# The Trustee January 2021 Update

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Libraries during this time of lockdown and COVID have illustrated the importance of community and a shared public good.

The provincial public library system was created to "ensure equitable access to basic library services for all residents of Saskatchewan" (History of Public Library Development in Saskatchewan).

Basic library services have blossomed to include: computer usage, internet access, on-line libraries, legal information, service programming, and 3-D printing, to name a few of the services now available. Libraries as a source of equity of opportunity for our members cannot be overstated.

Our task is immense, our budgets limited, but with supportive leadership from our regional boards, and their directors we have done much with little.

Resources have always been limited and the SLTA must remain a strong representative voice for all libraries in this province. The Brief to the Minister continues to be that advocate voice of regions for sufficient funding and other resource needs. We are striving to make this Brief a dialogue with the Ministry that extends the conversation throughout the year.

The SLTA advocates for libraries throughout Saskatchewan and is creating an advocacy plan to start late spring 2021. The plan will target towns, cities, and rural municipalities as to the services supplied by their libraries.

Governance training for trustees will also be a priority with on-line zoom sessions being planned for spring and summer 2021. We are currently coordinating facilitators and content.

Communication, purpose, and a commitment to the public good of libraries is a shared responsibility and the SLTA welcomes working with regional libraries in this endeavour.

Steven Allen (Wheatland) President

### **SLA CONFERENCE 2021**

Manitoba Library Association (MLA) and Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) have partnered to plan and host a virtual conference in June 2021. For more information please visit: <a href="https://saskla.ca/2021-conference-update">https://saskla.ca/2021-conference-update</a>.

### 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.

SIDE THIS ISSUEE

### **SLA LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### February 24, 2021 from 12-1pm

Speaker: Kaetlyn Phillips, University of Regina

**Data Literacy in Everyday Media** – This presentation will look at how to assist patrons with identifying good and misleading data in everyday mass media.

### March 24, 2021 from 12-1pm

Speaker: Abby Wolfe, Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

**The ABC's of Dementia Friendly Libraries** – Exploring how libraries can become more inclusive, supportive and accessible for people affected by dementia.

### **April 28, 2021 from 12-1pm**

Speakers: Helen Power and Chau Ha, University of Saskatchewan & Saskatchewan Polytechnic

**Creating a Library Community of Practice** – Discussion on determining scope, facilitation & assessment, based on literature review & presenters experiences.

Each session will be 45-50 minutes, with time for a Q&A and/or facilitated discussion. For further information and registration please email Leslie Charlton: slaadmin@sasktel.net.

# YOUR 2020/2021 SLTA BOARD

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