



## Special Projects Summary – June 2018

From January through June 2018, NNELS worked on six special projects which were funded in part by a \$1 million grant from the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program - Disability Component. This is a brief summary of those projects; for details, please visit the [Grant Update Page](#) or email [coordinator@nnels.ca](mailto:coordinator@nnels.ca).

- 1. E-text Production:** NNELS hired six people with vision impairments to produce ebooks, and to help improve book quality and the NNELS production workflow.
- 2. Accessible Publishing:** NNELS organized seven workshops across Canada with EPUB accessibility expert Laura Brady of Brady Typesetting. A total of 73 publishers, editors, and alternate format producers attended workshops. Laura also provided EPUB accessibility audits to 21 Canadian publishers. Laura's published a [blog post](#) to summarize what she learned from these projects.
- 3. Print-Braille Children's Books:** NNELS worked with the Vision Impaired Resource Network (VIRN) in Manitoba to produce 15 different print-braille children's books which have been distributed to every province and territory. For more information, please see the NNELS [Print Braille information page](#).
- 4. National Braille Study:** The Canadian Federation of the Blind led a team of writers and researchers to propose a long-term strategy for Braille in Canadian libraries: [English version of Braille Study](#) and [French version of Braille Study](#).
- 5. Recording Kits for Libraries:** Working with the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB), NNELS created ten audiobook recording kits complete with headset-microphones, USB keys, instructions, and a bright red shipping case. Any public library in Canada can borrow a kit to record books for people with print disabilities. For details, please see the [recording information page](#).
- 6. Purchasing EPUB & Audiobooks:** NNELS has added 19,193 EPUB files and 3,539 audiobooks to the online collection. Thank you to the Alliance for Equality for Blind Canadians and the Canadian Federation of the Blind for support and for guiding collection development and making purchasing suggestions.