

Pilar Martinez named 2012 recipient of CLA/Ken Haycock Award

For Immediate Release

(Ottawa, May 3, 2012) Pilar Martinez, Executive Director, Public Services, Edmonton Public Library, has been named 2012 recipient of the CLA/Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship. This award honours individuals who have demonstrated exceptional success in enhancing public recognition and appreciation of librarianship. Martinez's inclusive, dynamic approach to raising the awareness of libraries and promoting their value – in Alberta, across North America and internationally – made her the ideal candidate for this year's award.

As Executive Director, Public Services at the Edmonton Public Library, Pilar leads the planning and implementation of strategies for services, staffing and collections at EPL. Pilar has participated in and led many system-wide initiatives at EPL as well as chairing broader city-wide initiatives such as an integrated service team represented by city departments, police, community organizations and the library. A recognized leader in the library community, Pilar is the current CLA Vice-President/President-Elect and has been the President of the Library Association of Alberta.

In 2009, under Pilar's leadership, EPL became the first urban library in Canada to hire 17 community librarians to implement EPL's community-led service philosophy. This new approach positions librarians in new and innovative roles; promoting their role as engaged community builders and leaders, ensuring library services are developed with relevant partners. Pilar also oversaw the development of EPL's Community-Led Service Philosophy Toolkit, a document that provides the strategic framework to guide this new approach to library service. EPL's Community-Led Service Philosophy Toolkit has received national and international recognition for the innovative approach embedding the library into communities to do what public libraries are meant to do: make a positive difference in peoples' lives.

CLA/Ken Haycock Award jury member Heather Sentes says, "Pilar embodies EPL's mission of "We Share!" by making available the work of EPL locally, nationally and internationally."

The award has been established in recognition of CLA past-president Dr. Ken Haycock, distinguished educator, administrator and advocate. The CLA/Ken Haycock Award, comprising a cheque for \$1,000 and a plaque, will be presented at the CLA Closing Ceremonies, to be held Saturday, June 2nd during the CLA 2012 National Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques is Canada's largest national and broad-based library association, representing the interests of public, academic, school and special libraries, professional librarians and library workers, and all those concerned about enhancing the quality of life of Canadians through information and literacy.

- 30 -

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