



FNBFA Statement on the Appointment of the Executive Director of the New Brunswick Public Library Service

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA), representing 1 500 public university full-time and part-time faculty, librarians and researchers in New Brunswick, wishes to express its concern about the recent appointment of a non-librarian as the Executive Director of the New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS).

The Executive Director, known as the “Provincial Librarian” in the *New Brunswick Public Libraries Act*, is responsible for a network of 63 libraries across the province. New Brunswick’s public libraries are highly valued, and recent research has shown a marked increase in public library use.

It is impossible to reconcile the fact that the job listing advertising the position of Executive Director of the NBPLS called for essential qualifications, including a Master’s degree in library or information studies, as well as eight years of experience in that domain, with the fact that the selected applicant does not hold such a degree, nor that he possesses the required experience.

Public librarians, such as our academic librarian colleagues from the FNBFA member associations, the Association of the University of New Brunswick Teachers and the Mount Allison Faculty Association, are required to earn a graduate degree from an institution accredited by the American Library Association to be able to practice their profession. This degree is the first step in a career of public service that can only be learned in libraries. The education and expertise of professional librarians is fundamental to a strong public library system that serves the public good.

Having librarians at the most senior levels of leadership in libraries is essential. Experienced librarians are aware of the key issues facing public libraries and can advocate for library services at the highest levels of government and guide political leaders in the decision-making process. The move to de-professionalize the leadership of our public library system is a threat to professional librarians, to libraries and to the public.

The FNBFA therefore raises serious questions about the selection process leading to the appointment of a non-librarian as the head of NBPLS.

The [Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations](#) (FNBFA) represents the interests of professors, contract academic staff professional librarians and researchers at the New Brunswick’s four public universities. It advocates the advancement of the standards of their profession and seeks to improve the quality of higher education in the province.
