RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Library Board receive this report.

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Library Board with some background about the work of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Federation Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques’ Truth and Reconciliation Team and London Public Library’s initiatives to support Indigenous peoples.

BACKGROUND & REVIEW

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was part of a holistic and comprehensive response to the abuse inflicted on Indigenous peoples through the residential school system, and the harmful legacy of those institutions. The final report of the TRC was released in December, 2015. The Commission identified 94 "Calls to Action" to "redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation".

Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Federation Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques

In response to the TRC Calls to Action, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Federation Canadienne des Associations de Bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) established a Truth and Reconciliation Committee in 2016. The mandate was to
promote initiatives in all types of libraries to advance reconciliation by supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and to promote collaboration in these issues across the Canadian library communities.

Sarah Andrews, Coordinator of Public Services and project leader of LPL’s strategic Indigenous Services team, served as a committee member on behalf of London Public Library. The Committee issued its report and recommendations early in 2017. The recommendations are included in Appendix 1.

Sarah Andrews is continuing as a member of the newly created Indigenous Matters Committee, a permanent standing committee of CFLA-FCAB.

**London Public Library: Initiatives and Engagement**

LPL's Indigenous Services Team, led by Sarah Andrews, commenced its work in 2014 as an initiative of the Strategic Plan: Library Space is Community Place. In addition to Sarah, current members of the team are: Colleen Amatruda, Frances Cutt, Carolyn Doyle, Linda Ludke, Janet McCallum, Margaret Maciejewski, Cathy McLandress, Christine McManus, Lisa Manax-Skikos and Tia Wong.

The team has been working to build relationships in the community and to ensure that Library services and practices support the principles of the CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations and align with LPL’s User First Philosophy. Initiatives include:

- “First Nations Community” has been added as a residence code in the creation and updating of LPL Library cards. The addition of the residence code enables residents of the First Nations Community to obtain a London Public Library card and access the resources of the system.

- Collections Services staff are re-evaluating and updating subject headings, using culturally appropriate language in LPL’s catalogue records.

- Staff work to ensure Library collections reflect and include relevant and historically accurate and respectful materials.

- In 2017, LPL was privileged to host two art exhibits at the Central Library that focussed on the strength, beauty and resilience of First Nations Women and their families. In August, we hosted the multi-media interactive art exhibit *Shades of our Sisters* which aimed to encourage conversation around Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, transgender and spirit people in the community. In September, *Warrior Womyn: Honouring the Journey*, presented the artistic works of the participants of the +Positive Voice program at Nokee Kwe.
LPL hosted the Orange Shirt ceremony (Orangeshirtday.org) in September, 2017. This event, organized by Atlohsa, was open to the public. Speakers shared stories about their residential school experience and there were performances by longhouse singers and drumming. We hope to host the event again in 2018.

A Territorial Acknowledgement has been made at LPL hosted partnership events.

Support and mentoring was provided to Chippewas of the Thames First Nation Librarian, Cynthia Tribe, in setting up the collection, creating library cards, and developing borrowing procedures for their library.

Through the building of relationships at Atlohsa, a number of children have become participants in the READ program.

The *Indigenous Culture Card, London + Middlesex* was distributed to all LPL staff to enable knowledge sharing, a building of understanding and a beginning for dialogue. This informative guide was created for service providers by Healthy Weights Connection (Western University) and London’s Child & Youth Network.

Staff throughout the system viewed the “Walk-a-Mile” film series. This is a series of 5 short documentary films created in Thunder Bay, designed to educate and encourage conversations about the reality of the life and history of Indigenous people.

**NEXT STEPS**

In 2018, LPL will continue to:

- Build relationships with community partners and individuals from the Indigenous community in London and determine how best to support and inform each other in our work;
- Support in principle the National Aboriginal Library Association (NALA);
- Support local Indigenous communities through mentorship and connection;
- Work with our current and new partners to host exhibits and cultural programs;
- Promote LPL library cards;
- Highlight collections and services of interest to Indigenous Londoners as they continue to explore all that London Public Library has to offer;
- Grow our connections with the three Indigenous communities closest to London, focussing on grade seven and eight students, as they approach a transitional year in preparation to attend London high schools;
- Develop and offer staff training about the Indigenous experience in London; and
- Develop guidelines for use of a Territorial Acknowledgement statement prior to meetings and programs etc.
Appendix 1

CFLA-FCAB Truth & Reconciliation Recommendations

1. As CFLA-FCAB is a national voice with the ability to influence national and international policy regarding issues of importance, we request the CFLA-FCAB create a permanent Standing Committee on Indigenous Matters utilizing the medicine wheel framework developed by the Truth & Reconciliation Committee;

2. The T&R Committee supports and endorses the CFLA-FCAB Position Statement on Library and Literacy Services for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Peoples of Canada;

3. Encourage libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 94 Calls to Action, several of which have been identified as having a direct impact on libraries and archives and are prioritized in this report, and to implement a status report on a yearly basis to monitor their implementation;

4. Ensure accessibility moving forward by continually reminding stakeholders that material produced and programming planned in the future should be accessible to all Canadians. CELA (the Center for Equitable Library Access) and NNELS (the National Network for Equitable Library Service) are positioned to support these efforts.

5. Decolonize Access and Classification by addressing the structural biases in existing schemes of knowledge organization and information retrieval arising from colonialism by committing to integrating Indigenous epistemologies into cataloguing praxis and knowledge management;

6. Decolonizing Libraries and Space by recognizing and supporting Indigenous cultures, languages and knowledges through culturally appropriate space planning, interior design, signage, art installations, territorial acknowledgements of geographic-specific traditional territories and public programming in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders;

7. Enhancing opportunities for Indigenous library, archival and information professionals as well as the inclusion of Indigenous epistemologies in the Canadian library and archives profession through culturally appropriate pedagogy, recruitment practices, professional and continuing education and cross-cultural training in collaboration with local Indigenous stakeholders and partners;

8. Recommend the implementation of Indigenous Knowledge Protection protocols and agreements with local and other Indigenous groups who have holdings in
libraries, archives and/or cultural memory institutions to respect the Indigenous cultural concept of copyright with regard to Indigenous history or heritage, which is often located in but not limited to oral traditions, songs, dance, storytelling, anecdotes, place names, hereditary names and other forms of Indigenous knowledges; recommend that CFLA-FCAB actively participate in reforming the Canadian Copyright Act to include protection of Indigenous knowledges and languages while advocating for changes to include traditional knowledge as outlined and recommended by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. We join the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to call upon Library and Archives Canada to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #69 (Appendix D) by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (PDF) (UNDRIP) and the Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity (2005), more commonly known as the Joinet/Orentlicher Principles;

9. Establish an online database of “living documents” to highlight existing Best Practices of Indigenous Services in libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions that will serve as a foundation to help disseminate those best practices and for this “living document” to be updated preferably on a quarterly basis but minimally semi-annually;

10. Maintain a database of Indigenous organizations or groups committed to preserving cultural memory primarily, but not limited to, libraries, archives, language preservation, cultural history/museums to build relationships; to support the development of an Indigenous association of library, archives and cultural memory institutions; and to support in principle the National Aboriginal Library Association (NALA) regarding their stated intent of developing First Nations public libraries on reserves.