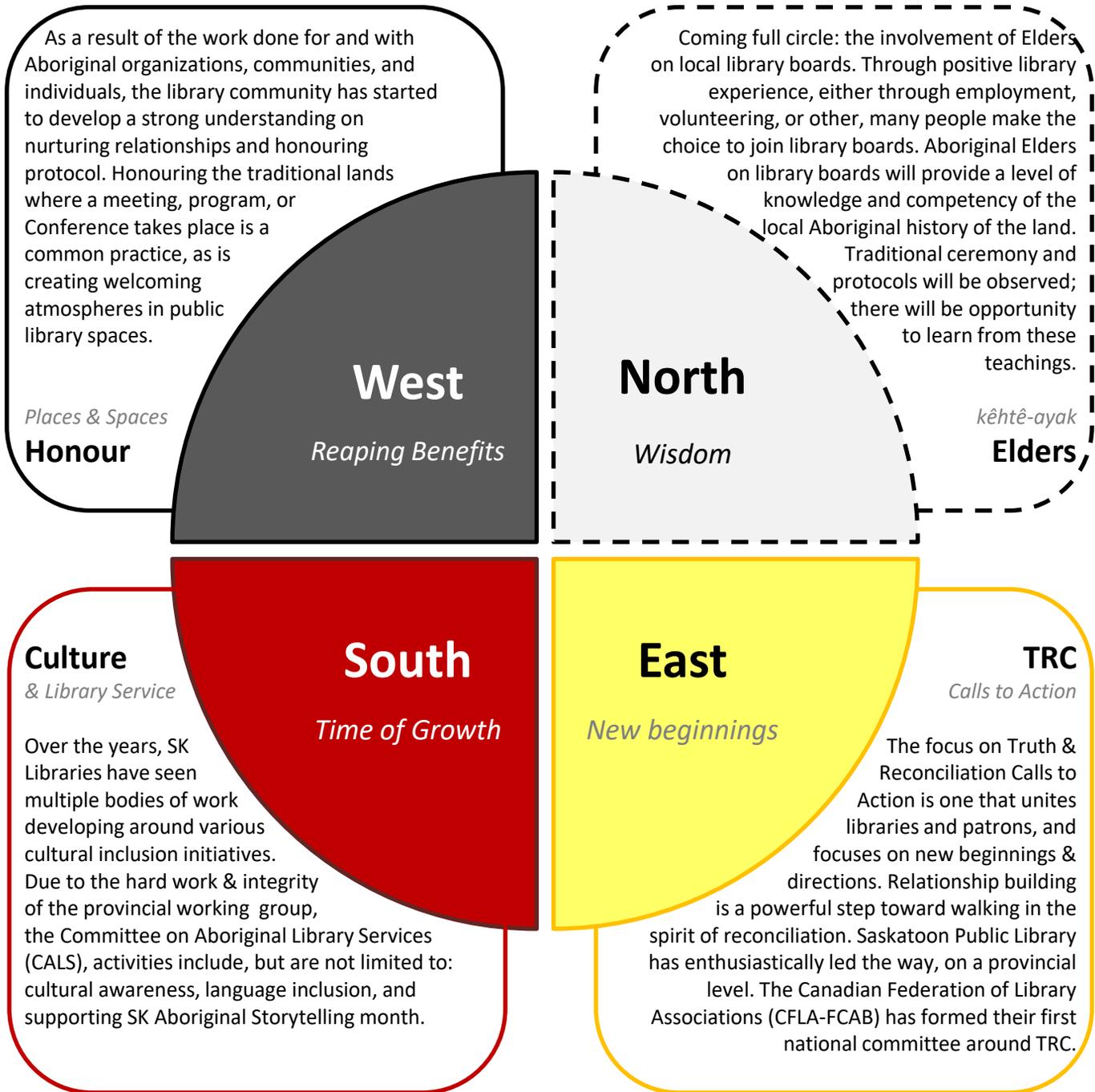


# Saskatchewan Public Library Governance

## Aboriginal Engagement and Libraries



## Medicine Wheel Teachings

## HONOUR: Places & Spaces

Welcoming spaces: To help increase Aboriginal participation at public libraries, it is encouraged to create a welcoming atmosphere. Public libraries across Saskatchewan have enthusiastically participated. Suggestions include, but are not limited to:

- Greet patrons and provide signage in the local Aboriginal language
- Exhibits and/or displays of Aboriginal art, artists, and authors
- Play Aboriginal music in the library e.g. pow wow, flute, fiddle
- Extend invitations to local schools with Aboriginal students
- Extend invitations local Aboriginal groups and organizations
- Provide culturally appropriate programming for Aboriginal patrons
- Offer programming to increase awareness of the histories and cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan

The five numbered treaties in Saskatchewan are Treaty 4, Treaty 5, Treaty 6, Treaty 8, and Treaty 10. Traditional Métis land is located in central and north Saskatchewan.

## Culture & Library Service

The Committee on Aboriginal Library Services (CALs) was established in 2006 in response to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Library Services report released in 2001. The report reflected that only a small proportion of First Nations' communities in southern Saskatchewan choose to join the public library system. Also, public libraries are not attracting off-reserve First Nations and Métis people in numbers reflecting their proportion of the population.

CALS is a provincial committee of public library representatives that work to improve library services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Saskatchewan. The committee has worked hard to build relationships with the Aboriginal community through round dances, developing material in indigenous languages, providing input on Aboriginal collection development, Aboriginal history month initiatives, and supporting the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples Inc. (LSSAP) Aboriginal Storytelling Month in February.

## Medicine Wheel Framework

- This framework is a visual representation of the traditional Indigenous worldview. The medicine wheel shows that work is still ongoing in each of the quadrants. This work is always changing and developing.
- East (yellow) represents birth and re-birth. New beginnings, and a positive step forward with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions.
- South (red) represents youth and development. This is a time of growth for libraries, especially in terms of cultural initiatives and relationship building.
- West (black) represents adulthood. A time when libraries can reap the benefits and positive results of the past few years on various service developments and successful initiatives.
- North (white) represents Elders. With experience comes a time of reflection and sharing. This time can be spent on planning new approaches, or reconvening for better outcomes. Elders from any culture can share their collective knowledge through library boards.

## ELDERS: kêhtê-ayak

The role of Elders in a public library setting is

An Elder is any person recognized by a First Nations' community as having knowledge and understanding of the traditional culture of the community, including the physical manifestation of the culture of the people their spiritual and social traditions. Knowledge and wisdom, coupled with the recognition and respect of the people of the community, are the essential defining characteristics of an Elder. Some Elders have additional attributes, such as those of traditional healer. (<http://www.sicc.sk.ca/elders.html>)

Saskatchewan has five linguistic groups: Cree (3 distinct dialects), Dakota, Dene, Nakota, and Nakawê (Saulteaux). It is important to select an appropriate Elder for

## TRC: Calls to Action

Saskatoon Public Library:

- Read for Reconciliation book list & challenge issued to at least 1,000 citizens of Saskatoon to read any title from their list
- Library on 20<sup>th</sup> renamed "Dr. Freda Ahenakew Branch" in response to TRC findings
- Read for Reconciliation Room opened at Frances Morrison Central Library
- New Stonebridge branch honours Métis: Round Prairie. Announcement made on Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2016
- Working relationship developed with Reconciliation Saskatoon

