

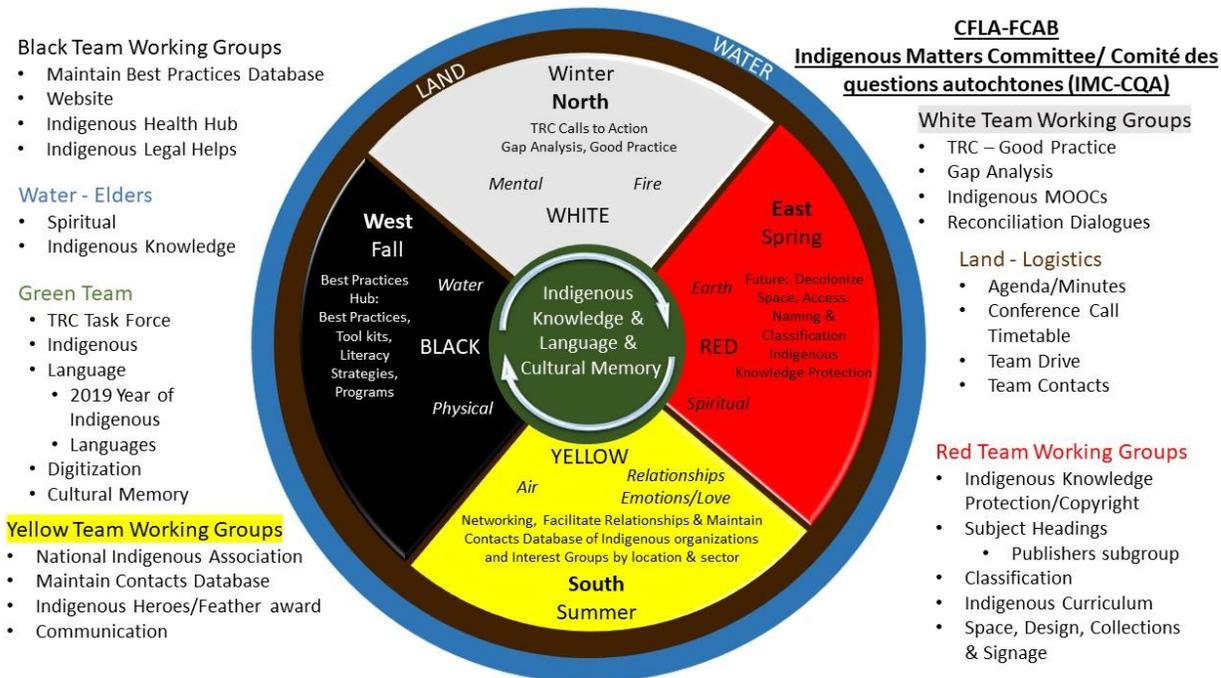
**Title:** How IILF 2015 & the Mauri Stone helped kickstart a national Canadian Indigenous Matters Committee

**Presenter:** Camille Callison

**Abstract:**

In 2015, the University of Manitoba hosted the 9th International Indigenous Librarians Forum (IILF) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. This gathering was a pivotal force in helping to create communication and cooperation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies working in libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions nationally. Over the same year, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was finishing its work by publishing its report, the 94 Calls to Action and the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation was established to care for the TRC archival records and Indian Residential School Survivor's testimonies. Simultaneously, the Canadian Library Association had become no longer fiscally viable and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) was founded to become the national voice for libraries in Canada. One of the first things the CFLA-FCAB did was to include an Indigenous representative on the Board of Directors (a first for Canada) and to make Truth & Reconciliation a top priority of the newly-formed association.

CFLA-FCAB formed the Truth & Reconciliation committee made up of 45 people from every province and territory and gave them 3 months to make recommendations on Indigenous people and Libraries in Canada to the incoming board of directors. We had a real opportunity to change things for Indigenous people and libraries in Canada and despite time constraints and distance, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee delivered its final report and recommendations at the 2017 Annual General Meeting which opened with traditional acknowledgement and smudging of the Mauri stone by Camille Callison, Jessie Loyer and Feather Maracle-Luke. The Mauri Stone which Turtle Lodge had been caretaking the 9<sup>th</sup> IILF was brought to honour this auspicious occasion as the Truth & Reconciliation Committee's 10 overarching recommendations were read into record at the 2017 CFLA-FCAB AGM and endorsed in principle. The report and recommendations, endorsed by the board in full then released on April 20, 2017 and first presented at the 2017 BC Libraries Conference. This comprehensive document covers best practices and recommendations for libraries, archives, and cultural memory institutions to participate in this national effort towards reconciliation and received endorsements from across Canada. The report has been presented across Canada and it, along with its recommendations, has been featured in numerous articles, publications, presented at the University of Toronto Bertha Bassam Lecture and internationally in Australia, Hawai'i, and the United States.



CFLA-FCAB implemented the first call of the ten recommendations with the creation of the Indigenous Matters Committee/ Comité des questions autochtones (IMC-CQA) and launched an Indigenous Resources Hub, which was announced on Indigenous Peoples Day. The work of the IMC-CQA will take shape utilizing the Medicine Wheel structure to reflect the holistic nation of Indigenous knowledges with Working Groups to implement the Truth & Reconciliation Committee report and recommendations, take care of the logistical needs and receive guidance from Elders. Thus far the IMC-CQA in collaboration with the University of Alberta, Edmonton Public Library, Northern Lights Library System, and Toronto Public Library; launched the Indigenous Canada MOOC which not only provides an online learning opportunity, but also tools and resources for libraries to support the delivery of the MOOC and the “Let’s Talk about Reconciliation” Dialogues for Public Libraries planning with CCUNESCO, LAC, NCTR and NFB.

I look forward to sharing with those present at IILF 2019 the difference IILF and the Mauri Stone made for Canada along with the other members of IMC-CQA who are present. Our work continues using the Truth & Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action acting as a compass, our national committee will be working to walk together on the path to reconciliation and to transform libraries of all kinds, archives, and cultural memory institutions in acknowledging, embracing, including Indigenous peoples and respecting Indigenous knowledge.