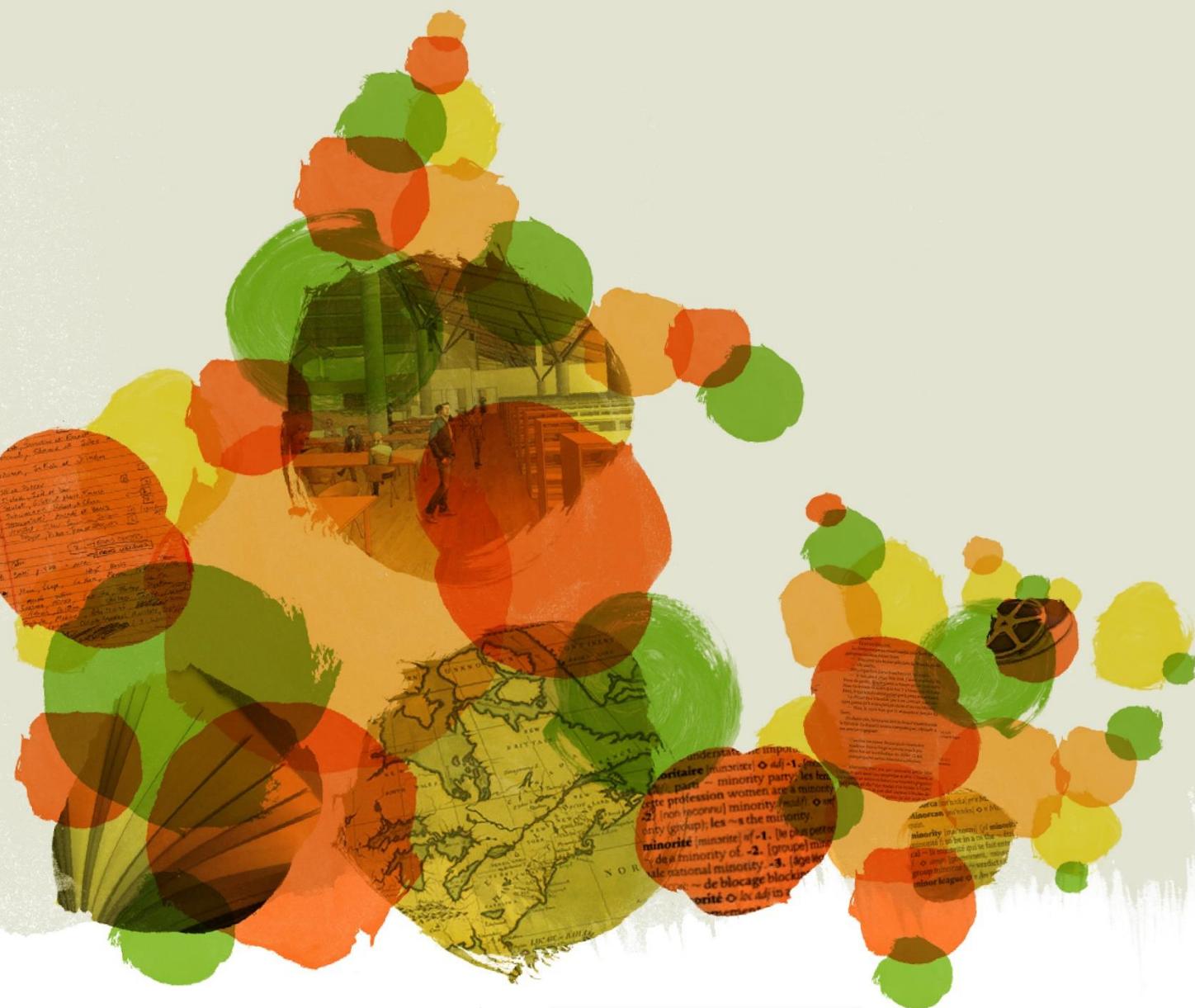


National Conference May 12, 13, 20 and 27, 2021

# Archives and Libraries in Official Language Minority Communities

## ISSUES AND FUTURE



Library and Archives Canada  
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# Archives and Libraries in Official Language Minority Communities — Issues and Future

National Conference  
May 12, 13, 20 and 27, 2021

## PROGRAM

This national conference is the result of a partnership between Library and Archives Canada (LAC), the Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française (CRCCF) at the University of Ottawa and the Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco (ABO-Franco), with the active support of archival and library networks in official language minority communities (OLMCs), supported by LAC.

### Presentation

Having two official languages is a significant part of Canada's identity. OLMCs, namely Francophones outside Quebec and Anglophones in Quebec, help enhance Canada's collective life. However, because of their minority status and the specific issues they face, the Government of Canada has committed to support their development under the *Official Languages Act*.

Many studies have focused on these OLMC-specific issues, including their demolinguistic, institutional, geographic and cultural aspects. However, the heritage aspect, especially in terms of archives, has not been widely explored. Similarly, the contribution made by libraries, documentary heritage repositories and places to access culture and literacy is a blind spot. These two areas nevertheless contribute decisively to the collective memory and rootedness of these communities as well as to their cultural expression, and therefore to their vitality.

The national conference's objective is to report on research, launch promising new avenues of reflection and strengthen partnerships between LAC and the academic and associative communities. It will bring together academic researchers, professionals from the documentary heritage community and interested participants from associative communities, including historical societies. It will include an opening session, four discussion panels on the state of the documentary heritage sites in minority communities, and two coffee meetings, with discussions on topics that are of interest to both OLMCs and to the documentary heritage community.

The various activities will be broadcast online to ensure the widest possible outreach. Simultaneous translation will be provided for the opening session and the expert panels, which will be recorded to ensure continuity of the dialogue. Publication of the national conference proceedings is planned to encourage further reflection.

## May 12, 2021 – Opening Session

### National conference opening remarks

1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

- Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada
- Linda Savoie, Master of ceremony, Secretary General and Official Languages Champion at LAC

### Conversation with France Daigle, author and recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award

1:15 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.

- “From *1953* to *Pour sûr*, the archives, volumes and libraries as sources of inspiration”

Lucie Hotte, Director of the CRCCF, University of Ottawa, will moderate the conversation. LAC employees will read excerpts of the author's works aloud while images of documents from LAC's France Daigle Fonds will be shown.

### Closing remarks for the opening session

2:10 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

- Linda Savoie, Secretary General and Official Languages Champion at LAC

The session will be broadcasted on Library and Archives Canada's [English](#) and [French](#) YouTube channels.

## May 13, 2021

### Opening remarks

- 1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Denis Racine, Director General, Official Languages Branch, Canadian Heritage

### Panel 1: Documentary heritage (archives and libraries) and vitality of memory

1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Archive centres have made numerous efforts to promote archives and make them accessible, and to support community memory (Roberto, 2013; Lalonde, 2015; Hotte, 2017; Klein, 2019). Similarly, many libraries have increased efforts to digitize heritage collections and local newspapers, thereby allowing a common memory to be developed (Usova, 2013 and 2017), two types of action supported in particular by the Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP). However, reflection on the relationship between this memory, both expressed and supported by documentary heritage, and the development of OLMCs is still emerging. In the wake of discussions and the report on vitality of memory (Roy, 2021), the panel will reflect more broadly on the role of archives and libraries in supporting shared memory, thereby promoting the adoption of best practices and the collective development of these minority communities.

**Session chair:** Josée Grimard-Dubuc, Director, Interdepartmental Relations, Canadian Heritage

**Presentations:**

- “Vitality of Memory and Documentary Heritage,” Alain Roy, Senior Analyst, Strategic Research, LAC
- “Archives and their Public Use in the History of Communities,” Martin Pâquet, Professor of History and holder of the Chair for the Development of Research on French-Speaking Culture in North America (CEFAN), Université Laval
- “A People’s History of English-Speaking Quebec: Presenting the Plan for a Community-Based Action Research Project for Official Language Minority Community Vitality,” Lorraine O’Donnell, Associate Assistant Professor, School of Public and Community Affairs and Research Coordinator, Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREEN), Concordia University
- “Manifestations of Memory, Heritage and History by the Edmonton Francophonie: Testing of the Vitality of Memory Framework,” Rebecca Lazarenko, York University, and Denis Perreux, Société historique francophone de l’Alberta

**Registration:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMoceqrzsqG9b3M\\_DaZt5BVJ6ni1hcj3\\_8](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMoceqrzsqG9b3M_DaZt5BVJ6ni1hcj3_8)

**Break**

2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

**Panel 2: Archives, libraries and literature: traces of creation and sources of inspiration**

3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Writers’ archives are likely the first that come to mind when looking for traces of the creative process, as they are packed with a variety of documents: drafts, correspondence, notebooks, and notes on mediums of all kinds (for example, napkins, newspaper and magazine pages). They are a researcher’s delight (Marcotte, 2019). Other literary archival collections are much less well known. However, those of publishers, literary critics, and support organizations for authors and publishers also shed light on the literary world in a given context (Glinoyer and Hotte, 2020). Archival holdings are equally important prior to creation. They are regularly consulted by writers who want to document the historical framework of their final work or to identify an issue that will become the central theme, or even to get to know someone who will be part of the story being told. The resulting creation then reinvests the archive as a memory vector (Klein, 2019). Similarly, libraries are first seen as the place where books written by authors are housed, but they are also places of research and documentation, where people who want to write a novel, an essay, or a collection of poems or short stories will find sources of inspiration and information. This workshop will encourage reflection on the role archives and libraries play in literary creation and literature research in OLMCs.

**Session chair:** Stéphane Lang, Senior Archivist, French-Language Literary Archives, LAC

**Presentations:**

- “Challenges and Issues in Franco-Ontarian Publishing: What the Archives Tell Us,” Lucie Hotte, Full Professor, Department of French, Director of the CRCCF and

Director of the Laboratoire de recherche sur les cultures et les littératures francophones du Canada, University of Ottawa

- “The Archives of the Poet D. G. Jones and the Literary Sociability Along the Shores of Lake Massawippi,” Patricia Godbout, Director, Centre Anne-Hébert, Université de Sherbrooke
- “Realizing Literary Archives: individual contexts, materiality, reflexivity and following traces to the future of the present past,” Catherine Hobbs, Senior Archivist, English Literature, LAC

**Registration:**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsfuGqpj0oGdZrkEiVYx8fMlvdSnqAfdLe>

May 20, 2021

**Opening remarks**

1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Raymond Théberge, Commissioner of Official Languages

**Panel 3: What policies are required to support access and remove language barriers?**

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Archives and libraries’ actions are governed by internal policies or those of the public bodies that assist them. Depending on the case, they may facilitate, ignore or restrict the response to these communities’ needs. As it stands, this policy or regulatory framework for archives and libraries serving OLMCs is poorly understood. A few studies, however, have highlighted the role that libraries play (Robineau *et al.*, 2010). There are therefore a diverse policies and regulations all across Canada and, as Russo (2019) and Henninger (2020) point out, a reflection on this strategic aspect would allow public bodies and organizations in the community to better manage the procurement, access and preservation of collections and services in OLMCs.

**Session chair:** Robert Talbot, Research Manager, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages

**Presentations:**

- “Linguistic diversity and library staff,” Ean Henninger, Librarian
- “Enhancing the knowledge in my aunt’s attic,” Janique Dubois, Associate Professor, Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa
- “The Policy and Regulatory Framework for Official Languages in Libraries – An Overview of the Provinces and Territories,” Alain Roy, Senior Analyst, Strategic Research, LAC
- “Accessibility and Discoverability of Francophone Content: The Role of Information Professionals,” Nadia Caidi, Professor, Faculty of Information (iSchool), University of Toronto

**Registration:**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqf-ysrT8uHt3BBIUgM5gEgM2XWrrgd6Q3>

**Break**

2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

**Coffee meeting 1: Better serving official language minority communities**

3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Facilitator:** Alexandre Chartier, Executive Director, Société historique de la Saskatchewan

**Presentation of the process and discussion topics**

3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Group discussions**

3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

- “The Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP),” moderated by Boris Stipernitz, Director, Governance, Liaison and Partnerships, LAC
- “Digital Museums Canada Program,” moderated by Megan Richardson, Director, Virtual Museum of Canada, Canadian Museum of History
- “Heritage Support – Community Perspectives,” moderated by Denis Perreux, Société historique francophone de l’Alberta
- “Building Minority Library Collections: Challenges and Needs,” moderated by Heather Brydon, Library coordinator, Direction des ressources éducatives françaises, Manitoba Department of Education

**Plenary**

4:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Registration:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqdOChrT8iG9cPzcwdsM6aoQrMklmm\\_Y3c](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqdOChrT8iG9cPzcwdsM6aoQrMklmm_Y3c)

May 27, 2021

**Opening remarks**

1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Stéphan Déry, Chair, Council of the Network of Official Languages Champions, Government of Canada

**Panel 4: State and development of the collections: How to better represent OLMCs**

1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

The state of the collections is a key issue for OLMCs. For example, an inventory was taken of the archives in Francophone communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Moreover, research conducted at LAC will examine how OLMCs are represented in the memory institution’s collections. This issue is also relevant in libraries (Russo, 2019). How can we ensure that all communities are represented in the collections? What criteria should be used for acquisition

and disposition: supply and demand, a percentage equal to the OLMC population or other criteria? And how can we ensure the quality of the collections? How can we prevent the French-language book crisis that the Toronto Public Library experienced in January 2020 from happening again? The panel will examine how documentary heritage should accurately represent this diversity—both within OLMCs and society in general.

**Session chair:** Talia Chung, University Librarian and Vice-Provost (Knowledge Systems), University of Ottawa

**Presentations:**

- “The Acquisition Practices of Libraries in Francophone Minority Communities,” Hélène Carrier and Catherine Lachaine, Librarians, University of Ottawa; Céline Gareau Brennan and Sarah Shaughnessy, Librarians, University of Alberta
- “OLMC Presence in LAC Archives Collections at a Glance,” Patrick Latulippe, Analyst, Stakeholder Relations and International Affairs, LAC
- “Issues in Providing French-Language Library Content at a Smaller Bilingual University,” Brent Roe, University Librarian, Laurentian University
- “The Evidence of Things not Seen and Ears not Heard: the Valorization of Black History in Canadian Collection,” Dorothy Williams, Historian

**Registration:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUocuGhqkjHNLRPNRQ9\\_1ihAccKtfMw9DE](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUocuGhqkjHNLRPNRQ9_1ihAccKtfMw9DE)

**Break**

2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

**Coffee meeting 2: Training and professional development issues**

3:15 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.

**Facilitator:** Céline Gareau-Brennan, Librarian, University of Alberta

**Presentation of the process and discussion topics**

3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Group discussions**

3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

- “Language Barriers in Training,” moderated by Hélène Carrier, Librarian, University of Ottawa
- “Sponsorship Experiences: Issues and Challenges,” moderated by Alexandre Chartier, Executive Director, Société historique de la Saskatchewan
- “Open Educational Resources,” moderated by Mélanie Brunet, Copyright Services Librarian, University of Ottawa
- “Internships and Training Programs, Issues and Challenges,” moderated by Anne-Sophie Fournier-Plamondon, Acting Head of Archives, CRCCF, University of Ottawa

**Plenary**

4:15 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.

**Conclusion of the national conference**

4:25 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Linda Savoie, Corporate Secretary and Official Languages Champion, LAC

**Registration:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjIvcumsrDkuE9G2D\\_ERctwk20rpZ-G0tx\\_h](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjIvcumsrDkuE9G2D_ERctwk20rpZ-G0tx_h)

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<https://doi.org/10.7202/1033224ar>