

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE AWARDS

Note about this compilation:

Thanks to librarianship.ca, we were alerted to these awards. We are attempting to gather the names of all of the recipients who have careers in librarianship and archives in Canada and provide some biographical information. This is a work in progress. Frances Davidson-Arnott and Alvin Schrader are continuing to add to this page. Please contact [Frances Davidson-Arnott](#) with any names left off this list or links to additional lists.

The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Award commemorates the 70th anniversary in 2022 of Her Majesty's accession to the throne as Queen of Canada.

For information on Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Provincial) see these two sites:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/medals/medals-chart-index/queen-elizabeth-platinum-jubilee-medalprovincial.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Queen_Elizabeth_II_Platinum_Jubilee_Medal&oldformat=true#Canada

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island awarded medals; Ontario awarded pins. Some British Columbia residents also received medals. In some provinces there were large numbers of honours awarded. Among those given awards were people with library or archives connections. They are listed below.

ALBERTA

To celebrate this historic event, the Medal program recognized outstanding community service by 7,000 Albertans including some librarians, technicians, and public library trustees.

Peter Bailey is the head of St. Albert Public Library. He has served as a founding executive member of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations and was deeply involved in transforming the former Canadian Library Association (CLA) into a federated model. Peter has also served as the president of LAA, was a founding director of the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), and was involved in the development of the province-wide ME Libraries card service.

Deb Cryderman has been a leader in making Alberta's public libraries more inclusive and welcoming for vulnerable patrons and marginalized communities. She has worked in a variety of public libraries across the Province: Director at Stettler Public Library, Director at Camrose Public Library 2011-2018, and since 2018, Director of Grande Prairie Public Library. She has led programs such as "Snacks in the Stacks" that address food insecurity for school-aged kids; created safe spaces for LGBTQ teenagers; initiated

Period Poverty action plans; and hosted Death Cafes for people to learn about palliative care and bereavement strategies. During the pandemic closures, Grande Prairie Library became one of the first public libraries to offer a curbside delivery service so people could still borrow materials, offering other communities a model and lessons so libraries across Alberta could adapt and copy the service. Deb also volunteers as an active member of the Alberta Public Library Administrator's Council (APLAC), and served as president of the Library Association of Alberta from 2016 to 2019 and as chair of the Alberta Library Conference Planning Committee from 2018 to 2021.

Melissa Flett has worked at Wood Buffalo Regional Library (WBRL) for almost 20 years, and served as Director since 2017 (and Acting Director prior to that). Melissa played a pivotal role in guiding staff through two significant natural disasters, including the Horse River wildfire of 2016 and Athabasca River flooding of 2020. Under Melissa's leadership, WBRL has expanded and introduced new programming. WBRL provides Indigenous outreach services and programming to persons on reserve throughout the region, including Fort Chipewyan, Janvier, Conklin, and Anzac. During pandemic closures, WBRL developed a "Tech to Go" project allowing patrons to take technology home and bridge the digital divide (started during COVID). The Regional Library provides excellent programming for Newcomers to Canada, including welcome documents recently translated to Ukrainian. WBRL may be the most Northern library to offer "Storytime Over the Rainbow (Drag Queen Storytime)" which positions the library as a safe space for the LGBTQ community and for allies. Melissa was named one of *Your McMurray Magazine's* Top 50 under 50 in 2019.

Dr. Margaret Law is a professional librarian currently serving as the CEO of The Alberta Library (TAL). She has been president of both the Canadian Library Association and LAA and currently teaches at both the University of Alberta School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) and MacEwan University Library and Information Technology programs. An author of several books on library management issues, she has a lifelong commitment to better management in libraries.

Pilar Martinez is a steadfast champion of the value of public libraries and intellectual freedom through her leadership of provincial, national, and international library associations and initiatives for which she has received numerous honours. Pilar is Chief Librarian and CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. Her commitment to customer service excellence and community-led service has resulted in ground-breaking initiatives. This includes the Makerspaces; Outreach Workers; the Elder in Residence program; The Kitchen; PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN; and the Milner Library revitalization project, which houses many library firsts such as the two-story interactive digital wall in the newly renovated Stanley A. Milner Library. She had led numerous provincial, national, and international initiatives including ME Libraries, a provincial library sharing initiative enabling Albertans to borrow from any library across the province, and a North American wide campaign to raise awareness of the challenges to accessing public library digital resources. She was responsible for initiating ground-breaking programs and services such as the addition of social workers at the downtown branch and other locations, Leading From Any Position training for staff, the popular Forward Thinking Speaker Series, and

Edmonton Public Library's Community-Led Philosophy. Pilar received the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association, which recognizes outstanding and exceptional contributions to library services and to the profession and for her strong advocacy for intellectual freedom. She was also awarded the *2023 Edifier Award by Edify Magazine* in recognition of her trailblazing efforts in Edmonton to adopt a community-led library service framework and find innovative ways to make people's lives better and to build relationships within the community.

Sarah Meilleur was appointed CEO of Calgary Public Library in 2021, its first female leader in 109 years, after serving in various capacities since 2001 in the system, including overseeing the launch of the Community Heritage and Family History Digital Library, an online bank of more than 5,000 photographs and postcards documenting the City's history. The Calgary Heritage Authority awarded her its Lion Award for this work. A visionary leader and community-driven, she is passionate about how public libraries transform lives, and she works to foster curiosity, innovation, belonging, and fantastic visitor experiences. She is known for outstanding service to family, community, and country. Sarah is a recognized speaker at international conferences, has authored numerous journal articles, and has lectured at Harvard University on library design. She also led the design thinking, completion, and launch of Calgary's award winning new Central Library, which has seen over four million visitors since opening in November 2018. Sarah believes in supporting the community through volunteering and has served as vice-chair of the Calgary Heritage Authority, on the Cultural Leadership Council, and on the Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee. She received *Avenue Magazine's* "Top 40 under 40" Award in 2011.

Shaunna Mireau is a library technician and legal information specialist. She has been an integral part of the Alberta legal library community, serving on legal library associations at both the municipal and national level, most notably her term as the 2020 president of the Canadian Law Libraries. She was instrumental in gathering interest for and starting the HeadStart program, a legal research workshop for law and library students and other new graduates entering the legal workplace. Her belief in the importance of the work libraries do is reflected in her commitment and advocacy.

Karla Palichuk has made significant contributions to Alberta libraries and to the communities they serve. She has served on a number of library committees and boards including a term as the president of the LAA and the chair of the TAL board of directors. Her work as director of the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN) was instrumental in enabling Alberta public libraries to collaborate and move successfully into the Internet age.

Colette Poitras brings her vast knowledge, as a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, of Indigenous history, culture, and reconciliation work to library groups and book juries across the country. She plays an outstanding role in building access to library services for Indigenous peoples and communities throughout Alberta, in her current capacity as the Indigenous Public Library Advisor in Municipal Affairs Alberta. She worked in a

regional library system in Northern Alberta for two decades, and she joined government service in 2017, just after a grant program was established to fund public library access for on-reserve and on-settlement patrons. She continues to administer this program and consults frequently to ensure access to quality public library services for people living within reserves or settlements within the Province. It is a testament to Colette's work and community connections that approximately 9,000 people have signed up for new library cards. Colette created a partnership with Edmonton Public Library to roll out the Indigenous story sharing platform *Voices of the Land* throughout the Province and she partnered with the Book Publishers of Alberta to create access to the *Prairie Indigenous eBook Collection*. She represented Indigenous librarians on the Prairies on the Truth and Reconciliation Committee for the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, and chaired the subsequent Indigenous Matters Committee for CFLA. She is the Chair of the Selection Committee for the International Board on Books for Young People's, *From Sea to Sea to Sea: Celebrating Indigenous Picture Books Collection*. She currently sits on the Public Library Access Resource Council as an Indigenous librarian. In 2017, the *Library Journal* of the American Library Association recognized her as a "Mover and Shaker" for her contributions to improving library service for Indigenous communities. "In her spare time (she says), she reviews books for *Quill and Quire* and *Canadian Children's Book News*, as well as judging children's literature for national book contests.

Louisa Robison serves as the CEO of Peace Library System after a career in special and government libraries. She has served on a number of committees and boards throughout Alberta's library landscape including an extended term on LAA's board during the pandemic.

Dr. Mary-Jo Romaniuk has contributed her knowledge, skills, and abilities to Alberta libraries through her roles at the University of Alberta and currently as the vice-provost of the University of Calgary's Libraries and Cultural Resources. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of The Alberta Library [TAL] and the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library, and also served as both treasurer of TAL and later as TAL chair, implementing an inclusive, creative, and practical vision for the board during both of her terms.

Dr. Toni Samek is a professor at the University of Alberta SLIS program. She convened the CLA's Advisory Committee on Intellectual Freedom, was the debut Library Journal Teaching award recipient in 2007 and is the recipient of the 2017 LAA's President's Award, which recognizes her major impact on a provincial level.

Dr. Alvin Schrader is a professor emeritus of the University of Alberta SLIS program where he taught for 27 years and served as chair of SLIS from 1996 to 2003. He is a long-time active volunteer in the Canadian library community, notably having served as president of CLA and LAA, twice as Convenor of the CLA Advisory Committee on Intellectual Freedom, and as a member of the American Library Association's Core Values Task Force at the invitation of the ALA president. He is an active member of Ex Libris Association and has served on the board.

Sharon Siga has contributed to the library community for over 30 years. She helped establish many regional library system services in the early days of Peace Library System, including the conversion of paper catalogue records to create one of Alberta's first online catalogues. Director of the Strathcona County Library since 2001, she has been instrumental in ensuring that the library is at the center of the community with innovative projects such as an award-winning bookmobile and the Strathcona County Community Centre.

Deb Smith has been a passionate and vocal advocate for public library services for over 30 years. She was employed with a small rural library when she realized the impact she could have on the political and advocacy side once appointed to the Parkland Regional Library System board. As recent past chair, she continues to build relationships and partnership to benefit libraries across Alberta.

Keith Walker is honoured for his contributions to Rotary and for other volunteer work. A retired librarian: Medicine Hat Public Library, Head of Fiction Services; Director of Library Services Medicine Hat College; Australian Catholic University, Campus Librarian; NAIT, Reference and Audio Visual Librarian. He was winner of the Pat Jobb Award for Service to Alberta's Libraries. He received his MLIS, University of Alberta.

Linda Weasel Head Indigenous Liaison, Lethbridge Public Library, Cardston County, Alberta, is originally from the Bitterroot Salish people who were moved to Arlee, Montana area in a forced march from their traditional homelands in the late 1800s. She has worked in the capacity of teacher, principal, administrator and consultant for over 40 years in Montana and Alberta, Canada on the Blood Reserve. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montana in creative writing and teacher training, and minored in history and has a Master's degree in Administration and Curriculum from Gonzaga University.

SASKATCHEWAN

During the Jubilee year 7000 medals were to be awarded.

Cara Bradley is a long-time contributor to several of the Saskatchewan Library Association's volunteer committees, including the conference planning and communications & engagement committees. She is Research & Scholarship Librarian at the University of Regina.

Regan Gunningham is the Multitype Library Services Coordinator, Multitype Library Development, Ministry of Education, where she provides cataloguing for 25 elementary schools and assists with book selection, de-selection, library inventories, and receiving materials. She is a long-time volunteer with the Saskatchewan Library Association, including as Co-chair of the Conference Planning Committee.

Donald Johnson is the Special Media Archivist with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. Within Records Processing and Preservation Services, Donald works with

traditional and modern media and formats, preserving and making accessible the documentary heritage of Saskatchewan. He has contributed significantly over many years to the archives community and to Indigenous reconciliation at the provincial and national levels. His archival practice bridges communities of practice and transforms operational cultures. Donald is a member of the Lytton First Nation located at the confluence of the Fraser and Thompson rivers in British Columbia. He is a member of the documentary video production team that created five videos on Saskatchewan's involvement in World War I. Donald is a co-lead of the Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce (TRC-TF). The Taskforce created the Reconciliation Framework addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #70. Donald is a member of the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA), currently vice-president, the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance (NIKLA), the CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee, and the Newo Yotina Friendship Centre Board. Donald has degrees in Archival Studies (MAS), Fine Arts (BFA), Linguistics (BA), and Computer Science (BSC).

Jeremy Mohr is the Manager of Reference and Outreach Services with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. In this role, Jeremy works with his team to help the public access and engage with archival collections and promotes their use online and through educational programming. He has given countless hours to the archives community through his work with the Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists. He has served as a Board Member of the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists for more than a decade including two terms as President and in his present role as Treasurer. He also serves as the Archival representative on the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board. Jeremy has degrees in Public Administration (MPA), Library and Information Science (MLIS), History (MA, BA), and Sociology (BA).

Colleen Murphy spent the first few years of her career in Montreal libraries before moving to Saskatchewan in the 1980s where she made a name for herself in the province's academic library community over a 34-year career. She held leadership positions in virtually every area of library practice, from technical services to collections, cataloguing, reference and instruction, and access. She served as Associate University Librarian at the University of Regina. She also served on the Multitype Library Board and the Multitype Database Licensing Program Review Committee, continuing her work in promoting excellence in library service for all Saskatchewan residents. Her interest in cross-sectoral work and passion for library service led her to assume leadership roles with the Creative Collaborations Network and the "One Book One Province" Committee, which she has chaired since it began in 2017. She was President of the Saskatchewan Library Association in 2006. On the national stage, she was the Education Institute Chair with The Partnership, Councillor at Large with the last Executive Council of the Canadian Library Association, and played a role in the transition to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations. She received the 2018 Frances Morrison Award for outstanding service to libraries, and subsequently was conferred Honorary Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Library Association, awarded to a current Association member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Association and library service in the province.

Jeff O'Brien, City Archivist for the City of Saskatoon, was honoured for his long-standing work in both promoting and preserving the history of the City of Saskatoon. He believes in bringing history out of the archives and into the community. As City of Saskatoon Archivist since 1997, he is well known in local history circles. His contributions to Saskatoon have taken myriad forms. Jeff can often be seen and heard on radio and TV giving interviews and telling stories. From 2013-2017, he did “Saskatoon Stories” – a series of local history spots airing Friday nights on CTV, and still available on the CTV website. He gives presentations about the history of Saskatoon to classrooms, community and professional groups, does walking tours around the city, and for a couple of semesters taught the Introduction to Archives class in the Library Tech program at Sask Polytech. In 2006, Jeff co-authored the book *Saskatoon: A History in Photographs*, and for several years wrote “From the Archives,” a weekly column in the *Saskatoon Sun* and the *StarPhoenix*. He has contributed articles to the *Saskatoon History Review* and writes a regular history feature in *Saskatoon HOME*, a quarterly home and lifestyle magazine. Jeff holds a BA in Canadian history from the University of Regina and a Master’s of Archival Studies from UBC.

Amy Rankin is a long-time volunteer with the Saskatchewan Library Association, including twice serving as President. She is the Librarian for the RCMP Depot - Training Academy in Regina, Saskatchewan. Prior to that, she was manager of the Multitype Library Development, which provides secretariat support to the Multitype Library Board of Saskatchewan.

Greg Salmers is Director of Support Services at the Saskatchewan Legislative Library. He has worked in public, regional, academic, and special libraries in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

MANITOBA

Dr. Shelley Sweeney is Archivist Emerita at the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, where she has championed the preservation of Manitoba’s history and made an outstanding contribution in expanding the acquisition of private archives at the University, leading to the promotion of Manitoba’s cultural fabric and diversity. She was also heavily involved in the work of preserving records relating to reconciliation. From 2009 to 2012 she was on the University’s bid committee that proposed to steward the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools. Upon the success of the bid, she co-chaired, with Deborah Young, the implementation committee to establish the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, which is now located at the University of Manitoba. Her stalwart leadership and active involvement in supporting the archives of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission filtered into her daily work as she began the process of indigenizing the University of Manitoba Archives. She volunteered for many years with the Association of Canadian Archivists, first as Editor of the *ACA Bulletin Newsletter* 1985-86 and then as President of the Association 1998-2000. She is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Manitoba. She produced a considerable teaching dossier and

publications listing. She began her archival career in 1983 at the University of Regina Archives with a Masters of Archival Studies from UBC. She moved to head the University of Manitoba Archives in 1998 and completed a PhD in Archival Enterprise from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002. She retired in 2020.

NOVA SCOTIA

James Boxall is recognized for his career of service to geography and geographic education in Nova Scotia and Canada. He is Past-President of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives. James has been with the Dalhousie University Libraries for 31 years in a number of roles related to geography and is currently the library's GIS Specialist and Map Curator.

<https://blogs.dal.ca/libraries/2023/01/congratulations-to-james-boxall/>

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20220804002>

NEW BRUNSWICK

Meredith J. Batt (Archivist with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick) and **Dusty Green** (who was an intern with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick and is the founder and researcher for New Brunswick Queer Heritage Initiative) were both honoured for their book *Len & Cub, A Queer History*, which recalls the love story of two men in rural New Brunswick in the early 20th century. For more information on their work and this publication, please visit this external link: <https://theaquinian.net/authors-win-platinum-jubilee-medal-for-their-work-on-n-b-queer-history/>

ONTARIO

Members of the Parliament of Canada were given a limited supply of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee pins to distribute.

Shannon McGrady, Program and Research Co-ordinator at Orangeville Public Library, was awarded Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Pin in recognition of exceptional community service. She co-founded and coordinated the design and build of Bravery Park in Orangeville Ontario.

Paula Thomlison was a long-time Manager, Marketing, Communication & Development Brantford Public Library and Executive Director at Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre, Brantford. She is a Graduate of Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Rural Library Management program.

Mark Williams, Milton Public Library CEO, was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pin for Service for exceptional service and dedication to support the Milton community.