

**Labour in Solidarity: Librarians in Unions in Colleges and Technical Institutes** Shannon Moist (Douglas College); Chloe Riley (Simon Fraser University)

As recent labour disputes and collective action in academic institutions across Canada have made clear, unions continue to play a vital role in protecting the rights of academic librarians in the workplace. In these challenging times, unions strive to regulate the working conditions and defend the professionalism of academic librarians, from standardizing wages and providing benefits, to protecting academic freedom, and ensuring research and teaching provisions. Exploring the prevalence of unions in Canadian postsecondary institutions and the protections of various collective agreements will shed light on the value we place on labour, professionalism, and academic status within academic libraries.

Previous research on the topic of unions in academic libraries has focused on universities and large research libraries, leaving a noticeable gap regarding the status of academic librarians in smaller institutions. By collecting and analyzing the status of academic librarians in colleges and technical institutes across Canada, we will provide some much-needed data on the prevalence of unions in smaller institutions. In addition, we will explore the extent of protections in these unionized environments, highlight the unique labour and organizing challenges faced in these institutions, and look at the tensions that can arise between librarians and teaching faculty within the faculty association. We will also address the social justice role unions hold within academic libraries, including combating prejudice and inequality in library workplaces.

We invite delegates to join us in this session to explore issues of labour, professionalism, collective action, and social justice across libraries of all sizes.