

PRESS RELEASE

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SPL EMPLOYEES WIN PRESTIGIOUS ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (OLA) TECHNICAL SERVICES AWARD

[Stratford, February 3, 2025] – Sherri Bennewies and Lorraine Gordon, both Library Technicians at the Stratford Public Library, were honoured with the Technical Services Award at the OLA Library Awards Gala, which was held in conjunction with the annual Ontario Library Association Super Conference last week in Toronto.

Awarded to a Library technician or department that has made a substantial contribution to their institution or the library profession, the provincial Library Technical Services award recognizes those who help with the efficiencies and improved access to materials.

Bennewies and Gordon were recognized for their groundbreaking work in updating outdated Indigenous and LGBTQ+ subject headings in the library catalogue, reflecting contemporary language and promoting inclusivity.

"The library is committed to updating our catalogue to ensure it reflects respectful, culturally appropriate terminology," explained Krista Robinson, SPL CEO. "Both initiatives represent our commitment to eliminating harmful stereotypes and fostering positive change within our library system. It's one of several steps we're taking to enhance representation and create a more inclusive library environment for all patrons. We are very proud of the work Sherri and Lorraine have done – the award is very well deserved."

The efforts of Gordon and Bennewies extend beyond Stratford, improving the discoverability of materials across all libraries in Perth County. The subject heading updates are integrated into the Perth County Information Network catalogue, which serves five public libraries: Stratford, St. Mary's, North Perth, Perth East, and West Perth.

For more information about SPL's programs, catalogue, and ongoing initiatives, please visit www.splibrary.ca.

The library is dedicated to being an equitable, safe, and welcoming space where everyone can explore, learn, create, connect, and be inspired, in line with its mission.

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If you would like more information, please contact Sara Bradford, Marketing Coordinator at 519-271-0220 x123 or sbradford@splibrary.ca