The importance of mother tongue and the rebirth of a community library

In immigrant or minority groups, the mother tongue may cease being a person’s dominant language. Losing fluency in such cases becomes a major risk.

The importance of the mother tongue lies in being part of a people’s cultural heritage and identity.

Future

There are less than 1000 resources available in other libraries in the Montreal area in the language shared by the Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian people. To contribute to supporting the Serbian cultural heritage, we envision the following:

- Continuing to weed and grow the collection to reflect the needs of the community
- Expanding the literature available for both children and adults
- Making more audio books available
- Providing access to e-books
- Organizing community events that connect all demographic groups of the Serbian community
- Organizing artistic, cultural and literary workshops

Conclusion

There is a connection between the mother tongue and a people’s cultural heritage. In an environment where the mother tongue assumes a marginal role, cultural heritage is likewise threatened.

To contribute to the transgenerational continuity of cultural heritage, the “Stevan Jorgović” Library promotes the preservation and accessibility of written and audio resources which both young and old can enjoy.

It is our hope that the value of cultural heritage, to which the mother tongue is a key, will be more widely appreciated. Our library can become a model for other communities of the values and efforts that can be put in place to safeguard the mother tongue.