

# *Canadian Subject Headings* related to Indigenous Peoples

CRKN Access to Knowledge Conference  
October 18, 2019

Library and Archives Canada



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada

# Overview

- LAC is responsible for describing published content and making it accessible.
- CSH is a subject headings list developed by LAC, contains over 2000 subject authority records in the English language on Canadian topics.
- CSH for indigenous related content is not appropriate, and that it is not how indigenous communities refer to themselves.
- LAC is grateful for the sharing of indigenous knowledge from our first consultations that helped identify more appropriate terminology.
- Goals:
  - to make the terminology in the catalogue more respectful
  - to make the terms in CSH cover the Indigenous people in Canada comprehensively

# Current situation

- The problematic heading Indians of North America -- Canada comes from LCSH, a subject heading system controlled by the *Library of Congress*, not LAC.
- Follow the same structural rules: LCSH, CSH, RVM.
- First Nations people instead of Indians of North America -- Canada.
- LAC is the creator and editor of *Canadian Subject Headings* and as such can revise the current headings and add headings preferred by the communities.

# Opportunities: Revise CSH

- The word Indian currently occurs in **only 40 CSH** headings for subjects or names of groups of people.

- Use people following the names of groups of people instead of the qualifier (Indians)

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people (CSH)

- LAC has identified headings in CSH that need to be changed. For example:

- Canada - Civilization - Indian influences

- becomes* Canada - Civilization -- First Nations influences

- Indian beadwork - Canada

- becomes* First Nations people beadwork - Canada

- Indian reservations - Canada

- becomes* First Nations people reservations - Canada

# Opportunities: Add to CSH

- Add to CSH headings from vocabularies created by communities. For example: Deer system, X<sub>wi</sub>7x<sub>wa</sub> library at UBC, University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Studies Portal and the MAIN Manitoba Archival Information Network (MAIN).

- LAC has identified headings in LCSH that should have Canadian alternatives provided in CSH. For example:

Siksika people	(CSH)	<i>not</i>	Blackfoot Indians	(LCSH)
Haida people	(CSH)	<i>not</i>	Haida Indians	(LCSH)
Mi'kmaq people	(CSH)	<i>not</i>	Micmac Indians	(LCSH)

- The community has asked for alternatives to the LCSH subdivisions.

-- Traditional knowledge	(CSH)	<i>not</i>	-- Folklore	(LCSH)
-- Spirituality	(CSH)	<i>not</i>	-- Religion	(LCSH)

## Opportunities: Revise existing bibliographic descriptions

- Indians of North America has been used for Native Americans, American Indians, First Nations people.
- The CSH heading Native peoples -- Canada is somewhat broader, equating to Indigenous peoples -- Canada, but this reflects language from a few decades ago.
- The revision of existing bibliographic records is possible in order to delete the Indians of North America -- Canada heading, but WorldCat is a shared environment...

# Beyond Controlled Vocabulary

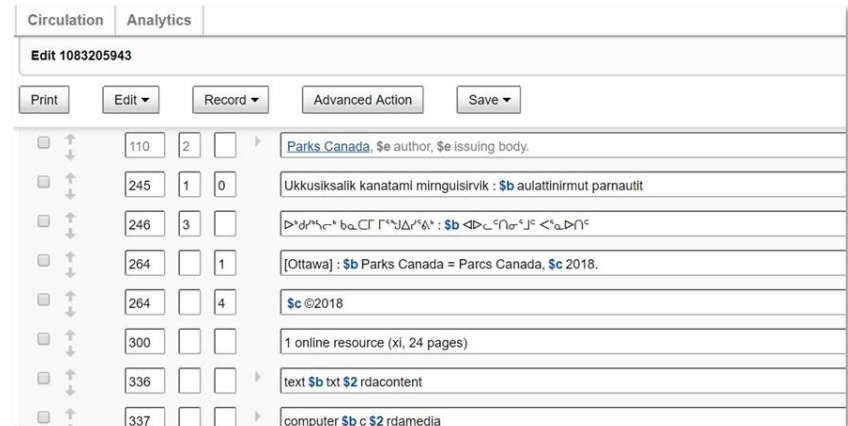
## Immediate changes:

- WMS interface allows for use of syllabics
- 500 note for preferred language not captured in controlled vocabulary

“Stuart Lake is known as Nak’album in Dakelh”

## Broader recommendations:

- Indigenous materials cataloguing/portfolio specialist position
- Indigenous student librarian opportunity (Co-op)



The screenshot shows a library cataloging interface with a table of records. The interface includes tabs for 'Circulation' and 'Analytics', a title 'Edit 1083205943', and buttons for 'Print', 'Edit', 'Record', 'Advanced Action', and 'Save'. The table contains the following records:

Call Number	Volume	Issue	Description
110	2		Parks Canada. \$e author, \$e issuing body.
245	1	0	Ukkusiksalik kanatami minguisirvik : \$b aulattinimut parnaitt
246	3		>^d^c^ ba.CΓ Γ^NΔr^δ^ : \$b <P_c^ño^J^ <^a>P^ñ^
264		1	[Ottawa] : \$b Parks Canada = Parcs Canada, \$c 2018.
264		4	\$c ©2018
300			1 online resource (xi, 24 pages)
336			text \$b txt \$2 rdacontent
337			computer \$b c \$2 rdamedia

# Next steps

- Maintain open lines of communication
  - Consult with the Indigenous Matters Committee Working Group on Subject Headings and Classification; and the Canadian Committee on Cataloguing
- Revise headings currently in CSH authority records
- Add new CSH authority records to provide Canadian alternatives to the LCSH headings
- Change how subject headings are assigned to bibliographic records
- Use First Nations people *and* the name of the specific group of people as appropriate
- Maintain the language equivalent via RVM (Université Laval)
- Change the headings already used in LAC bibliographic records



[bac.normesdecatalogage-cataloguingstandards.lac@canada.ca](mailto:bac.normesdecatalogage-cataloguingstandards.lac@canada.ca)

Description Division, Standards and Systems  
Published Heritage Branch  
Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada

[www.bac-lac.gc.ca](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)

Telephone: 613-996-5115 or 1-866-578-7777 | TTY: 613-992-6969 or 1-866-299-1699

National  
Capital Region

Vancouver  
British Columbia

Winnipeg  
Manitoba

Halifax  
Nova Scotia



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada

Canada