

Public Library Development Initiative Project Grant Report Form

1.	Name of Library Board/ Organization reporting
Strathcona County Library Board	
2.	Name of Project receiving funds
PAGES: A learning forum on supporting readers through partnerships	
3.	Project outline - Please outline the goals and objectives of your original project proposal. What community need was the project intended to meet? What aspect of library service was being provided by the project?
<p>The goals of the project, as stated in the original grant application, were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create partnerships amongst professionals who actively work with readers, primarily library staff but also adult educators, ESL teachers, school teachers, book reviewers, book sellers and the media • To inspire front line staff in libraries and other venues to provide enthusiastic and competent service to all readers by implementing new ways to address the literacy and reading needs of Albertans, through the use of the Supernet and other technology, in-person interactions, indirect service methods such as merchandizing, literacy programs such as One City One Book, and community partnerships • To promote the importance of literacy, and to promote the love of reading and the role that front line staff play in helping Albertans of all ages and reading interests • To offer affordable training in a convenient local venue for front line staff whose organizations do not have adequate funding to support their attendance at conferences • To feature national and international experts so that knowledge and recent research on the topics of literacy, reading, reading research, reader development and readers advisory services, is shared amongst practitioners and researchers, and that thereby partnerships are strengthened. • To explore sharing conference content for province-wide training through such possibilities as a shared content management system like the resource sharing portal toolkit recently launched by LILAC (the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library 	

Information Literacy and Awareness Committee), videoconferencing via Supernet, or LAA and the Education Institute.

This project was intended to provide an opportunity for individuals who work with readers in a variety of contexts to meet and network, discuss readers and their needs, learn about literacy and readers advisory, and be inspired in their work. In particular, the focus of the event was on enabling people from different disciplines to share ideas and develop partnerships with each other. This type of event supports library staff in their readers' advisory work, as well as other areas associated with readers including outreach, collection development, and merchandizing. In this case, the benefits were felt beyond the libraries field as attendees also represented several other disciplines.

4. Were there community or library partners involved in the implementation of this project? If so, who were they and what was their role?

- **Edmonton Public Library**—Two planning committee members, provided facilities and equipment, paid speaker's fee for Nancy Pearl
- **University of Alberta Canadian Literature Centre**—provided airfare and accommodation for Eleanor Wachtel
- **University of Alberta School of Library & Information Studies**—One planning committee member, contributed to the budget
- **Strathcona County Library**—Two planning committee members, wrote the application, provided the website, handled the budget, wrote the final report

Registrants for this event represented a huge variety of groups and institutions, including:

- public libraries
- academic libraries
- public schools and school libraries
- social service organizations (John Howard Society, Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton, Mennonite Centre for Newcomers)
- Publishers, booksellers, and magazines
- University and College departments (including both faculty and students)
- library boards
- regional libraries
- The Writers Guild of Alberta.

5. What is the current status of the project?

Complete: November 14, 2008

6. Do you have any plans to share the results of your project? What are they?

The PAGES website (<http://pages.sclibrary.ab.ca>) will continue to be used to share information and outcomes from the project. The final project report will be available online. The website can also serve as a vehicle for continuing partnerships among the various individuals and groups who attended. Information about any future PAGES events will be shared using the website, as well as the existing e-mail list created for the first event.

7. Did the project achieve the intended goals and objectives?

This project achieved the intended goals and objectives. Over 200 professionals and interested members of the public attended this free event. This event included presentations by keynote speakers Nancy Pearl, librarian and author of Booklust; and Eleanor Wachtel, of CBC Radio. Eleven other speakers and panelists presented on such diverse topics as digital and gaming narratives and literacies; genres of books including romances and graphic novels; and the role of writers in their communities.

The comments from attendees were extremely positive and emphasized the excellent and inspiring presentations, the value of the community focus, and the opportunity to forge new relationships with other professionals who work with readers. The attendees' appreciation for the event was clearly demonstrated in their comments.

"A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising this. It was an amazing day and I learned so much from the presenters and met people I would not otherwise have met."

"I can't stress enough how great this conference was! I really hope it can be offered regularly - it has so much more relevance for the front-line staff at a library than other conferences available in Alberta, and the one day length makes it more realistic to send people to."

"Great day, I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was one of those times in my work that bring joy to my heart - thank you."

As well, in the project description of our application we stated, "The objective of the pilot is to

test the potential for a scalable recurring forum on this topic, along the lines of Kaleidoscope and Netspeed." We found that there would definitely be a demand for such an event. In response to the survey distributed after the event, 100% of the respondents said they saw value in having the event recur on a regular basis.

8. Were there any unanticipated results of the project, either positive or negative? What did you learn as a result of receiving this grant?

We were impressed and surprised by the enthusiastic response, which included over 220 individual registrations from a very wide range of institutions.

We were also pleased to discover that there was considerable demand for readers' advisory events, as 100% of the attendees who completed our online survey after PAGES indicated that it would be worthwhile to continue the event.

9. Please provide any documentation, reports, promotional materials or evaluations of the project

The website for the event, including information on presenters and sessions, is still available at **<http://pages.sclibrary.ab.ca>**.

Attached you will find the following additional documentation:

- a) Results of an event evaluation survey, completed by attendees between Nov. 19 and Dec. 8, 2008
- b) Promotional poster, which appeared in libraries and at the University of Alberta, and was distributed electronically

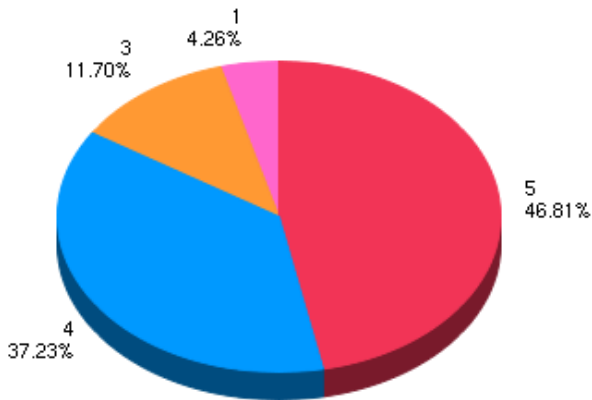
10. What are your future plans for continuing or retaining this program or project?

We are hopeful that we will be able to continue this event in the future. Preliminary planning is underway for a second PAGES event.

Attachment A: Event Evaluation Survey Results

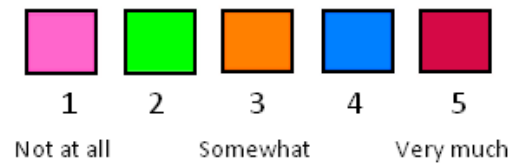
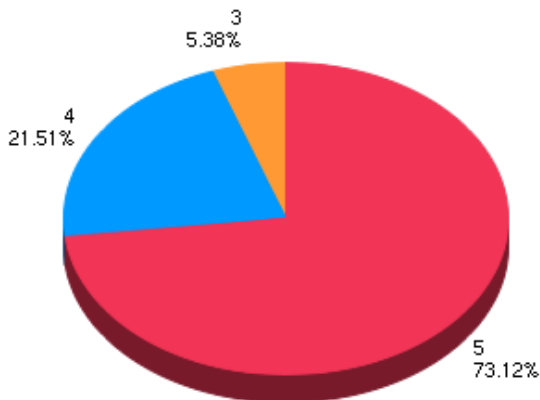
94 respondents (more than 1/3 of event attendees) completed this survey between Nov. 19 and Dec. 8, 2008. Each individual question was answered by at least 89 of those 94 respondents. The evaluation survey was hosted by SurveyGizmo, which is also the source of the results data.

1. Did you have a chance to meet/talk with/listen to someone else who works with readers?



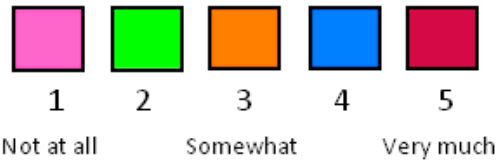
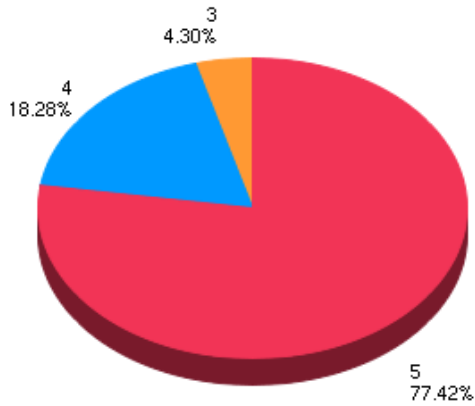
94 responses

2. To what extent did this conference inspire you in providing service to readers?



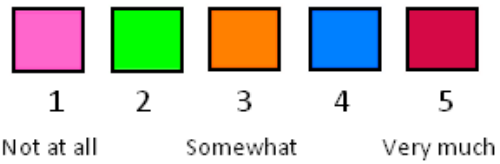
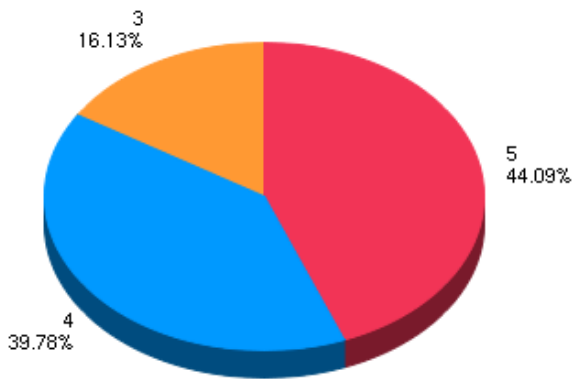
93 responses

3. To what extent did this conference encourage a sense of the importance of reading in people's lives?



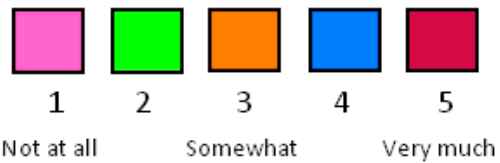
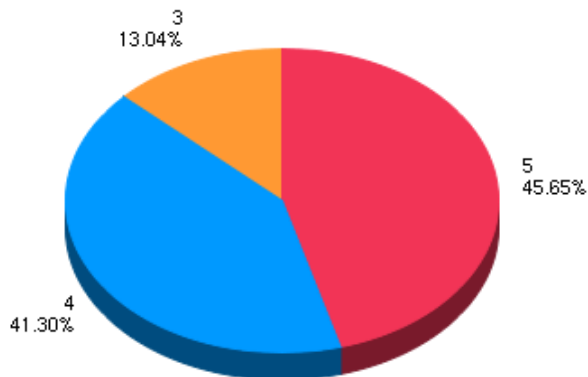
93 responses

4. To what extent did this conference underscore your sense of your own importance in the lives of readers?



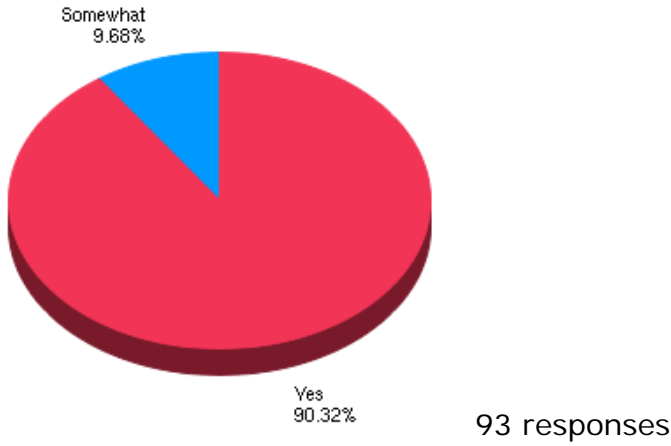
93 responses

5. To what extent did this conference succeed in presenting research and knowledge about reading?

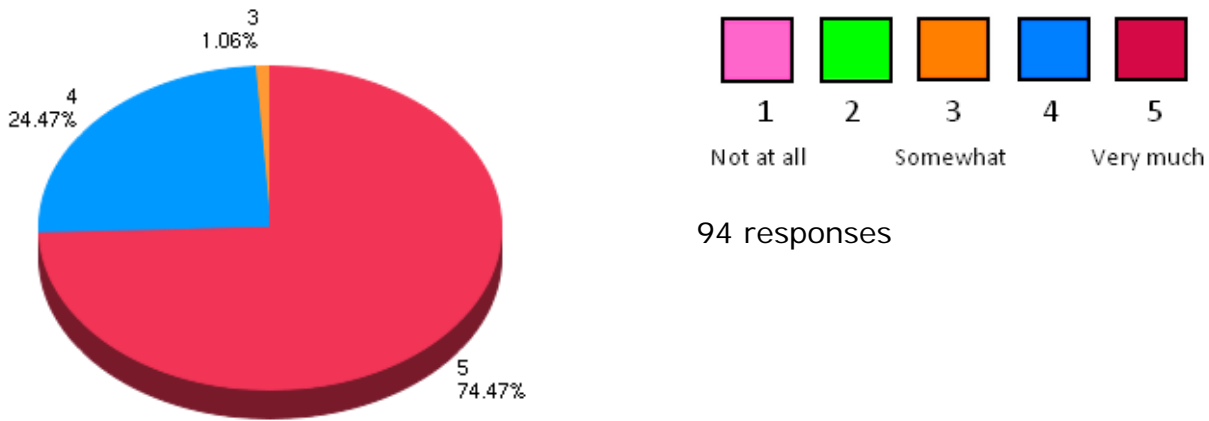


92 responses

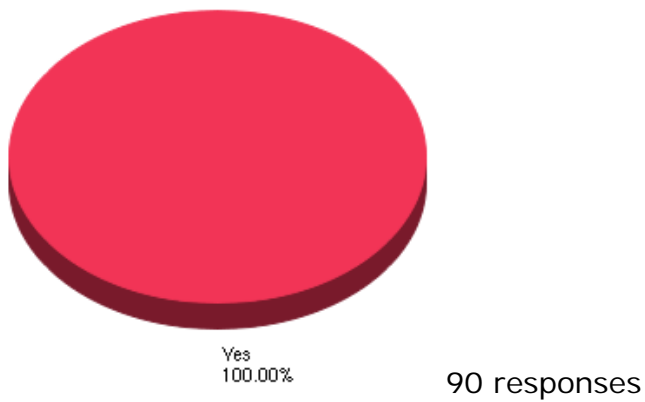
6. Was the venue convenient?



7. Did the calibre of the presenters meet your expectations?



8. Do you see a value in having this event recur on a regular basis, similar to Kaleidoscope or Netspeed?



9. Do you think you would have benefited from having the content from this event available in other formats? (For example, video-conferencing, podcasts, or online versions of presentations.) If "Yes," please provide suggestions or examples.

89 responses
34% - No
64.97% - Yes

Sample responses:

- A podcast of the sessions by Nancy Pearl and Eleanor Wachtel would be fun to share with staff who could not attend.
- Definitely video conferencing would be fantastic in terms of sharing this conference with other professionals. Perhaps also transcriptions of the speeches would have been useful (but of course very time consuming).
- I think it's important to offer online/electronic versions of presentations. It's a way you can actually attend all of the great sessions. Unfortunately this isn't an option for the panel discussions but I would like to know what Gail de Vos presented in her graphic novel session.
- I was only able to attend the first session, so being able to access things in other formats would have been great. There were also some session that would be incredibly valuable for other staff members, where it would be awesome to be able to have them watch or read summaries of it.
- video or audio to view or listen to again; perhaps a wiki where participants could begin the discussion prior to the event and/or continue the discussion post event with the speakers/presenters/panel members.

10. Feel free to provide any additional comments:

Complete list of responses:

- It was nice to put a face to the names of local peopel who are active in our community. Eg. face behind Lagacy magazine or voice behind CKUA's bookmark.
- Alternate formats can be helpful, but the primary benefit of an event like this is the opportunity to see and speak with presenters and attendees in person. The networking aspect was the most valuable part of the event. I was not able to attend the full day, but I was still able to get lots out of it. Hope this is the beginning of a regular (annual?) event. Thanks very much for hosting this.
- The afternoon panel discussion was not nearly as good as the morning panel.
- Timing not great - too close to Kaleidoscope. Also shouldn't be in a short week (Remembrance Day). Other than that, good conference overall.
- It would be nice to have a session that includes nonfiction or materials for young adults/children.
- Congratulations! The conference was informative and inspirational. Also, it was extremely well run. I appreciated the enormous generosity of Nancy Pearl and the organizers in making themselves available to delegates for questions and discussion. Thank you

- It was a wonderful day. I came away energized and relaxed(!) I would love to see this conference held again.
- I appreciated the opportunity of attending this inservice. Although retired for four years from the Edmonton Public School Board, I have discussed much of what I learned at the conference to my book club (it is celebrating it's 20th year), to my teacher friends and to my son who is in his second year of teaching a Literacy Class.
- I enjoyed the experience although I did find the coffee break space very noisy.
- I would have liked to hear how Eleanor Wachtel would describe herself as a reader, and what reader-support she recieved/recieves. Also, a presenter on young readers and avid readers.
- Difficult concept to get across to the presenters...the idea of "the reader" not the writer. More personal stories about the Importance of the Reading experience, from all the presenters could have helped the "theme of the conference.
- What a fantastic conference! I learned so much and I really enjoyed myself. Thank you so much!
- Great event the only improvement would be to have a coat rack available.
- This was a wonderful conference - thank you to the organizers! After my raving about how great it was, my colleagues are definitely interested in attending in future years. I'm looking forward to that as well. It's possible that you might need a larger venue and should consider making it a paid event. It's definitely worth it!
- Having a decent break time was nice for networking with staff from other library systems. If it were to be a regular thing then it wouldn't need to be annually, maybe more like Kaleidoscope.
- Thanks very much for opening to the public. Good to have this collaborative approach.
- I really enjoyed this conference although the space used for the intersession breaks was very noisy.
- Many thanks! I needed to be in touch with people who are also readers, and know that I'm not alone! EPL Main Branch was MOST convenient for me, hope that being so central was helpful for lots of other folks too. Thank you again - great content, great presentations, great people!
- This was a very worthwhile conference. I was awakened to the importance of readers' advisory in libraries and how we can provide an improved service to our patrons, while improving our own skills and knowledge. Thank you very much for this opportunity.
- Thank you for a fantastic conference.
- Thank you so much for doing this. It was a wonderful event.
- Thank you for a fantastic day!
- It was really great. I would like to participate in the organization of such an event.
- This was an excellent event. The main speakers were eloquent and fascinating. I felt inspired and energized by the end of the day's activities.
- Thank you so much for this inspirational day!
- There was a good blend of writer and reader information.
- it was exciting, informative and rewarding to attend this session
- Thanks for everyone's work in organizing this! I really, really enjoyed the Keynote presentations. The panels I attended were less interesting for me personally.
- Nancy Pearl was excellent! Eleanor Wachtel was interesting and presented well but the information was not useful for my job. The other presenters varied from okay to good.

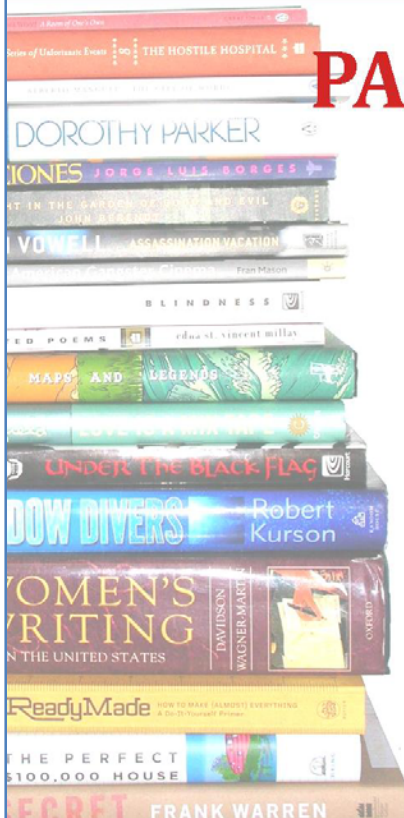
- Great idea! Very well planned! A wonderful day in all respects! Thank you to all members of the planning committee!
- It was exciting to be in a roomful of people who shared my interest in books and (perhaps) some of my political views.
- I was only able to attend the afternoon session I would have liked to attend the full day
- A number of topics sounded interesting on the program for me, Eleanor Wachtel's talk certainly being one of them. I enjoyed Eleanor Wachtel, but I found Nancy Pearl, whom I had never heard of, so incredible! I could have left after her keynote talk and felt that the day was amazingly worthwhile. She is a wonderfully inspiring woman. She has a warm and down to earth manner with the audience make others feel good about themselves as well as her. Listening to Nancy made me wish I were a librarian! (I'm an ESL instructor.) Thank you for arranging for her to be the keynote speaker at the conference! I'm SO glad I was able to attend!
- it was promised that the link to nancy pearl's paper about her construct for books would be posted on the large program info outside the auditorium-it was not there when we left and we would appreciate receiving it, Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend this first-rate workshop
- It was an amazing day! Please hold Pages again. I came back to my workplace with useful and applicable tools, as well as new inspiration. Thank you!
- This was the best, best mini conference that EPL has offered for years. Much better than the PD speakers we've listened to. PAGES was truly inspiring!! Thank you all for an excellent job.
- I thought this event was great from start to finish. Well done!
- Some sessions felt that they were rushed . ie the sessions with panels. 1 hours just wasn't enough time for them to present their positions and then have questions asked. Overall I felt that the conference was excellent and well organized. Thank you to the team for organizing this great presentation and well organized event.
- Very well organized and the presenters were excellent. It was not widely advertised beyond the Library community, U of AB students as far as I could tell although of most interest to staff working in the reader's advisory field. Were bookstore employees invited? A hard act to follow!
- The speakers were fantastic - it would be so great to have a "Kaleidoscope for adults" every few years
- I was extremely pleased with the speakers and the information they had to give. I understand the importance of a green approach but wonder if a single sheet handout with contact information for the speakers plus web addresses that pertained to the different topics covered could have been made available at the conference. I eagerly went to the internet to get this information only to find it impossible to find the Pages site. I didn't find it until this evaluation arrived in my email. This is a minor point considering the excellence of the conference. Thank you.
- Nancy Pearl was a revelation. It made me think about Reader's Advisory in a whole new way...
- Great day, I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was one of those times in my work that bring joy to my heart - thank you.

- I am now retired but continue to be engaged with and interested in reading, writing, writers, and readers. I was very grateful to be able to attend the PAGES conference. I applaud the calibre and choice of presenters and topics.
- It was a good day for RA. We would have been happier to pay a little money for a bag lunch. The oranges were a treat. Nancy Pearl was a pleasure and an education. Thank you for organizing this day.
- Fantastic symposium! Enlightening, inspiring, and entertaining!
- The 4 doorways into a book as described by Nancy Pearl provides an easy way to categorize and think books and will make providing services to readers' less daunting. Now i can pick up almost any book, read the back and know which doorway of access it belongs to.
- I was there as a citizen and avid library user and reader so some of these questions don't apply to me. I loved both the key note speakers. Fabulous. thanks for a wonderful day.
- I can't stress enough how great this conference was! I really hope it can be offered regularly - it has so much more relevance for the front-line staff at a library than other conferences available in Alberta, and the one day length makes it more realistic to send people to. (And charging us would be just fine if there wasn't magical government money coming in).
- Thank you.
- It was a great event. Thank you.
- I only attended the Nancy Pearl session, due to some scheduling problems of mine, so answers are based on that. I was sorry not to be there for the whole day. Great work!
- A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising this. It was an amazing day and I learned so much from the presenters and met people I would not otherwise have met. The presentations were also a good mix of "reading" needs and varieties.
- Nancy Pearl- WOW! Thank you so much!
- I think it was a wonderful day - Nancy Pearl was particularly inspiring! And I enjoyed the panel that included Sharon Budnarchuk giving a bookseller's perspective. The weakest of the sessions I attended was the afternoon one with a panel of Todd Babiak, a woman who runs an on-line magazine, and Linda Goyette. Although the speakers comments were interesting I think that they needed more direction re their presentations. Their remarks were minimal -only about 5 minutes each - so there was way too much reliance on the question period to raise discussion points.

Attachment B: Promotional poster

PAGES

*A learning forum on
supporting readers
through partnerships*



PAGES

is a free one-day workshop on supporting readers through partnerships.

We welcome librarians, reviewers, teachers, authors, booksellers and readers to create partnerships and explore service with other professionals who actively work with readers.

Featuring keynote speakers Eleanor Wachtel, of CBC Radio's *Writers & Company*; and Nancy Pearl, librarian and author of *Book Lust*.

This event is free, but registration is required.

Date: November 14, 2008

Location: Stanley A. Milner Library, Edmonton

For more information, or to register, visit our website:

<http://pages.sclibrary.ab.ca>