

# Inspiring Stories: The TAG Team

## February 2020

We want teens to be excited and enjoy their time at NVDPL, so it is important for us to create spaces for them to be curious and to be themselves. We also value creating opportunities for teens to actively participate in our programs. By providing teens the freedom to collaborate with us on decision-making we can ensure that their changing needs and interests can be addressed. We know that teens who are enthusiastically engaged in planning will develop a sense of ownership over teen services at NVDPL.

**And thanks to our Teen Engagement Librarian and the amazing teens who come to NVDPL, the teen scene at our libraries continues to grow!**

Our largest Teen Advisory Group meets monthly at the Lynn Valley Library, with 20 teens attending every month to discuss all things library! This school year alone, TAG members have created displays and art for the teen area of the library (including book fortune tellers, book-ish posters, and pie-chart book reviews), made decisions about the furniture and layout of the teen spaces, and made cards for a local retirement center.

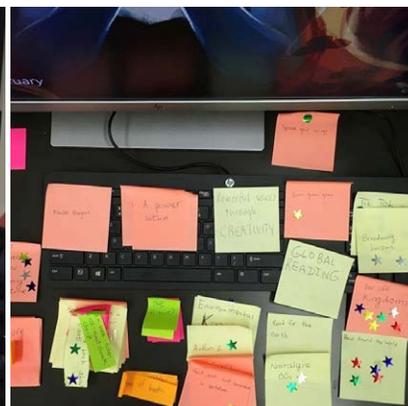
NVDPL teens provide valuable feedback on topics like censorship, youth voting, which books to purchase for the young adult collection, and the layout of our teen spaces. TAG is also responsible for creating the theme, challenges, and artwork for NVDPL's Teen Summer Reading Club, a program that encourages 200 young participants each summer to read widely. Reading challenges from the past include reading books by an Indigenous author, reading a graphic novel, and reading outside!

**At its heart, the Teen Advisory Group at NVDPL is a group of book nerds and pizza lovers who care about our library and want to make it a better place. We love them for that!**

In addition to TAG, there are lots of other fun things happening with youth at the library, including two Teen Advanced Reader Copy Book Clubs, a monthly Teen Writer's Group for aspiring novelist and poets, and Spill the Tea, a weekly drop-in program with Youth Outreach Workers from the North Shore Neighborhood House. Six to eight teens also volunteer 8 hours per month as Book Buddies and Tech Tutors. All three NVDPL branches enjoy the participation of vibrant teens reading, writing, and working hard to help us improve NVDPL services for teens, as well as their communities.



*The TAG team at Lynn Valley!*



*Brainstorming for Teen SRC!*



*Advance Readers unite!*