome."

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