

SK LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

**2026**

**LIBRARIES OPEN DOORS**

**APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2026**

SASKATCHEWAN  
LIBRARIES CONFERENCE  
**PROGRAM**



**SLA**

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

SK LIBRARIES CONFERENCE



**LIBRARIES OPEN DOORS**  
APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2026

# EVENT

**APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2026**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre  
1975 Broad Street, Regina, SK

**The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) is Saskatchewan's premier professional development opportunity for library and information service professionals.**

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) is seeking sponsors and exhibitors for the 2026 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, which will take place in Regina, SK on April 30 - May 1, 2026. The theme for this year's conference is "Libraries Open Doors" which celebrates libraries as a point of opportunity offering accessible and welcoming spaces, filled with a lifetime of possibilities.

This annual event brings together library and information service professionals from every part of Saskatchewan's vast library sector.

The diversity of the anticipated 200 conference delegates offers a wide reach for your organization with delegates attending from public, academic, school, and special libraries.

Partner with us to reach our delegates and receive a wide range of benefits. We invite you to browse through the following pages to learn more about our event's key speakers, sponsorship opportunities, and how to become an exhibitor.

If you have any questions about becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please contact Milena Džordeski, SLA Program Coordinator, at [mdzordeski@saskla.ca](mailto:mdzordeski@saskla.ca) or by calling 306-780-9409.

# SPEAKERS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 | 9:00am



**Carol Radford-Grant is the Provincial Archivist of Saskatchewan. She leads a team that preserves and provides access to the province's historical records.**

Carol Radford-Grant has been the Provincial Archivist of Saskatchewan since September 2021. She leads a team that preserves and provides access to the province's historical records of the government, as well as individuals, organizations, businesses and associations. In addition, the Archives also provides expertise and advice to government about information management, policy standards and effective record keeping practices in the public sector.

Before joining the Provincial Archives, Radford-Grant worked as a leader in the archives field for over 20 years in Toronto in various organizations, including the City of Toronto, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the Archives of Ontario, and the Ontario College of Teachers.

Carol holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy and a Graduate Diploma in Public Administration from Western University, an Archives Technician Diploma from Algonquin College, and a Masters in Information Studies from the University of Toronto.

# SPEAKERS

## MARY DONALDSON LECTURE

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 | 7:30pm



**Ramadan is a Syrian-Canadian author and LGBTQ+ refugees' advocate. His memoir *Crooked Teeth* received raving reviews and was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction.**

Danny Ramadan is a Syrian-Canadian author and LGBTQ+ refugees' advocate. His memoir *Crooked Teeth* received raving reviews and was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction. His latest novel, *The Foghorn Echoes*, won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Fiction and was nominated for both the BC & Yukon Book Prizes and the City of Vancouver Book Award. His debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, won the Independent Publisher Book Award, was longlisted for Canada Reads, and has been translated into multiple languages.

Ramadan is also the author of the award-winning *Salma* children's series, which has received the Nautilus Book Award, the Publishing Triangle Award, the Middle East Book Award, and numerous other accolades.

Since arriving in Canada, he has raised over \$300,000 to support LGBTQ+ refugees, securing safe passage for more than two dozen queer and trans individuals. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Adler University.

He lives in Vancouver with his husband and two dogs — and when he's not writing, he's probably playing video games.

# SCHEDULE

## PRE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 | 7:30pm

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

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**7:30 – 9:00 PM   SILS Dessert Reception   Moose Jaw Room - 2nd Floor**

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SLA is pleased to open the 2026 conference with an evening social & dessert reception, hosted by SILS.

Join us on April 29th at the DoubleTree by Hilton for an engaging and rejuvenating social affair! This informal event will cap your day of travel, gear you up for conference, and celebrate the collaboration between staff and member libraries that have made the SILS Consortium such a successful partnership for the past 16 years.

A cash bar will be available.



# SCHEDULE

**APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2026**

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## THURSDAY, APRIL 30

7:30 – 8:30am	<b>Breakfast</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital A
8:15 – 8:45am	<b>Exhibitor Lightning Rounds</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital A
8:30 – 4:00pm	<b>Exhibitor Hall</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital B
9:00 – 10:30am	<b>Conference Opening &amp; Keynote Speaker</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Carol Radford-Grant <b>Room:</b> Capital A
10:30 – 11am	<b>Nutrition Break</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital A
11:00 – 11:50am	<b>Unlocking Archival Materials: Utilizing Zooniverse to Create More Accessible Collections</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Alyssa Hyduk, Caitlin Bakker, Crista Bradley <b>Room:</b> Capital A
	<b>Portals to Community and Self-Discovery: Tabletop Roleplaying at the Library</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Neil Jones and Eli Hartman <b>Room:</b> Prince Albert
	<b>Start Smart: Building Assessment into Your Projects</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Linnea Richards <b>Room:</b> Qu'Appelle

# SCHEDULE

**APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2026**

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## THURSDAY, APRIL 30

11:00 – 11:50am	<b>Branching Out: Community Outreach at Winnipeg Public Library Branches</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Austin Matheson and Sarah Giesbrech <b>Room:</b> Swift Current (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
12:00 – 12:20pm	<b>Opening Doors to Nutrition - How Libraries and Public Health Nutritionists Can Work Together to Strengthen Food Literacy in Communities</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Morgan Kelly, Dana Klapak & Andrea Toogood <b>Room:</b> Capital A
	<b>AI for the Rural Librarian</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Julia Byrnes <b>Room:</b> Prince Albert
	<b>Métis STEM/STEAM</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Tekeyla Friday <b>Room:</b> Qu'Appelle
	<b>From Prompt to Prototype: Building Custom Library and Archives Tools with Generative AI (No Coding Required?!)</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Dale Storie <b>Room:</b> Swift Current (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
12:30 – 1:30pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Exhibitor Hall Visits</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital A

# SCHEDULE

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## THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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1:30 – 2:20pm      **Beyond the Horizon: AI and Emerging Directions for Libraries**

**Speakers:** Christina Hwang, Brett Waytuck, Jeff Barber and Carol Shepstone

**Room:** Capital A

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1:30 – 2:20pm      **Uncensored: Intellectual Freedom in Children's and YA Collections**

**Speaker:** Meagan McNaney

**Room:** Prince Albert

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**Beyond the Stacks: Addressing Burnout in Librarianship Through Compassion and Self-Care**

**Speaker:** Katharine Carter

**Room:** Qu'Appelle

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**Beyond Access: Collaborative Curation and Contribution in the Resource Bank.**

**Speaker:** Melissa Lander

**Room:** Swift Current (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

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2:30 – 2:50pm      **Sesquicentennial Stories – 150 Years of the Saskatchewan Legislative Library**

**Speakers:** Catherine Hana and Shana Hay

**Room:** Capital A

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**Building Resilient Communities: Digital Literacy and Disaster Preparedness Through Library Services**

**Speaker:** Shela Hirani

**Room:** Prince Albert



# SCHEDULE

**APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2026**

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## THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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2:30 – 2:50pm	<b>Welcoming Students: Building Community in the Library is More Than One-Shot</b>
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**Speakers:** Brad Doerksen and Christina Winter

**Room:** Qu'Appelle

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	<b>Full Bellies &amp; Full Minds: Advocating for Public Libraries With Free Food &amp; Solidarity</b>
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**Speaker:** Madilyn Hollingshead

**Room:** Swift Current (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

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3:00 – 4:00pm	<b>Exhibitor Social &amp; Nutrition Break</b>
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**Room:** Capital B

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4:00 – 7:20pm	<b>Supper Break</b>
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7:30 – 8:30pm	<b>Mary Donaldson Lecture</b>
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**Speaker:** Danny Ramadan

**Room:** Capital A

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8:30 – 9:30pm	<b>Mary Donaldson Reception</b>
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**Room:** Lobby

## FRIDAY, MAY 1

7:30 – 8:15am	<b>Breakfast</b>
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**Room:** Capital A

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8:15 – 9:15am	<b>SLA AGM</b>
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**Room:** Capital A

# SCHEDULE

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## FRIDAY, MAY 1

9:30 – 10:20am	<b>From Crisis to Confidence: Working Together for Safer, Welcoming Libraries</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Beth Côté and Brad Bird <b>Room:</b> Capital A
	<b>AI Futures: A Three-Day Event on Creativity, Academia, and Society</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Gillian van der Ven, Michael Shires, Robert Thomas and Christina Hwang <b>Room:</b> Prince Albert
	<b>New Program: Now What?</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Sarah Van Sickle <b>Room:</b> Qu'Appelle
	<b>All Technology is Assistive (But Not Always Accessible)</b> <b>Speaker:</b> John (Jock) Buckmaster <b>Room:</b> Capital B
10:30 – 11am	<b>Nutrition Break</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital A
11:00 – 11:50am	<b>Re-Mapping Welcome: Implementing the Brian Deer Classification System to Transform Library Spaces</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Kathy Gaynor and Darlene Brander <b>Room:</b> Capital A

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## FRIDAY, MAY 1

11:00 – 11:50am	<b>Curating Connection: Libraries and Archives as Spaces for Collaboration and Belonging</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Gillian van der Ven, Michael Shires, Crista Bradley <b>Room:</b> Prince Albert
	<b>Cross-departmental Teams: They Can Work!</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Stephanie Kurmey and Nicole Bergen <b>Room:</b> Qu'Appelle
11:00am – 12:20pm	<b>Governance Training</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital B
12:00 – 12:20pm	<b>Critical Hit for Inclusion: Game Programs That Level Up Access</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Michelle Goodridge <b>Room:</b> Capital A
	<b>Meet for Lunch at the Library!</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Cheryl Sikora and Kirsten Hnatow <b>Room:</b> Prince Albert
	<b>Where Library and Archival Metadata Meet: Finding Community in New Places</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Alycia Bockus-Vanin and Sadie Anderson <b>Room:</b> Qu'Appelle
12:30 – 1:30pm	<b>SLA Awards Lunch &amp; SaskPoly Student Presentations</b> <b>Room:</b> Capital A

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## FRIDAY, MAY 1

1:40 – 2:30pm

**Pretendians: Literature, Ways of Knowing and Artful Expressions - How to Respond and Keep Space for Authenticity**

**Speaker:** Arnolda Dufour Bowes

**Room:** Capital A

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**Assistive Technology for the Library**

**Speaker:** Riane LaPaire

**Room:** Prince Albert

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**Tanisi! Come and Talk About Indigenous Library Services**

**Speaker:** Samara Jackson

**Room:** Qu'Appelle

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1:40 – 3:30pm

**Governance Training**

**Room:** Capital B

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2:40 – 3:00pm

**How Your Library Can Work With CBC/Radio-Canada to Bring Community Stories to Life**

**Speakers:** Janani Whitfield and Nicole Lavergne

**Room:** Capital A

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**No Books. Now What?**

**Speaker:** Sarah VanSickle

**Room:** Prince Albert

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***Librarians for Decolonial Research: The TransSask Research Story***

**Speaker:** Tiberius Fayant-McLeod

**Room:** Qu'Appelle

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## FRIDAY, MAY 1

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3:10 – 3:30pm

**Libraries as Incubators for Social Innovation:  
Unlocking Youth Potential Through Engagement**

**Speaker:** Shiza Hirani

**Room:** Capital A

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**Opening the Door to Discovery: An Introduction to  
the Sask DLC Resource Bank**

**Speaker:** Melissa Lander

**Room:** Prince Albert

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***Libraries Open Doors — For Inclusion and Belonging:*  
How Libraries Act as Community Leaders for  
Dementia Friendly Community Initiatives**

**Speaker:** Erica Zarazun

**Room:** Qu'Appelle



## CONTACT US

Saskatchewan Library Association  
306-780-3633 | [info@saskla.ca](mailto:info@saskla.ca)



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