

## 9 Closing Remarks

The Task Force has outlined a number of recommendations for EPL to consider in its efforts to meet the library service and program needs of the Aboriginal community. If accepted and implemented, EPL would be reaching some of the goals that it has established for itself. Specifically, it will be taking steps to ensure that:

- Collections will meet the needs of all sectors of the population.
- High-quality programs and services will be tailored to the needs of the community.
- Staff development will be enhanced.
- High-quality customer service will be provided.
- Partnerships will be encouraged as a means of providing extended service to the community.
- An advocacy strategy will be designed to increase awareness of the library's mission, roles and issues.<sup>81</sup>

Just as important, EPL will be building stronger connections with the Aboriginal community, and hopefully, become a place where more members of the Aboriginal community feel welcome, comfortable, and supported.

**From the experience gained by the Task Force, it is evident that community participation is essential.** "Community" includes the Aboriginal community, EPL staff at all levels, the non-Aboriginal community, potential funders, and government departments. EPL needs to invite community members to gatherings, meetings and programs, and take more steps to welcome them into the library. Doing so will help to ensure that library services for the Aboriginal community meet their needs, are sustained over the long-term, and become an integral part of EPL service.