

# The Trustee

September 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The dramatic times we live in have illustrated the importance of stable and yet innovative leadership in this time of COVID19 stress. Library boards that have a strong policy base, and mechanisms to react positively to unforeseen circumstances will not only weather these strange times but grow in capacity. The SLTA has an important role to play in supporting and strengthening the function of library boards in Saskatchewan.



Our ability to meet with Minister on behalf of boards lends a legitimacy to the overall needs of provincial libraries. This year the concerns and wishes of various boards across the province allowed us to enter a dialogue with the minister that we hope to cultivate throughout the year. Conversations that we entered with the minister have been followed up by a letter to help promote further solutions to some of our major concerns.

It is only through refocusing our efforts and service to our regional boards that we will re-establish the SLTA as a much needed organ of support for public libraries.

Steven Allen, Wheatland  
Acting President  
SLTA

## NOTICE OF AGM AND CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Annual General Meeting of the SLTA will be held via Zoom. To join please use the following link:

**Topic: SLTA AGM**

**Time: Oct 1, 2020 07:00 PM Saskatchewan**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87243367466?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87243367466?pwd=MCohREhTNGZDVzU1aGNvTzJ2NDZHQTo9)

[pwd=MCohREhTNGZDVzU1aGNvTzJ2NDZHQTo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87243367466?pwd=MCohREhTNGZDVzU1aGNvTzJ2NDZHQTo9)

Meeting ID: 872 4336 7466

Passcode: 737162

One tap mobile: +16475580588,87243367466#,0#,737162#  
Canada

*Meeting materials can be found on our website—[www.slta.ca](http://www.slta.ca).*



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## **YOUR SLTA STRIVES TO:**

- Promote and foster the development of libraries and library services in Saskatchewan.
- Provide for exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members through conferences and publications.
- Assist members by understanding their responsibilities as library trustees.
- Cooperate with associations of library trustees outside the province.
- Seek improvements and foster necessary changes in the legislation affecting Saskatchewan libraries.
- Work in close cooperation with the Saskatchewan Library Association.

## **SUMMARY—MEETING WITH THE MINISTER, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020**

Acting SLTA President Steven Allen started the meeting by emphasizing the importance of libraries to citizens of Saskatchewan. Both Steven and Minister Wyant agreed that the closure of libraries during the pandemic has posed a significant challenge for many people. Minister Wyant appreciates the effect on the people who rely on libraries, especially as a social hub and for wi-fi access.

Minister Wyant asked if libraries would be opening as per the Province's reopening guidelines. Steven explained that in his region (Wheatland) reopening on Monday, June 29 would be a little too soon. Librarians in the region are being asked to submit safety plans. As well, it will take some time to have the proper cleaning supplies and protective equipment in place. Minister Wyant stated that the government will be looking closely at the protocols put in place by public libraries to help with the reopening of school libraries in the fall.

Steven pointed out the struggles for libraries have been exasperated by the pandemic closures. Systems are concerned about falling behind in technology. The Minister acknowledged that technology is a struggle across the board. He asked what is needed to bring library systems up to date. There are issues with bandwidth, speed and the growing number of people accessing wi-fi. Minister Wyant said that the government would need to know what the needs are to assess from a financial standpoint. Currently, the government is renegotiating CNET with SaskTel. Bandwidth is part of the negotiations, which would increase for school systems and libraries over a five-year term. The Minister pointed out that this is a key part of ensuring the government's plan to grow the economy.

Rising costs of books and materials is a concern for library systems. Steven gave the example of the price rise of electronic books during the pandemic coupled with the fact that electronic book usage has been greater since the pandemic. Minister Wyant asked his staff to meet to discuss this. He also stated the need for people to understand the role of libraries in the community.

Steven reiterated the need for reliable and sufficient baseline funding for libraries. Minister Wyant said that he has been thinking of how the government can be more innovative in providing a sustained and predictable level of funding for libraries.

SILS costs between one and two million dollars to operate in a year. The point was made that if the Province were to consider assuming that cost, this would create more operating funds for libraries. Both Minister Wyant and Steven agreed SILS is a significant and innovated use of libraries. Minister Wyant asked his staff to provide him with numbers.

Steven requested a discretionary resource to access when there are "vision"/needs. Especially as the difficulty with "vision" is that libraries do not know the direction until the community needs become apparent. The Minister pointed out that more is being expected of libraries.

Steven said that the library engagement was an excellent process. It is important to look at it as a way of building libraries. The sector plan was paused when libraries were closed due to the pandemic. The process is set to begin again.

The Minister ensured that he would continue conversations with his office and leadership at the Ministry of Education. He thanked SLTA for their time. On behalf of SLTA and library trustees, Steven thanked the Minister for his time and consideration.

## YOUR 2019/2020 SLTA BOARD

### Chinook Region

Vacant  
Email:  
Tel:

### Saskatoon Public Library

John Thronberg, Saskatoon  
Email: [j.thronberg@saskatoonlibrary.ca](mailto:j.thronberg@saskatoonlibrary.ca)  
Tel:

### Lakeland Region

Dennis Taylor, Hafford  
Email: [dennis.taylor@littleloon.ca](mailto:dennis.taylor@littleloon.ca)  
Tel: (306)549-2165

### Wapiti Region

Vacant  
Email:  
Tel:

### PNLS

Darlene Morin, Pelican Narrows  
Email: [morindar@sasktel.net](mailto:morindar@sasktel.net)  
Tel:

### Wheatland Region

Steven Allen (Acting President), Luseland  
Email: [sallen@sasktel.net](mailto:sallen@sasktel.net)  
Tel: (306)372-4647

### Parkland Region

Sharon Armstrong, Wynyard  
Email: [town.office.wynyard@sasktel.net](mailto:town.office.wynyard@sasktel.net)  
Tel: (306)554-3391

## SLTA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

SLTA is looking for support from local library boards. We would also suggest buying an individual SLTA membership for your mayor, and/or members of councils as a way to show support for libraries. Your support can help us help libraries!

If you would like more information please contact your region's SLTA representative.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit the completed membership form along with **\$10.00** payment to SLTA Executive Director, 79 Mayfair Crescent, Regina, SK, S4S 5T9.

**Thank you for your support!**

\*Each region pays the membership for regional board members. This form is for members of local boards or anyone else who wishes to become a member of the SLTA.

Visit SLTA on the web at  
[www.slta.ca](http://www.slta.ca).

