

7B—CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN TO RECONCILIATION IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: ONE STEP AT A TIME

Panelists: Deborah Lee (Nehiyaw, Haudenosaunee, Métis; University of Saskatchewan); Sara McDowell (University of Toronto Libraries); Darlene Ficher (University of Saskatchewan)

Indigenous academic circles are abuzz with critical analyses of Canada 150 “celebrations”, given the mountain of work we face to build a decolonized academy and country. However, we also see hope for solutions in the strong participation shown by university administrators and faculty at recent Building Reconciliation National Forums held in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Consequently, academic libraries across Canada will need to learn about, think about, and act on Reconciliation initiatives to move forward and keep pace within their academic environments.

Accordingly, these three librarians will examine some of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action and how they can be implemented to correct the oppression that Indigenous peoples have faced when entering academic libraries and using their services.

Participants are encouraged to bring one Call to Action to explore during the participatory component of this session. Panelists will also share their experiences of decolonizing and reconciling in the workplace through a social justice framework.