

Infrastructure Through Collaboration: Shared Print Capacity in Canadian Libraries



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*The future of physical collection preservation in Canada lies in collaboration—
moving from local ownership to shared responsibility to safeguard Canadian
heritage.*

North: the Canadian Shared Print Network/ Nord: Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés

Funded By:

Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) – <https://www.carl-abrc.ca/>

Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) –
<https://culc.ca/>

Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL) –
<https://caal.libcal.com/>

**Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries
(COPPUL)** – <https://www.coppul.ca/> (Administrative
Host)



Library and Archives Canada (LAC) – <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>

Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) –
<https://ocul.on.ca/>

Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec
(PBUQ) <https://pbuq.ca/>

Founded in 2021, we are celebrating our 5-year anniversary this year!



- Through collaboration among Canadian libraries, we ensure long-term access to physical library collections, balancing preservation and conservation activities with innovative and practical solutions like digitization to enhance accessibility.
- A distributed, national approach to stewardship. with a focus on protecting, preserving, and providing fair access to Canada's scholarly and cultural record.
- Governed by a Steering Committee & staffed by a Network Coordinator and Data Analysts
- Coordination with regional & international shared print programs (Hathi Trust, West, East, EPICo, SPP etc)

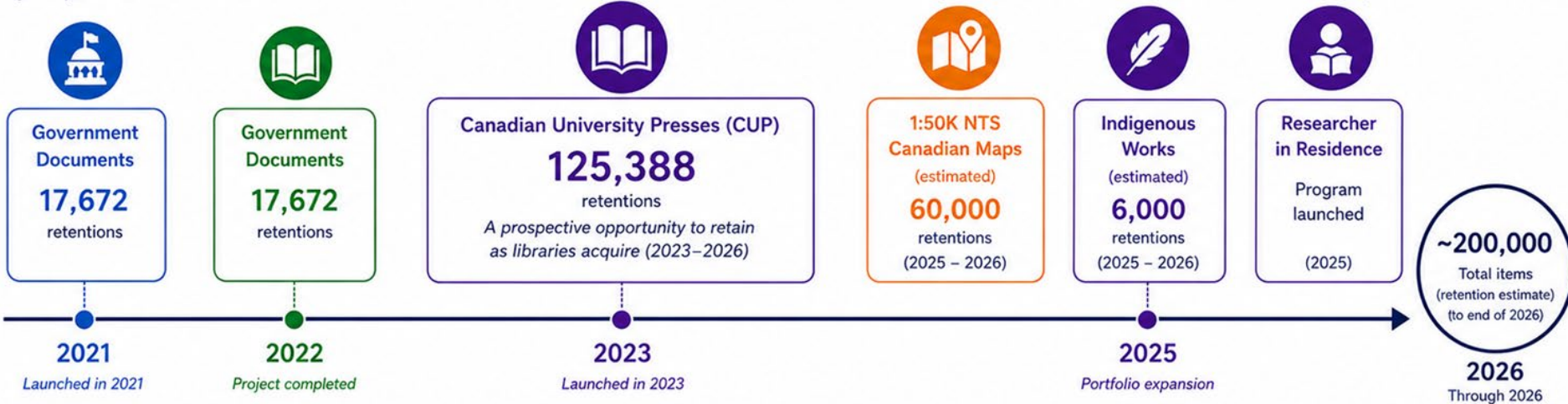
<https://northnordsharedprint.ca/>

North / Nord: 5 Years of Growth and Impact

A shared commitment to preserving Canadian physical library collections



Items Retained to Date by Project and Time Period

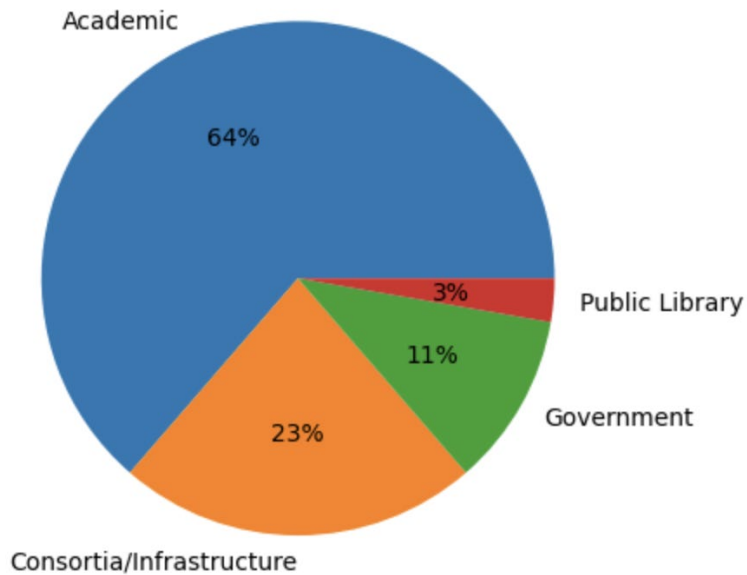


- ~200,000** Total items (retention estimate to end of 2026)
- 5** Major initiatives advancing shared print preservation
- 1** Researcher in Residence program launched in 2025 to advance shared print research and practice
- One shared commitment**
Preserving Canada's physical library collections for the future

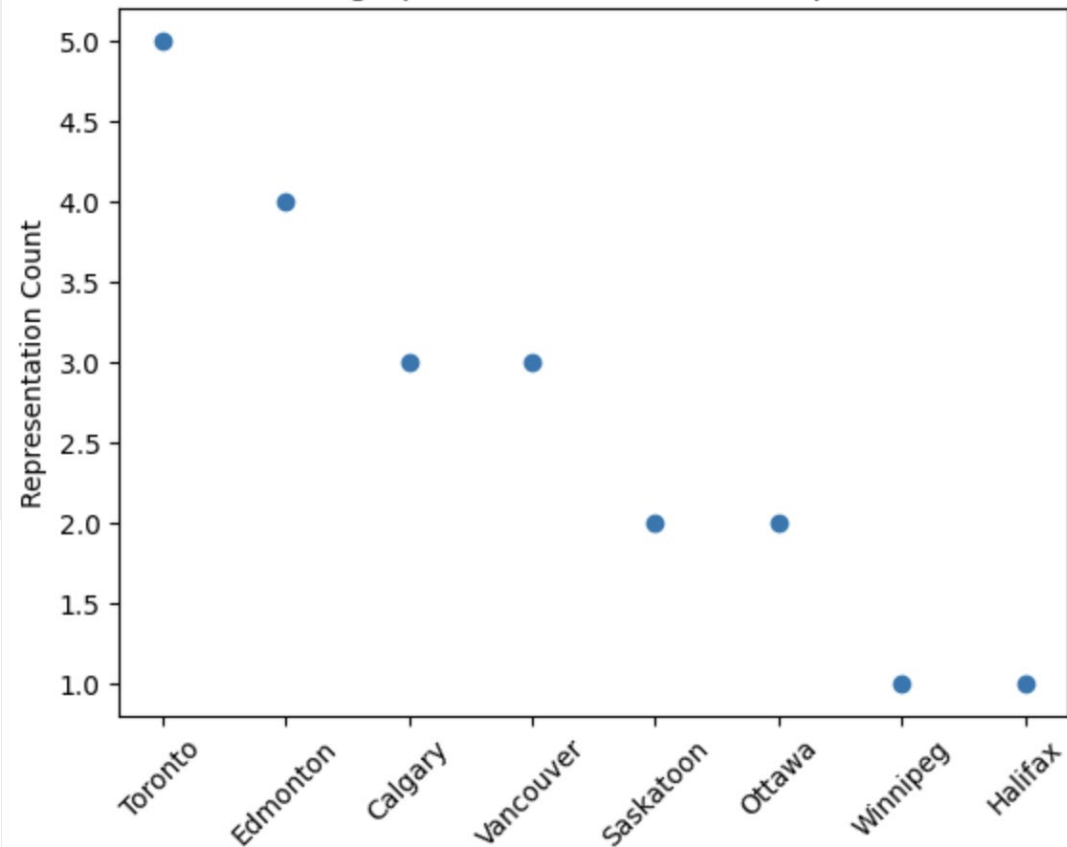
i Note: Figures are retention estimates as of 2026. Estimates for Indigenous Works and 1:50K NTS Canadian Maps are through 2026.

Program Infrastructure: Working Groups

Sector Distribution (North/Nord Working Groups)



Geographic Distribution of Participants



Membership & Benefits

Stronger Together. Further Together.

A national community advancing collaboration, innovation, and stewardship in support of Canadian libraries.



A NATIONAL
COMMUNITY OF
35
MEMBER
LIBRARIES

OUR COMMITMENT



COLLABORATIVE
We achieve more together.



INCLUSIVE
We value diverse voices and perspectives.



RESPONSIBLE
We steward resources and heritage for the future.



IMPACTFUL
We deliver meaningful outcomes for libraries and communities.



BE PART OF THE JOURNEY.

Together, we can build a stronger future for Canadian libraries.



INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Learn more about membership and how to get involved.

north-nord.ca | info@north-nord.ca



MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH/NORD

North/Nord brings together libraries from across Canada to collaborate on shared priorities, leverage collective expertise, and enhance the stewardship of Canada's documentary heritage.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



COLLABORATION

Work together on projects, initiatives, and shared priorities that drive impact.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Access expertise, insights, and best practices from a national network of peers.



EFFICIENCY

Achieve economies of scale and reduce duplication through coordinated approaches.



STEWARDSHIP

Through cooperation and shared stewardship, we safeguard critical academic and historical materials while adopting practical, efficient strategies to support long-term preservation.

OUR MEMBERS

- Library and Archives Canada
- Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
- Federal Science Libraries Network
- Athabasca University
- Atlantic School of Theology
- Brock University
- Carleton University
- Concordia University
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- McGill University
- McMaster University
- Memorial University
- Ottawa Public Library
- Queen's University
- Simon Fraser University
- Toronto Public Library
- Université Laval
- Université de Montréal
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge
- University of Manitoba
- University of New Brunswick
- University of Ottawa
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Toronto
- University of Victoria
- University of Waterloo
- University of Windsor
- Vancouver Island University
- Western University
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- York University

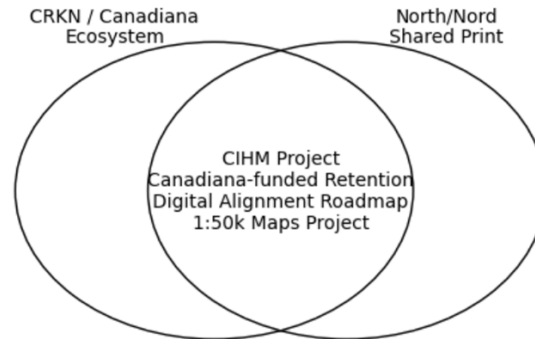


Collaboration with CRKN

Collaborative Projects with/aligned with activities of CRKN

- Delighted to work together with CRKN on a CIHM project
- Invitation to Retain Materials funded under Canadiana Collection Development Projects
- Digital Alignment Shared print Roadmap - with representative from CRKN
- 1:50k topo map project - based on collection digitized in Canadiana (McGill).

Overlap Between CRKN/Canadiana and North/Nord Activities

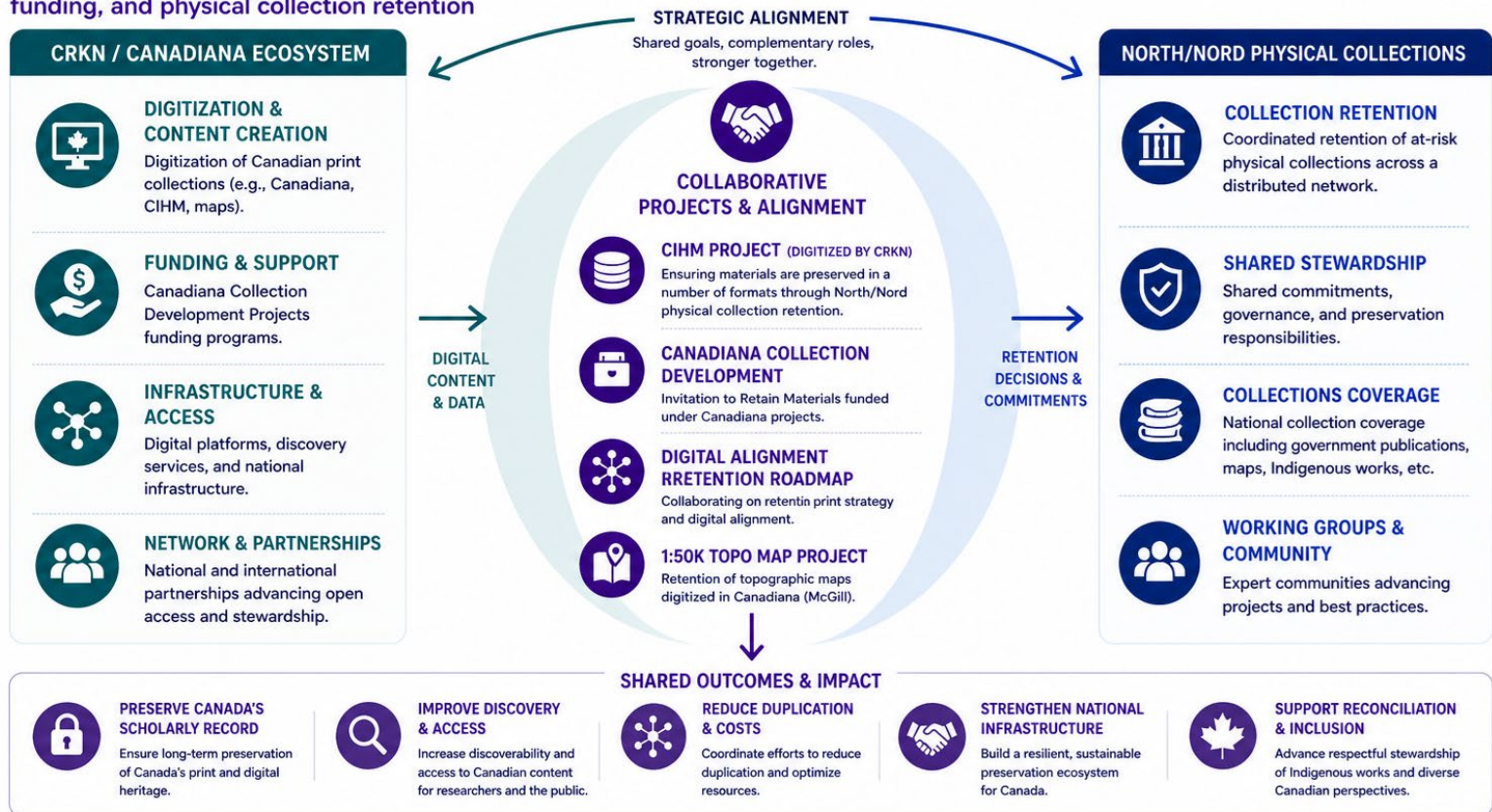


Collaboration with CRKN

NORTH/NORD & CRKN ECOSYSTEM

Working together to connect digitization, funding, and physical collection retention

A collaborative ecosystem that strengthens Canada's scholarly record through coordinated digital and physical preservation.



→ CRKN/Canadiana provides digitized content, funding and infrastructure.

---→ Joint projects and alignment create shared value.

→ North/Nord makes retention commitments and ensures long-term preservation.

Regional Shared Print Programs in Canada:

Preserving Canada's physical collections is now a shared national responsibility, ensuring long-term access, sustainability, and resilience

COPPUL Shared Print Archive Network (SPAN)

- Established in 2012
- 23 member libraries across MB, SK, AB & BC
- Over 1.4 million retentions incl monographs, serials and maps



Keep@Downsview

- Established in 2014
- 5 members + 1 associate member
- Facility-based shared print program that operates out of UTL@Downsview
- Over 200,00 items in our shared collection



KEEP@DOWNSVIEW

Programme de conservation partagée des collections imprimées / Shared Print Preservation Program

- Established in 2021
- 15 French, 3 English universities
- Circulating print books: 1,910,000 titles
- Canadian serials: 27,909 titles
- Distributed model: each institution retains items in their own collections
 - [Link to upcoming webinar on May 29th on the right:](#)



Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities

- **Expand** the scope of shared “print” by experimenting with new formats and embedding one to two persistent library challenges into each project, generating solutions that benefit the collective.
- **Build** on work developed by partner organizations, enabling the ongoing refinement and scaling of effective solutions and workflows.
- **Connect** areas of shared need, foster collaboration, and open these conversations at a national scale.
- Work towards **alignment of digital and print** as well as **culturally sensitive approaches**.

Challenges

- **Metadata:** regardless of whether we rely on GreenGlass or develop inhouse collection analysis solutions, inconsistent metadata will continue to cause issues when de-duplicating records and working with collections.
- **Capacity:** aligning long-term retention commitments with evolving member priorities and capacity constraints.
- **Sustainability:** securing sustainable funding and staffing models that support shared print work into the future.

Thank you!

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