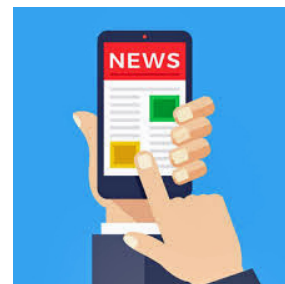


Ex Libris News and Views

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



NEWS

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 make sure 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 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 their "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 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 that offer a variety of fun and free activities where they can meet with their neighbors. 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.

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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 senior's 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 humble 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.

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— 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.

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

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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 the topic of 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 close 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 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 masters 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 life 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](#).

VIEWS

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 Nicolaidis, 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](#).

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 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 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](#).

OLD NEWS AND VIEWS ARCHIVE

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

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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 masters 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 life 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](#).

VIEWS

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](#).

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 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 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](#).

OLD NEWS AND VIEWS ARCHIVE

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

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