

## **Category 1 Continuing Education Grant Report Submitted by Lindsay Baker**

Thanks to the Saskatchewan Library Association's Category 1 Continuing Education Grant, I had the opportunity to attend the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference 2020 in Toronto, Ontario. The conference was held January 29 – February 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The OLA Super Conference is the largest library conference in Canada, and offers a wide selection of session 'streams' to choose from, including Indigenous, Public Libraries, Governance, and Technology, as well as a very large Expo including vendors, demonstrations, and its own presentation stage.

With the large selection of sessions, keynotes, Expo presentations and 'spotlight on' events to choose from, I was able to attend sessions that were useful to many aspects of my job including collections, programming, management and advocacy, as well as meet with librarians from different sectors and from across Canada.

One of the most thought provoking sessions was an Indigenous Spotlight on Debbie Reese. Debbie is tribally enrolled at Nambé Owingen, in New Mexico. She is an author, former teacher, and professor, and is behind the blog American Indians in Children's Literature which is an educational resource to educate non-Indigenous peoples about Indigenous peoples and their representation in media. As a non-Indigenous librarian with responsibility for purchasing Indigenous materials for Wapiti's collection, I have relied on Debbie's blog and her review of materials a lot, in an effort to keep materials which misrepresent Indigenous peoples out of our collection. Her session was very informative, especially with her focus on how identity is monetized for personal gain, and the ethics, or lack thereof, when a writer selects content for their stories. When selecting materials, a librarian must consider whether the story being told is one that the author has the right to share. After this session I feel better armed to select appropriate Indigenous materials for my collection. I hope that a future SLA Conference planning committee will consider having Debbie as a keynote speaker.

I look forward to reviewing all of my notes and materials collected at the conference and trying to adapt them to my work and to my branches' needs. The knowledge I gained will be crucial to planning our own region's professional development day in fall of 2020, and there are some ideas which I may be able to adapt for an SLA Conference session in 2021 after trying them myself this year.

Thank you again to the Saskatchewan Library Association for providing financial assistance, which allowed me to attend the OLA Super Conference 2020.