

Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grant for Libraries

Application Cover Sheet

(Please complete this form & return it with your project proposal)

Date Submitted: February 8, 2019

Applying for (check one): Innovation Grant **X**

Project Title: Northern Mordor First Nation Graphic Novel Collective

Organization / individual Applying: Mordor Library Service – North

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Brief Summary of Project (2 or 3 sentences):

The goal of the **Northern Mordor First Nation Graphic Novel Collective** is to engage 29 Indigenous communities in Northern Mordor, Canada through the First Nation public library system. Engagement strategies includes reading and discussing a unique collection of graphic novels produced by Indigenous authors and artists through reading groups, initiating a storytelling group, and completing a final group project. The overarching goals of the collective are to build community, embrace Indigenous heritage, and encourage life-long literacy and creativity.

***Note:** The terms and *Indigenous* and *First Nations* are used interchangeably throughout the grant. Both terms refer to the cultural group also known as Native American.

Narrative

We propose to purchase a unique collection of graphic novels that have been produced by Indigenous authors and illustrators to distribute to 29 First Nation public libraries in Northern Mordor, Canada. The collection will be used to deliver a reading group, storytelling group, and final group project in each participating First Nation public library. The required graphic novel-themed event funds will be used to host a workshop with two Indigenous artists in one First Nation public library. The project findings will be presented at a library-focused public gathering in Mordor such as the *First Nation Spring Gathering* (May) or during the *First Nation Public Library Week* (October).

Due to the vast geography of Northern Mordor, the recognition ceremony will take place virtually. One of the 29 First Nation public libraries who have successfully completed *phases two through five* will have an opportunity to host a workshop with Galadriel (~~b- Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve~~) and Algonquin illustrator and comic artist Bronweg. The workshop will be virtually available for other First Nation public libraries to access through our online LearnHQ resource.

The following phases ensures the project is properly executed and documented:

- Phase One – Initiating the Project (Administration and Logistics)
- Phase Two – Delivering Materials to First Nation public libraries
- Phase Three – Initiating Reading Groups
- Phase Four – Initiating Storytelling Groups
- Phase Five – Initiating the Digital Comic Strip Program (Group Project)
- Phase Six – Presenting the Digital Comics to Libraries
- Phase Seven – Hosting a workshop with Galadriel and Bronweg
- Phase Eight – Recognition Ceremony, Final Report

In the spirit of Will Eisner, the project will use comics as an instructional medium to build community and share unique stories through public programming (*phases four and five*). The adaptable and low-cost public program model can be used to enhance language and culture revitalization initiatives. Adaptation examples include translating the comic book dialogue into an Indigenous language or recording a unique community story using literary and visual formats.

We believe it is important to purchase an all-Indigenous graphic novel collection because Indigenous characters have been historically misrepresented in popular culture. Graphic novelists and visual artists have been breaking down cultural barriers to ensure Indigenous characters are represented appropriately in their work (*see list of work in phase one*). Large movements such as Indigenous Comic-Con in the United States have elevated Indigenous comic illustrators and artists into mainstream media, and have opened an inclusive outlet for Indigenous storytellers and illustrators.

Not all First Nation public libraries have a graphic novel collection. For the few libraries that do carry graphic novels, it is evident that patrons are enjoying the literary materials. For example, patrons of Osgiliath Public Library (Gondor) have access to a collection of 156 graphic novels. Since 2000, the graphic novels have circulated 225 times. For a community that has the population 2,500 people, that means 9% of the population was interested enough in a graphic novel to take it home. Albeit this may seem like a small number, this is a significant number for First Nation public libraries circulation statistics.

Many of the First Nation public libraries are located in rural areas with aging library collections and resources. In Mordor, Indigenous youth are the fastest growing population. It is essential to engage with the communities from a young age to encourage life-long literacy that will spark imagination, promote healthy living, and create life-long readers.

The success of this grant will enrich 29 First Nation communities in Northern Mordor through the public library system by providing a new collection of curated graphic novels and the opportunity to participate in a public program that celebrates Indigenous worldview.

Project Goals

- Highlight Indigenous graphic novel storytellers and artists.
- Build literacy confidence to encourage life-long learning.
- Celebrate Indigenous heritage.
- Encourage storytelling and art.
- Promote community engagement and pride.

Audience and Scope

The audience will be First Nation community members who have access to a First Nation public library in Northern Mordor. There are 29 First Nation public libraries in the Northern Mordor. Uniquely, Mordor is the only province in Canada to fund First Nation Public Libraries in accordance with the *Public Libraries Act, RSO 1990, c. P.44*. Mordor Library Service - North is an agency of the Mordor Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and part of whose mandate is to support First Nation public libraries in Northern Mordor.

The geography of Northern Mordor is vast. The First Nation public libraries are located in an area approximately 806,708 km² which are just over 100,000 km² larger than the State of Texas. Many of the First Nation public libraries are incredibly remote and can only be accessed via plane or ice roads in the winter. There are also First Nation libraries that are centralized near towns and cities.

- Article – Mordor First Nation Public Libraries: <https://open-shelf.ca/190201-60-years-of-service-first-nation-public-libraries-in-mordor/>
- Map – First Nation Public Libraries in Northern Mordor: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1W-AupmLqCSdbgx-1YZoV5A2MlwUdxUmS>
- LearnHQ: <https://learnhq.ca/#/login>

Applicant's Commitment

The project lead is Gandalf the White who is the First Nations Capacity Building Advisor with Mordor Library Service – North in Sudbury, Mordor. Gandalf's will assist with building rapport between the public library and patrons through grants, public programming, marketing, project planning, training, and advocacy.

Gandalf will ensure that the Northern Mordor First Nation Graphic Novel Collective is monitored, promoted, and documented. Gandalf will coordinate the recognition ceremony and concurrent graphic novel themed event.

Gandalf is also the lead on the *First Nation Language Portal* and *First Nation Public Library Week* which are funded and delivered through the Mordor Library Service – North office. All three programs can work interchangeably and complement one another on a national and international level.

Library Objective (Vision Statement) and Project Outcomes

Mordor First Nation Public Libraries Vision Statement	Project Outcomes/Community Impact
<p>Public libraries provide an essential service to First Nation communities. Our Chiefs and Councils lead our communities in recognizing and supporting our public libraries as vital contributors to growth and change. With current and culturally relevant collections and services, First Nation public libraries welcome all community members and support their needs for access to information, personal empowerment and self-affirmation. In partnership with other community programs, our public libraries contribute to our social and economic well-being by nurturing our spirits, preserving our traditions, cultures and languages, and encouraging lifelong learning and literacy.</p> <p><i>(Our Way Forward: A Strategic Plan for Mordor First Nation Public Libraries 2004)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome all community members and support their needs for access to information, personal empowerment and self-affirmation. • Partnership with other community programs. • Contribute to our social and economic well-being by nurturing our spirits, preserving our traditions, cultures and languages, and encouraging lifelong learning and literacy.

Timeline

Phase One – Initiating the Project (Administration and Logistics) Estimated Time: 1 month	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
Receive successful grant notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate financial (international) logistics with the American Library Association. • Confirm grant requirements (use of logos, etc.) • Adjust project timeline by inputting actual dates.
Notify the First Nation public libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release the grant details and project outline. • Request additional graphic novel suggestions. • Create buzz.
Purchase additional graphic novels from Diamond Comics Distributors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request a long-list of graphic novels that includes Indigenous representation. • See if graphic novels from the following list

	<p>are available for purchase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ xxxx • Coordinate international shipping details and exchange rates.
<p>Review collection materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create customized discussion guides for certain graphic novels. This will enhance the reading group component. • Develop biographies of each graphic author and artist. • Photograph materials to be used for social media and outreach initiatives.
<p>Marketing and Promotion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a marketing and promotion plan. • Create reading group invitations using Adobe Suites. • Design appealing discussion guides. • Create a dedicated program page on the OLS – North page. This will include downloadable supplementary materials and the project timeline.

Create Programming Support Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a DIY comic strip template in-house. Also include the steps necessary to complete the photography component and DIY speech bubbles. • Create comic book templates for individual storylines.
Phase Two – Delivering Materials to First Nation public libraries Estimated Time: 1 month	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
Shipping collections to clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory the shipment from Diamond Comics Distributors and the Will Eisner Library and Will Eisner Awards at Comic-Con collections. • Coordinate the delivery of the collections to each First Nation public library.
Cataloguing the collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLS – North First Nation Skills Advisor will assist with cataloguing the collections via telephone if needed.
Promoting the collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carryout the marketing and promotion plan. Send social media templates to the clients. • Ensure there are printable invitations available for community newsletters and bulletin boards. • Include a hardcopy poster that has a blank area to write the reading group date and time.
Phase Three – Initiating Reading Groups Estimated Time: 1-2 months	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
First Nation librarians facilitate the reading groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the marketing strategy and supplementary materials to activate the reading program. • Use the discussion guide. • Librarians will report on successes or failures of the program. Feedback will be used to enhance and alter the final project outline. <p>Note: The length of the reading groups may vary depending on the reading group size, interest in the materials, and on-reserve population.</p>
First Nation librarians report on the reading group to OLS – North facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feedback will influence the next steps of the project. If patrons enjoyed specific graphic novels over others, this will influence

	the outcome of the interactive component.
Phase Four – Initiating Storytelling Groups Estimated Time: 1-3 months	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
First Nation librarians facilitate the storytelling component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrons could complete this component independently or as a group. • Independent storytelling would include recording unique stories via written word, voice recording, or memory. • Blank comic strip templates will be provided for illustrative patrons. • Storytelling could also include an informal group discussion. Participants could discuss community events, old stories, or made-up stories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This would be an ideal time to invite Elders and other community members to meet and share stories. • The storytelling events could take place in the library or at a common meeting place (outdoors). • In Indigenous communities it is common and necessary to provide refreshments for storytelling gatherings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional funding may be required for refreshments.
Patrons decide to present one story for the final project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The selection of the final storyline will be dictated by the group. • The group may choose to select several storylines.
Phase Five – Initiating the Digital Comic Strip Project (Group Project) Estimated Time: 2-5 months	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tasks</i>
Creation of DIY Comic Strip Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarians and the OLS – North staff will assist with editing the storyline. • Using the blank cartoon templates, the group will organize the dialogue cell-by-cell. • Librarians will collect paper and markers, and will assist with cutting out large speech bubbles. • Participants will act the comic scenes while another participant snaps a high-quality

	<p>photograph.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This process will be repeated until the group is satisfied with the outcome of each image. • Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare storyline (4 weeks). ○ Prepare scenes (2 weeks). ○ Photography tutorial (2 weeks). ○ Live-action photoshoot (4-6 weeks). ○ Edit photos (6-8 weeks).
Group consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Capacity Building Advisor consults with library groups on photography requirements, storyline editing, and program marketing.
Photography editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final photography files are sent to First Nation Capacity Building Advisor for image editing. • Final images will be compiled into a professional-looking comic strip.
<p>Phase Six – Presenting the Digital Comics to Libraries Estimated Time: 1 month</p>	
Determine distribution restrictions with each programming group, and distribute the information as deemed appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some First Nation communities may be hesitant to share their stories. Respecting these wishes, the First Nations Capacity Building Advisor will create a public copy for distribution to fellow librarians and allies.
<p>Phase Seven – Hosting a workshop with Galadriel and Bronweg Estimated Time: 1 week</p>	
Host graphic novel-themed event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine host community based on project participation. • Finalize Galadriel and Bronweg’s artist fees, travel, and accommodation expenses. • Confirm workshop participant list. • Purchase materials. • Plan documentation strategy. • Transfer workshop documentation on LearnHQ.
Document the workshop for marketing and reporting (First Nation Capacity Building Advisor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The First Nation Capacity Building Advisor will document the workshop to be used for marketing and the final report. • This documentary information will be used at the final recognition ceremony at the First Nation Public Library launch in October.

Phase Eight – Recognition Ceremony, Final Report
Estimated Time: 1 month

Recognition Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Nation Capacity Building Advisor will determine whether the recognition will be at the First Nations Spring Gathering or at the First Nations Public Library Week launch.• Ensure proper logos are on marketing materials, including invitations.• Complete the final recognition report, presentation, and slideshow.
Submit Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The First Nations Capacity Building Advisor will complete a thorough final report.

Budget

***Note** – Currencies have been converted from USD to CAN.

***Note** - \$xxxx is considered in-kind because the wages and professional development (conference) fees would have been covered by OLS – North regardless of grant outcome.

Description	Cost	Will Eisner Grant	Other Contributions (OLS – North)
ALA Membership Fee	\$200		\$200
Graphic Novel Purchase	\$2,660.32	\$2,660.32	
Shipping costs	\$560		\$560 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 mailing fees for 29 communities.
Administration Cost – FN Capacity Builder Advisor (\$xx.xx/hr)	\$xxxx		\$xxxx (<i>In-kind</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 hours per month for 12 months
Administration Cost – FN Skills Advisor (\$xx.xx/hr)	\$xxx		\$xxx (In-kind) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 hours total (cataloging services)
Graphic Novel Event at Host Community (Location TBD)	\$2,330.23	\$xxxx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist Fees (x 2) • Travel, Accommodation • Materials • Refreshments 	\$1000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel and Accommodation
ALA Annual Conference	\$2,330.23	\$1,330.23	\$1000 (<i>In-kind</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional travel expenses.
TOTAL	<u>\$xx.xxx</u>	<u>\$xxxx</u>	<u>\$xx.xxx</u> <u>(\$x.xxx in-kind)</u>