

 Indigenous Editors Association

ANNUAL REPORT
2021 – 2022

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Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

To promote recognition of, and employment access and equity for, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples who work with stories, including editors, writers, knowledge keepers, Elders, language experts, and those with other specialized skills across lands claimed by Canada; and to ensure that publishing projects by, for, and about Indigenous Peoples are Indigenous-led, follow appropriate protocols, and respect Indigenous knowledge systems and Intellectual Property rights.

Vision

Our vision is of a world where Indigenous knowledge is properly valued. We want to see editors, storytellers, and publishing professionals recognized and properly compensated for their knowledge and expertise. Indigenous publishing professionals should have all the resources they need to not only enjoy rewarding careers, but to fulfill their responsibilities to their communities and lands as storytellers, knowledge keepers, and relatives.

Values

Indigenous Peoples and cultures are diverse, and we as individuals bring a diversity of experiences and values to our work. Our communities remain at the centre of the work we do, and our shared values include:

- Respect and responsibility;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Representation and inclusion;
- Accessibility for our Elders, youth, and all our relations.

Key Organizers: Council, Staff & Volunteers, Committees

Council

Niigaanwewidam Sinclair
President

Suzanne Norman
Treasurer

Karon Shmon
President Elect

Rita Bouvier
Member at Large

Jeannette Armstrong
Past President

Amber Boyd
Member at Large

Nadine Ryan
Secretary (Nov – Mar)

June Scudeler
Member at Large (July – present)

Staff & Volunteers

Nadine Ryan
Programming (volunteer: Nov – Apr)
Director (staff: Apr – present)

Rhonda Kronyk
Projects

Jazz Cook
Programming, Projects, Website

Deanna Reder
Advising

Lisa Frenette
Communications, Projects

Rachel Taylor
Advising

Committees

Governance

Karon Shmon (chair), Jeannette Armstrong, Amber Boyd, Jazz Cook, Suzanne Norman, Nadine Ryan

Membership

June Scudeler (chair), Jazz Cook, Lisa Frenette, Nadine Ryan

Finances and Fundraising

Suzanne Norman (chair), Nadine Ryan

Programming and Development

Nadine Ryan (chair), Rita Bouvier, Jazz Cook, Lisa Frenette, Rhonda Kronyk, Karon Shmon, Niigaan Sinclair, Rachel Taylor

Communications

Amber Boyd (chair), Jazz Cook, Nadine Ryan

*A big thank you to our volunteers, staff, and Council
for all your hard work!*

Review of Membership

The IEA's organizational development and activities are driven by the goal of supporting our members to the best of our ability. It's important that our membership has access to opportunities and programming that fosters connection and a sense of support.

Membership Highlights

We are delighted to be receiving more interest in joining the IEA from publishers, writers, allies, and supporters! Currently, the IEA consists of 41 registered members and 19 inaugural members (who joined before the IEA incorporated as a society). Our membership ranges from emerging to established publishing professionals, who are eager and excited to connect across generations and experiences. The ongoing exchange of knowledge between our members, the publishing industry, and the public is crucial to capacity building within all contexts and is central to the decolonizing work IEA members advocate for.

With rising interest and growing numbers, Council members, staff, and volunteers have been working on establishing different categories of memberships and responsibilities that will be inclusive and reflective of Indigenous editors and the editing process. We are also considering the current and evolving controversy over Indigenous identity and developing protocols for affirming Indigenous nationhood. We aim to have these protocols and a membership policy established in the near future.

There is still much room for development and learning, and we hope to implement a membership and volunteer drive next year, to help our staff and volunteers create sustainable programming and services.

Review of Activities

This year focused on launching two foundational projects, funded by Canada Council for the Arts (CCA), to continue our organizational development and support our core projects, program, and services.

Activity Highlights

Social Gatherings

Continuing from last year (2021), the IEA's programming has focused on our recurring social gatherings with IEA Members. These quarterly gatherings have become a core program that offers Indigenous members a safe space for connection and conversation. The average number of registrants is 10, and an average of 5 have people attended each session.

Our volunteers have been sharing the responsibility of leading. Rita Bouvier led our winter (February) and spring (April) gatherings, and Jazz Cook led our summer session (June). Stay tuned for the details of our next gathering. We hope to see new faces there!

CCA Long-Term Project: "Strengthening Creative Capacity"

This year we launched our development project to strengthen our association's foundations and build our creative capacity by researching, developing, and creating administrative and organizational structures and strategies over a 3-year timeline: from May 1, 2022 – April 31, 2025. The bulk of our work this year has been on resource gathering, research, and planning.

Strategic Planning

In August, our Council, staff, and volunteers met for a hybrid (in-person and virtual) strategic planning session to consolidate our work up to this point and have a focused discussion on the IEA's development. We reviewed the IEA's governance structure; discussed and planned the development of policies, protocols, and procedures; and brainstormed plans for the future. The results of

this meeting include our 2022 Strategic Plan, Bylaws review and recommended of amendments, and a draft membership policy.

As we move forward with this project, we will build our capacity to continue our current activities and work towards our future visions and intentions.

CCA Digital Strategy Fund: “Connecting Diverse Publishing Professionals and Employers”

Earlier this year we also launched our Digital Strategy Project to build an accessible and interactive website, tailored to our specific needs. The intention of this project is to transform how Indigenous people in publishing promote themselves and access opportunities with a portal that will also allow us to efficiently manage our memberships’ needs and facilitate connection and education opportunities.

We are excited to welcome Liz Barron to the IEA! Liz will be leading this project, as our contract project manager. Liz is a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation and a member of the Catfish Local, Winnipeg, and has worked for more than 30 years in the arts sector, on various grant-funded projects. She is a senior arts manager, an independent media arts curator and culture connector.

Under Liz’s guidance, the first phase of this project will utilize focus groups and user research to create a prototype, and the second phase aims to migrate our current website into the new portal and explore ways to connect and share with other, similar databases and organizations.

Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in our focus groups!

Jobs Newsletter

A core service we offer our membership is access to the Jobs Newsletter. The Jobs Newsletter provides information on relevant paid opportunities that we think our valued members would be interested in. This service is available to all members of the organization.

This service also benefits the public and employers who are seeking our members’ services. Employers submit their paid opportunities to our Jobs Newsletter via a form on the website. Job postings are reviewed by our staff and volunteers and

then shared with our membership—who have the option of unsubscribing from the Jobs Newsletter at any time.

It's important to note that the IEA makes no recommendations regarding potential employers or employees. Recognizing that our members are at different stages in their careers, we share all paid opportunities that we receive; however, our sharing of a posting does not mean we necessarily endorse the terms or compensation being offered.

Supporters, Collaborators, Partnerships

We are happy to share that we have been connecting with more supporters; and we have been receiving invitations to collaborate and share resources from various organizations and groups. Some new and ongoing connections include: the Association of Canadian Publishers, Editorial Freelancers Association, the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Hansard Services, the Indigenous Curatorial Collective, the Indigenous Voice Awards, Native Women in the Arts, and SaskBooks.

Review of Fundraising Activities

Fundraising Highlights

Recognizing the need for operational support and revitalization from pandemic-related obstacles, we have applied to the Vancouver Foundation's Recovery and Resiliency Fund and are looking for other opportunities to submit to in the coming year. Aside from this, for this year our attention has primarily focused on initiating and managing the two Canada Council-funded grant projects.

We continue to receive donations from members of the public and from our partners through our donation processor on the website.

*We extend our gratitude to the following organizations
for their ongoing support!*

Access Copyright Foundation

Annick Press

Arc Poetry

Association of Canadian Publishers

Brush Education

Canada Council for the Arts

Cree Literacy Network

Fernwood Publishing

Groundwood Books

House of Anansi Press

Invisible Publishing

Literary Press Group of Canada

Metonymy Press

Second Story Press

Simon Fraser University

The City of Vancouver

The Writers' Union of Canada

Wilfrid Laurier University Press

and numerous individual donors.