

SK LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

2026

LIBRARIES OPEN DOORS

APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2026

SASKATCHEWAN
LIBRARIES CONFERENCE
PROGRAM



SLA

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

SK LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

2026

LIBRARIES OPEN DOORS

APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2026

EVENT

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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 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

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

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

DoubleTree by Hilton, 1975 Broad Street, Regina, SK

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30

11:00 – 11:50am **Branching Out: Community Outreach at Winnipeg Public Library Branches**

Speakers: Austin Matheson and Sarah Giesbrecht
Room: Swift Current (2nd Floor)

12:00 – 12:20pm **Opening Doors to Nutrition - How Libraries and Public Health Nutritionists Can Work Together to Strengthen Food Literacy in Communities**

Speakers: Morgan Kelly, Dana Klapak & Andrea Toogood
Room: Capital A

AI for the Rural Librarian

Speaker: Julia Byrnes
Room: Prince Albert

Métis STEM/STEAM

Speaker: Tekeyla Friday
Room: Qu'Appelle

From Prompt to Prototype: Building Custom Library and Archives Tools with Generative AI (No Coding Required?!)

Speaker: Dale Storie
Room: Swift Current (2nd Floor)

12:30 – 1:30pm **Lunch & Exhibitor Hall Visits**

Room: Capital A

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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
1:30 – 2:20pm	Uncensored: Intellectual Freedom in Children's and YA Collections Speaker: Meagan McNaney Room: Prince Albert
	Beyond the Stacks: Addressing Burnout in Librarianship Through Compassion and Self-Care Speaker: Katharine Carter Room: Qu'Appelle
	Beyond Access: Collaborative Curation and Contribution in the Resource Bank. Speaker: Melissa Lander Room: Swift Current (2 nd Floor)
2:30 – 2:50pm	Sesquicentennial Stories – 150 Years of the Saskatchewan Legislative Library Speakers: Catherine Hana and Shana Hay Room: Capital A
	Building Resilient Communities: Digital Literacy and Disaster Preparedness Through Library Services Speaker: Shela Hirani Room: Prince Albert

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30

2:30 – 2:50pm	Welcoming Students: Building Community in the Library is More Than One-Shot Speakers: Brad Doerksen and Christina Winter Room: Qu'Appelle
	Full Bellies & Full Minds: Advocating for Public Libraries With Free Food & Solidarity Speaker: Madilyn Hollingshead Room: Swift Current (2 nd Floor)
3:00 – 4:00pm	Exhibitor Social & Nutrition Break Room: Capital B
4:00 – 7:20pm	Supper Break
7:30 – 8:30pm	Mary Donaldson Lecture Speaker: Danny Ramadan Room: Capital A
8:30 – 9:30pm	Mary Donaldson Reception Room: Lobby

FRIDAY, MAY 1

7:30 – 8:15am	Breakfast Room: Capital A
8:15 – 9:15am	SLA AGM Room: Capital A

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FRIDAY, MAY 1

9:30 – 10:20am

From Crisis to Confidence: Working Together for Safer, Welcoming Libraries

Speakers: Beth Côté and Brad Bird

Room: Capital A

AI Futures: A Three-Day Event on Creativity, Academia, and Society

Speakers: Gillian van der Ven, Michael Shires, Robert Thomas and Christina Hwang

Room: Prince Albert

New Program: Now What?

Speaker: Sarah Van Sickle

Room: Qu'Appelle

All Technology is Assistive (But Not Always Accessible)

Speaker: John (Jock) Buckmaster

Room: Capital B

10:30 – 11am

Nutrition Break

Room: Capital A

11:00 – 11:50am

Re-Mapping Welcome: Implementing the Brian Deer Classification System to Transform Library Spaces

Speakers: Kathy Gaynor and Darlene Brander

Room: Capital A

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FRIDAY, MAY 1

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

Assistive Technology for the Library

Speaker: Riane LaPaire

Room: Prince Albert

Tanisi! Come and Talk About Indigenous Library Services

Speaker: Samara Jackson

Room: Qu'Appelle

1:40 – 3:30pm

Governance Training

Room: Capital B

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

No Books. Now What?

Speaker: Sarah VanSickle

Room: Prince Albert

Librarians for Decolonial Research: The TransSask Research Story

Speaker: Tiberius Fayant-McLeod

Room: Qu'Appelle

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FRIDAY, MAY 1

3:10 – 3:30pm

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

Speaker: Shiza Hirani

Room: Capital A

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

Speaker: Melissa Lander

Room: Prince Albert

***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



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