



News Release

August 6, 2021

Ottawa Public Library – Library and Archives Canada Joint Facility named *Ādisōke* by Anishinābe Algonquin Nation

At an event on August 5, 2021 the official name was announced for the Ottawa Public Library – Library and Archives Joint Facility. Anishinābe Algonquin Nation, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation gave the name *Ādisōke* for the facility. On hand to honour the name of the new facility were Mayor Jim Watson, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and MP for Ottawa Centre, and Councillor Matthew Luloff, Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board.

Ādisōke is an Anishinābemowin word that refers to the telling of stories. Storytelling is the traditional means by which Indigenous Peoples share knowledge, culture and history over generations. *Ādisōke* is a meaningful and fitting name for the joint facility, as storytelling represents the coming together of knowledge, history, discovery, culture, creativity, collaboration, and connections. *Ādisōke* also evokes what is at the heart of the partner institutions: Library and Archives Canada as a keeper of Canadian and Indigenous stories, and Ottawa Public Library's use of stories to build community and transform lives, inspiring learning, sparking curiosity, and connecting people.

The site for the joint facility is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation, who have lived in the area since time immemorial. Elders and Members of the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation are important partners in influencing the design of the facility and the selection of the name *Ādisōke*.

As collaboration with the Algonquin Nation continues, other rooms in *Ādisōke* will be given Anishinābe Algonquin names, such as the Children's Discovery Centre, a Wigwam-inspired Circular Lodge and its adjacent exterior terrace, and the Outdoor Gathering Circle. The project team will also continue to engage with the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation and other First Nations, Inuit and Metis individuals and organizations to inform the programs and services that will be offered in *Ādisōke*.

AOPFN Members that participated in the Unveiling of the Name Ceremony were: Della Meness, Education Manager, Councillor Merv Sarazin, Kevin Lamarr, AOPFN Cultural Coordinator, Elder Irvin Sarazin, and Sylvia Tennesco and William Dick, *Ādisōke* committee members.

