

## CWCA/ACCR AGM – Regional report Alberta Writing Centres Association (AWCA) 2021-2022

In 2021-2022, the AWCA established a Slack community to help members communicate with each other. We recently sent a survey to members on how this method has been working for them and if there are alternatives they would prefer, so this discussion will continue into next year.

The AWCA held one gathering, a symposium, on the morning of Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The symposium consisted of two sessions, a Coffeehouse Chat and a presentation called Respecting Indigenous Voices. The coffeehouse chat, which had 24 members present, consisted of three topics in dedicated breakout rooms with guiding questions for participants to discuss. Members had three 20-minute blocks in which to enter the room of their choice and engage in discussion about:

1. Social justice in the writing centre
2. Academic integrity: Beyond plagiarism
3. Return to campus and modes of delivery

The breakout rooms were led by volunteer members Andrew Derksen from Lethbridge College, Silvia Rossi from Mount Royal University, and Laura Coad from Lethbridge College. Silvia and Laura were joined by Kendell Heydon from the University of Calgary and Sarah-Jean Watt from Athabasca University to comprise an informal planning committee for the symposium.

The committee invited external presenters Theresa Bell and Jonathan Faerber from Royal Roads University in BC and Lorisia MacLeod from The Alberta Library to co-present “The Four Feathers Writing Guide and Citation Templates to Cite Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.” We opened the presentation to participants outside of the AWCA, and 40 people attended. Below is the interactive presentation’s description:

Through sharing the stories of developing the Four Feathers Writing Guide [Theresa Bell] and citation templates to cite Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers [Lorisia MacLeod], we will discuss our efforts to challenge the academic status quo and put Reconciliation into action. In doing so, we also hope to share the spirit of respect that is at the core of both projects and potentially inspire others about changes they could make to continue down the path of Reconciliation with their communities.

Jonathan Faerber also discussed the mirroring of lessons learned from the Four Feathers Writing Guide's implementation in the development of a new writing centre website.

The AWCA currently has 23 member institutions, 13 of which are colleges and polytechnics and 10 of which are universities. We have 66 individual members.