

SLTA
Brief to
the
Minister
of
Education

2010

The Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association's Brief to the Minister:
the Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Education



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an exciting time for the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association, in our provincial history. The public libraries in Saskatchewan are local, grass roots organizations that play a very important leadership role in every community.

While responsibility for the library sector falls under the Ministry of Education, the programs and services offered have far-reaching effects in a number of other Ministries including Advanced Education, Employment & Labour, Municipal Affairs and Tourism, Parks, Culture & Sports.

Saskatchewan has always been known as a melting pot of cultures. This was true at the turn of the century and is still true today. The provincial government continues to help provide newcomers from many different cultures a home in Saskatchewan.

Libraries are on the cutting edge of technology and will play an important role in providing information and resources to our long-time and new residents.

The SLTA and its members are committed to assisting the government in fulfilling their goals and objectives. It is important to ensure that we continue to have open communications as this will allow us to explore unique partnerships that will meet the goals of all our government representatives and the Saskatchewan public library sector.

In order for our libraries to reach our joint objectives, a major increase in funding will be required. This funding would be applied in three major areas of need:

- Operations
- Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Capital Infrastructure

The SLTA and the provincial government share an innovative and dynamic vision for a better Saskatchewan. We look forward to continuing our positive relationship and working closely with the various Ministries to provide innovative social and economic growth to all Saskatchewan residents.

APPENDIX A: BACKGROUND

The Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association (SLTA) is a voluntary association of public library trustees who have joined together in their dedication to help provide library services that will meet the needs of Saskatchewan people, thereby improving their quality of life.

SLTA was established in 1967, made its first annual Brief to the Minister in 1968, and was incorporated under provincial law in 1969. SLTA represents more than 2,500 trustees who are public library trustees at the local or system library level and come from over 300 public libraries that are located throughout Saskatchewan. All residents can access any information in Saskatchewan's public libraries without a user fee. Resource-sharing and cooperation are the fundamental strengths of what is called Saskatchewan's "one province" library system – a system that is the envy of other provincial library systems across Canada.

Municipal public libraries serve Regina and Saskatoon. The seven regional library systems in southern Saskatchewan are Chinook, Lakeland, Palliser, Parkland, Southeast, Wapiti and Wheatland. The northern part of the province is served by the Pahkisimon Nuyeᑭáh Library. The History of Public Libraries in Saskatchewan is attached as Appendix E to this brief.

We are pleased to have the opportunity each year to meet with the Ministry of Education to present our membership's ideas and concerns, in an effort to constantly improve the public library system for the residents of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Government of Saskatchewan invested \$5.2 million for the Single Integrated Library System (SILS) initiative and the implementation phase is nearing completion. Your funding commitment served as the catalyst for the province-wide introduction of this service for residents of Saskatchewan.

As always, the Government's support of the Provincial Library & Literacy Office (PLLO) is essential to the success of public libraries in Saskatchewan. The PLLO continues to provide guidance, support and services to all our library systems.

The SLTA was also appreciative of the opportunity to discuss areas of common ground face to face with several government department officials at the Government & Public Libraries Forum in October 2009. We continue to reflect on the discussions from that event, and are committed to further exploration of the results and recommendations which are outlined in the Summary of the Government & Public Libraries Forum, attached as Appendix F to this brief.

APPENDIX B: RATIONALE

Our partnership with the government has been positive. However, the fact of the matter is that the resource sharing grant that all public library systems receive has not increased significantly and has not kept pace with increases from municipalities or with inflation.

This needs to change. Public libraries reach out to the community and provide a variety of useful services and programs to Saskatchewan residents. For decades, libraries have been a welcoming environment to patrons of all ages.

We understand and appreciate the past funding the government has provided to the public libraries. However, the bottom line is that funding must be increased so that our libraries can continue to play an essential role in Saskatchewan's growth and success.

APPENDIX C: KEY ISSUES

1) Operational Funding

- Library systems are finding it difficult to maintain services and balance budgets, given the lack of increases in government grants.

2) Staff Recruitment and Retention

- A Standards for Staffing Levels and Compensation Committee, with representatives from Provincial Library & Literacy Office, System Directors and Board Chairs, has been studying the staffing issues since April 2009. A recent report from this committee has been finalized and recommendations will be presented to the Ministry. The SLTA supports the findings and recommendations of this committee, and looks forward to the Ministry's response.

3) Capital Infrastructure

- While development of remotely accessible electronic services continues, the role of the public library as a physical space that engages the community is stronger than ever. Many headquarter office and storage facilities require maintenance, repair and expansion to keep pace with the many branches they each serve in the Northern, Rural and Municipal library systems. It is worth noting that public libraries represent the only sector within the Ministry of Education that does not receive capital support. We ask that the province include public libraries in the government's capital programs.
- The technological advances that libraries have made over the past decade have been substantial as we try to keep pace with these changes. System headquarters will continue to require stable funding for maintenance and updating of these systems. As shown through the implementation of SILS, libraries are on the cutting-edge of technology and therefore can serve as valuable resources in their communities, through continued maintenance and upgrading of technology.
- The Provincial Library & Literacy Office and the Multitype Library Board provide support and guidance for library systems, and continued provincial support for these entities is essential.

APPENDIX D: RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the rationale and issues identified in this brief, the SLTA urges the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Ministry of Education, to:

- Increase government funding to public library systems to take into consideration increased costs accruing to library systems, i.e. increased staff costs due to union contracts and increased operating costs due to inflation.
- Increase provincial contributions to the library funding pool that keeps pace with increases from municipal government.

The operations of Saskatchewan's public libraries are in a critical state. SLTA urges the Government to take action through increased funding to the library funding pool so that public library systems can address their staffing, operational and infrastructure issues.

APPENDIX E: Saskatchewan Provincial Public Library System Historical Development

Over the years, Saskatchewan has developed a province wide system of public libraries for the benefit of all its citizens. Today the provincial public library system consists of seven regions, two municipal libraries in Saskatoon and Regina, a northern library system and the Saskatchewan Provincial Library.

The purpose of the provincial public library system is to ensure equitable access to basic library services for all residents of Saskatchewan. Equitable access is achieved by all public libraries:

- contributing to the union catalogue;
- offering reciprocal borrowing to every resident of Saskatchewan; and
- participating in the interlibrary loan system.

Following is a chronology of developments of the provincial public library system.

Chronology of Library Development

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1900 | Mechanics and Literary Institute Ordinance Territorial (Legislative) Library established. |
| 1906 | The first public libraries act. |
| 1909 | Regina Public Library established. |
| 1912 | At the request of the Women Grain Growers, the Open Shelf Service is initiated to provide books of literary and educational value and is the responsibility of the Legislative Library. |
| 1913 | Saskatoon Public Library established. |
| 1914 | A system of travelling libraries is developed in Saskatchewan. The travelling libraries consist of large wooden boxes of 60 to 80 books which are loaned to a group or a community for a period of one year. In the beginning, books from the Legislative Library were used, but as the demand for materials increased, a separate collection is established |
| 1922-
1944 | The travelling libraries are placed under the supervision of the Bureau of Publications. The Open Shelf mails materials upon request to individual borrowers and places an emphasis on providing reference materials. |
| 1945 | The Open Shelf Service becomes the Public Information Library. |
| 1946 | As a result of recommendations by the Saskatchewan Library Advisory Council, <i>The Regional Libraries Act</i> is passed to provide for the appointment of a Supervisor of Regional Libraries with responsibility for promoting the development of such libraries. By this time, it was recognized that libraries in rural areas could not exist except in larger units of service or regions. |

- 1950 The first regional library, North Central Saskatchewan Regional Library, is formed. (This region is now the Wapiti Regional Library.)
- 1951 First Provincial Librarian, Mary Donaldson, is appointed.
- 1953 The Provincial Library is officially created with responsibility for library extension work in the province. There are 851 travelling libraries in Saskatchewan, containing slightly more than 38,000 books.
- The Public Information Library Division and the Office of the Supervisor of Regional Libraries are transferred to the newly-formed agency. Circulation increases from 52,000 in 1954 to 131,794 in 1966, and the reference questions answered increases from 800 to 4,243 during the same period.
- 1958 Centralized cataloguing service is added to the Provincial Library's responsibilities. This involves cataloguing all books acquired by municipal and regional libraries, and allows the creation of a union catalogue of books to facilitate resource sharing and interlibrary loan.
- The Saskatchewan Library Advisory Council is formally established in legislation. The first members, some of whom served on the Council previously, include: Dr. Carlyle King (Chairman), Gustave Baudais, Mrs. J. B. Harrington, Mrs. Kathleen McDonald, Mrs. Henry Nelson, Wilson Parker, and Dr. J. W. Tait.
- 1965 Southeast Regional Library is formed.
- The Library Inquiry Committee is appointed by the government to study development of library service in the province. Included in the Report are recommendations that the Provincial Library act as a clearing house for interlibrary loan and provide in-depth information services. Committee members are: Judge John H. Maher (Chairperson), Dr. W. A. Riddell, and Rusty H. Macdonald.
- 1967 -
1973 The remaining five regional libraries are formed. Two regions, Wheatland and Parkland, are formed in 1967, while Chinook, Lakeland and Palliser are formed in 1971, 1972 and 1973 respectively. Zealous promotion and concerted activity on the part of the Provincial Library, as well as devoted work on the part of local volunteers, has established an effective cooperative network of libraries.
- 1968 -
1981 In 1969, the Library Development Board replaces the Library Advisory Council. The new members of the Development Board are: Rusty H. Macdonald, Mrs. E. N. Davis, Miss Marion Graham, Wilfred L. Harvey, Willard Kallio, James S. Porter, Mrs. P. J. Sherman, and Mrs. A. B. Van Cleave.
- The Public Information Library Division is changed to Readers' Services Division and greater emphasis is placed on reference services. Less than 5,000 reference requests are answered in 1968; 21,000 are answered in 1981. Automated information retrieval expands the capability of providing specialized research information.

The collection of books in the resource collection expands from about 100,000 volumes in 1968 to 180,000 in 1981, while circulation increases from 189,000 to 344,000.

1968 -
1981

Bibliographic Services Division is formed in 1969 to provide expanded interlibrary loan service. Five thousand interlibrary loan requests are received in 1968; 10,600 in 1969; and 87,000 in 1981.

Technical Services Division handles 17,000 requests for cataloguing in 1961; 86,000 in 1979; and 46,000 in 1981. The cataloguing system is automated and partially decentralized in 1980.

1981 The Bureau of Management Improvement evaluates the automated cataloguing project and the organizational structure of the Provincial Library. Several recommendations are implemented in June, 1981.

1981 The Committee to Review Library Legislation is appointed by the Minister-in-Charge of Libraries in April, 1981. The Committee holds public hearings throughout the summer of 1981. Members of the Committee include: Merry Harbottle (Chairperson), Allan Quigley (Vice-Chairperson), George Bothwell, Vic W. Hay, Rowena Lunn, Rusty H. Macdonald, Charles Phelps, and Marion Sherman.

1982 A new funding formula is introduced in the spring of 1982.

The Development Branch is disbanded in July, 1982.

Provincial Library policies are formulated, discussed widely with interest groups, and implemented. These clarify the services of the Library, and, in effect, decant some services to the local level.

Reference and Research Services Division replaces Readers' Services Division.

1983 A Design Team prepares a Discussion Paper on Library Legislation. Feedback and responses are presented to the Minister in June, 1983.

A Joint Venture Agreement between Regina Public Library, Saskatoon Public Library and Provincial Library is signed in February, 1983, to convert the pre-1980 holdings of the three libraries to the automated database.

A Request for Proposal to research a provincial automated database is approved by the Minister and Treasury Board in February, 1983. An Automation Task Force is established in March, and a consultant with widely recognized expertise is contracted to assist with the analysis.

1984 The *Public Libraries Act, 1984*, a new Act, is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

- 1984 The Provincial Library is renamed the Saskatchewan Library and the Library Development Board is renamed the Saskatchewan Library Board. The new Act updates the mandate of the Saskatchewan Library by strengthening its research, coordination and leadership role. The role of the Minister's Advisory Board is strengthened and expanded. The autonomy and development of the regional libraries is given greater recognition. Members of the reconstituted board included: Nick Gabruch (Chairperson), Leola Moore, Vi Spencer, George Hyde, Isabelle Butters, Peter Foga, Don Burton, Beverly Tansley, Edith Kerr, Val Kononoff, George Cook, Claude Gauthier, George Bothwell, and Rolland Pinsonneault.
- 1987 The Saskatchewan Library becomes a part of Saskatchewan Education in a reorganization of provincial government departments and agencies. Saskatchewan Library takes on the new name of Saskatchewan Provincial Library.
- 1988 The Northern Library Services Section of Provincial Library moves to La Ronge in preparation for a new northern library system governed by an autonomous board and responsible for co-ordinating library services in the north.
- 1989 Provincial Library automated with the installation of the Dynix Library System. Provincial Library Collection Policy released.
- 1990 Legislation to enable formulation of northern library system passed in August; first northern board meeting in December.
- 1991 Provincial Library becomes part of the newly formed Saskatchewan Community Services and subsequently changes to Saskatchewan Municipal Affairs. Northern library office receives official name of Pakkisiᓄon Nuyeᓃáh Library System.
- 1994 The Multitype Library Development Advisory Committee is appointed by the Honourable Carol Carson, Minister of Municipal Government.
- 1995 The Saskatchewan online union catalogue at Provincial Library made accessible through the Province-wide Library Electronic Information System (PLEIS).
- 1996 *The Public Libraries Act, 1996.* For the first time, the Act defines the purpose of the provincial public library system and mandates participation of municipalities in the public library system thus beginning universal access for all residents of Saskatchewan.
- The Libraries Co-operation Act* is passed to foster cooperation across all types of libraries, including public, school, post-secondary and special libraries.
- Think Globally...Search Locally: A Strategic Plan for the Implementation of a Multitype Library System in Saskatchewan* is published.
- A Review of regional library funding and services in Saskatchewan is undertaken. The final report is released in 1997.

- 1997 The final report of *Province-wide Database Licensing: A Project to Research Licenses to Commercial Information Databases for All Types of Libraries in Saskatchewan* is published by the Multitype Database Licensing Working Group, led by Provincial Library.
- 1998 First Multitype Library Board appointed. Merrilee Rasmussen, Chair. Other members were Colleen Warren, Darlene Fichter, Jeffrey Barber, Michael Keaschuk, Valerie Laliberte, Helene Stewart, Beverley Scarrow, Ernie Pappas, Janet Merkowsky, and Maureen Woods.
- 1998 First province-wide license for all residents of Saskatchewan to access online magazines and journals. The Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) is made possible through financial contributions from public, school, special and post-secondary education libraries.
- 1998 -
2000 "Every Library Connected by the Year 2000" project uses federal and provincial funds to purchase public access computers in 298 public libraries.
- The Legislative Instruments Committee directs the Municipal Affairs department to find a resolution to the participation of First Nations in the library system.
- 2001 A Minister's Advisory Committee on Library Services for Aboriginal People is appointed to review the status of library services to First Nations and Métis people which results in the final report of the committee entitled, *Information is For Everyone*.
- The Gateway, which permits an electronic search of all public library catalogues in the province at one time, is launched.
- Ask Us! a province-wide shared electronic reference service is established as a permanent service which allows anyone to ask a question and librarians from all of the public library systems share responsibility for the answers.
- 2002 Provincial Library is transferred to Saskatchewan Learning thus creating a focus on lifelong learning.
- CommunityNet brings high-speed Internet access to 162 public libraries.
- 2003 The *Public Libraries Regulations, 1996*, are amended to ensure First Nations access to public libraries and provincial government funding of an additional \$250,000 is provided to the base grants for library systems for Aboriginal Library Services, thus completing universal access for all Saskatchewan residents.
- The Multitype Database Licensing Fund is created as a special account within the provincial government to enable Provincial Library to manage all funds for the MDLP, including receiving contributions from partners and making payments to vendors.
- 2004 The Multitype Library Board holds Digitization Forums in Regina and Saskatoon to bring together libraries, archives, museums and other community organizations to create a province-wide strategy for digitization.

- 2004 -
2005 A Government Online project establishes patrons' ability to request interlibrary loans online (RSS) and allows access to magazine databases from home through the remote patron authentication software (RPA).
- A Libraries Online promotion campaign features all of the recently developed online services more easily accessible by the public.
- 2006 Public library directors begin working on a strategic plan that establishes a framework for the future development of a single integrated library system, and stronger community services that focus on literacy and lifelong learning.
- The Saskatchewan Digital Alliance is established by the Multitype Library Board with representatives from all library sectors and archives to provide recommendations and expertise on the province-wide digitization.
- The Provincial Library assembles a Working Group, with representatives from each of the ten public library systems, to consider the development of Aboriginal library services in Saskatchewan, the group becomes known as the Committee for Aboriginal Library Services (CALs).
- 2006 -
2008 The Provincial Library works with Saskatoon Public Library to host the first of a series of four Round Dances in effort to build relationships between public libraries and Aboriginal people.
- Saskatchewan Learning establishes a 3 year pilot program to foster cooperative projects, related to collections, programs and services, between school divisions and public library systems based on common goals. Over 3 years, \$900,000 funded 14 projects, many related to literacy.
- 2007 The first Digitization Pilot Project grants are issued to two projects: "Our Legacy" and "Culture and Heritage Image Bank of Southwestern Saskatchewan" project.
- 2008 The Literacy Office joins the Provincial Library to become the Provincial Library and Literacy Office Branch in the Ministry of Education.
- \$5.2 million is provided by the Ministry of Education for a single integrated library system which will connect all of the province's public libraries ensuring that each library has the same access to information and service options and providing the foundation for a universal library card for all residents. Additional funding is provided to extend the CNet program to all public libraries and upgrade line-speed.
- 2009 The Provincial Library and Literacy Office hosts the first-ever Government and Public Libraries Forum, *Finding Our Common Ground*, to provide mutual understanding and an opportunity to identify commonalities between government and the public library systems.
- 2010 All ten library systems and the Provincial Library are live on the Single Integrated Library System.

APPENDIX F: Government and Public Libraries Forum Finding our Common Ground October 19 and 20, 2009

INTRODUCTION

On October 19 and 20, 2009, the Provincial Library and Literacy Office of the Ministry of Education in Saskatchewan hosted the first-ever Government and Public Libraries Forum to allow senior provincial government officials and public library leaders, in Saskatchewan, to begin a dialogue on shared leadership and engagement in a planning process.

The purpose of the Forum was to increase mutual understanding, to determine the extent to which government and public libraries have common goals, and to establish working relationships that could help build a future of shared action. The Government and Public Libraries Forum was an attempt to open a dialogue and to build on successes while planning for the future.

Approximately 130 people attended the Forum including about 40 government, 70 library and 20 panellists who may have been from government, library, community or the private sector.

SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Elder **Mike Pinay** opened the Forum with a prayer. Minister of Education and Deputy Premier, the Honourable Ken Krawetz, welcomed delegates to the Forum and wished them success in their planning process. Greetings were also received from Bev Dubois, President of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association and Barbara Kelly, President of the Saskatchewan Library Association.

The keynote address was delivered by **Martin Gomez**, City Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, a library that serves a population of 4 million people. Mr. Gomez spoke about three major research reports that he was involved in preparing for the Urban Libraries Council. *The Engaged Library* showed that libraries are no longer passive repositories for books, outposts of culture and places of quiet decorum. The new library is active, responsive to community and an agent for change. *Making Cities Stronger*, which investigated the economic value of public libraries to communities and found that libraries provide communities with a return on investment that far exceeds their cost in many ways: generating wealth, developing the workforce, providing early literacy services that contribute to long term economic success, and supporting and serving as catalysts for business development. The third report, *Welcome Stranger*, looked at the ways that libraries support immigration, including building cultural knowledge and English language capability, as well as creating connections to their new community while staying connected to their home country.

A second keynote address was provided by **Maureen Woods**, currently the Executive Director from The Alberta Library, and formerly the Provincial Librarian in both British Columbia and Saskatchewan. She talked to delegates about the outcomes of the B.C experience in hosting a similar forum between government and public libraries that was the culmination of a consultation to assess the key issues facing communities and the key areas of development for the government. The intersection of these two circles represented the opportunity for libraries to develop and for government to fulfill its aspirations. The result was 15 million dollars to fund a plan that was a practical vision for public libraries that supported equitable access to information for all citizens of B.C. and made effective use of provincial dollars. The B.C. Dialogue found linkages between public libraries and health, education, literacy, and immigration as well as a role for libraries in disseminating government information. One of her points that really caught

people's attention was that the library enjoys a 96% approval rating from the Canadian public and how valuable that might be to government.

In the evening **Punch Jackson** spoke about an Alberta MLA's report which also yielded significant benefits to Alberta public libraries. Mr. Jackson noted that funding for libraries followed a lengthy and detailed effort to work with government and to ensure that decision-makers were aware of the needs and the potential of public libraries. The point that caught people's attention was that Members of the Legislative Assembly had embarked on a process to visit a number of local libraries and that these visits significantly strengthened their support for public libraries.

In addition to the keynote and guest speakers, twenty people, most from Saskatchewan and many employed by either government or libraries, served as panellists. The panellists were asked to participate in, and contribute information to, workshops to explore one of the five theme areas:

- Community Economic Development;
- First Nations and Métis Success;
- Literacy Services;
- Rural Services; and
- Services to New Immigrants

FORUM PROCESS

Delegates to the Forum were provided with background information regarding government's goals and priorities, as well as on the role, scope and accomplishments of public libraries.

The first day of the Forum was designed as an information day in which panellists were asked to talk about their experience in partnerships in the five themes areas. Panellists presented information from the perspective of government, libraries, communities, service providers, and the private sector. The intent of the panels was to stimulate ideas around the key concepts such as partnership, communication, and addressing community needs. At the end of the second workshop delegates were asked to write down the ideas that panellists had presented that were important to remember, or come back to as they thought about actions in the day 2 workshops.

On the second day of the Forum delegates were asked to begin contributing their ideas, based on the information presented the day before, and their knowledge and experience. They were asked to consider what goals libraries and government have in common and then to consider ideas for concrete action that could be taken to enable government and public libraries to work together on the common goals.

Delegates identified a strategic fit between government and public libraries in the following areas:

- Quality of life and security through services and communities.
- Services to specific target groups: immigrants, seniors, children.
- Ensuring citizens have essential skills to participate in the work force.
- Support for business, especially for new, smaller start-ups.
- Increase community capacity for development and well-being, help sustain rural communities.
- Government has a need to disseminate information and libraries have an ability to deliver information to the public.

Delegates, with the help of panellists from the previous day, began exploring ways to ensure that partnerships between government and libraries could be further developed and actions that government and libraries might undertake together. Some of the key ideas from the day two workshops follow.

ACTION IDEAS RELATED TO EACH THEME

Actions in this section relate to public libraries acting as a group or on their own. The Ministry identified is a potential partner but no work has yet been done to start these partnerships so it cannot be assumed that they are willing or that they are the right partner.

Literacy

Action For Public Libraries	Ministry Partner
Open discussions to establish roles for libraries in workplace and essential skills or GED online programs and create a pilot with libraries.	Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL)
Use Kids First model to identify need for literacy services of libraries	Social Services, Health, Corrections
Purposeful assessment of community needs, funding, learner's abilities and resources.	Education
Implement Time to Read province-wide in partnership with schools	Education
Develop an inventory of services, skills, and expertise and showcase through libraries	Provincial Library & Literacy Office (PLLO)
Aboriginal Literacy Coordinator	PLLO
Explore public libraries role in promoting health literacy, e.g. through potential partnerships and new models (i.e. integrated facility)	PLLO Health
Aboriginal Literacy programs, including family literacy	PLLO
Deliver some government programs such as ABE/GED by providing space and computer access	AEEL
Libraries partner with industry for workplace literacy	None
Work with the communities as partners to determine their needs employing the community development approach - and responding to specific community needs [one size doesn't fit all]	None
Develop a newsletter or other communication tool in public libraries	None

Rural Services

Action for Public Libraries	Ministry Partner
Discuss ways to enhance relations between municipal councils and local libraries or library systems and develop better understanding of municipal grants to libraries.	Municipal Affairs Education (Provincial Library)
Enhance the electronic library networks to facilitate 2-way conferencing and program delivery using video conferencing, satellite and other technologies, as a medium for program delivery at local libraries. Establish a pilot to demonstrate how libraries deliver on government goals.	Education
Host MLAs at public libraries.	None

First Nations and Métis Success

Action For Public Libraries	Ministry Partner
Develop strategies and approaches to enhance education and to assist in building relationship between libraries and the federal government.	First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR)
Roundtable with federal, provincial representatives and publishers, First Nations Councils (and others) toward creating materials in First Nation and Métis languages	FNMR
Improve First Nations and Métis employment resources including: services for writing proposals and contracts.	
Public library based mentoring program for Aboriginal youth (see Philadelphia Public Library experience)	PLLO
Replicate this forum at the regional/local level	None
Public libraries investigate Aboriginal Employment Development program to create representative workforce	FNMR
Involve Aboriginal Elders and Aboriginal peoples in library boards, library advisory committees, and library programs	None
NORTEP/PNLS partnership to welcome newcomers and families to La Ronge Public Library	None

Public libraries facilitate learning between new immigrants and Aboriginal people to eliminate stereotypes and negative views and to further Indigenous knowledge. Pilot project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role for Aboriginal Elders to educate people about treaties 	FNMR AEEL - Immigration
Public libraries play a role in providing treaty information for non-Aboriginal people	None
Pilot project to have a Teacher in Residence in Saskatoon Public Library - possible project with the school division(s).	None

Services to New Immigrants

Action	Ministry
Create connections with Labour (AEEL) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate occupational information sheets, • Participate in Business Failure Strike Forces 	Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL)
Document success stories and models such as the immigration model at Ogema.	
Define a role within the context of the Newcomers' Information Centres being established	AEEL
Develop a relationship with Immigration Services to encourage participation in ministry programs	AEEL

Community Economic Development

Action	Ministry
Establish a business person in residence program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for small business • Referrals 	Enterprise Saskatchewan
Community resource audit to better define ability to offer public services.	ES
Contact with Enterprise Regions, municipalities to create partnerships with library regions to work on economic development	ES
Buildings fit with economic development (i.e. retail zones)	ES
Use libraries deliver government services and programs. Libraries could be official government information service centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have libraries involved in government transactions. • Train library employees on government services, information, organisation and standards. • Public libraries inform government ministries of programming of interest using Web 2.0 tools. 	ES
Potential to work with the Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs)	None

OUTCOMES

Forum delegates, in their evaluations, expressed a high level of satisfaction with the content of the Forum and a desire to see the dialogue continue and lead to establishing some specific actions related to libraries partnering with government. 86% of evaluations received indicated the Forum was valuable or very valuable. One of the clearest themes to emerge from the Forum was that public libraries are more than book delivery systems. Saskatchewan's public libraries see themselves as "community hubs" that are actively engaged in building communities and could be places where information and services from the provincial government could potentially be disseminated. Public libraries also currently play a key role in providing literacy services to the province's citizens, and public library systems have expressed interest in taking on larger roles.

Public library leaders have expressed a desire to move forward on some of the ideas developed at the Forum. Follow-up that is planned will include incorporating action recommendations into Provincial Library and Literacy Office work plans, discussing concepts with the appropriate government agencies and with library board chairs and directors, establishing working groups to further specific project ideas. Ideas might also be incorporated into existing initiatives such as the development of a literacy strategy for the province.

Delegates were also interested in seeing a web site to report on the Government and Public Libraries Forum, for more detailed information about the Forum, and for the complete list of action items. The web site could also be used on an ongoing basis to add updates about current actions, to continue the dialogue, to explore additional possibilities for joint action and to further develop ideas for models or pilot projects.

RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Action to Further Develop Relationships Between Government and Public Libraries:

- Continue communications between government and libraries, as an **ongoing, regular, dialogue** that increases synergies and leads to collaboration and partnerships. Identify a **point person** in each Ministry as a library liaison to pursue relationship building.
- Solidify the connections made by establishing a **working group** that includes representatives from government and libraries to continue the discussions.
- Develop **one concrete action** in each of the theme areas and create pilot projects to begin implementing these ideas and proving sustainability.
- Bring government people in to libraries.
- **Publish a report** about the Forum for participants - library, government and the public - in a printed report or online.
- **Host MLAs** at libraries - develop a list of things to do and say when an MLA visits.
- Conduct **workshops** similar to the Forum for the regional, municipal and northern libraries.
- Share information on **multi-partner agreements**, e.g. fed/prov/municipal/First Nation/Metis
- **Annual follow-up** or feedback, especially success stories.

Next Steps

Library Directors met on December 11, 2009 and determined that they would like to pursue partnerships, with the appropriate ministries, to undertake activity in six key areas:

Actions Related to Specific Theme Areas

1. **Electronic Networks** - Enhance the electronic library networks to facilitate two-way conferencing and program delivery using video conferencing, satellite and other technologies. Tie-in with economic development. Work Group Team: Chinook, Pahkisimon Nuyeᑭáh, Palliser.
2. **Immigration** - Define a role within the context of the Newcomers Information Centres being established. Library information as part of a package for orientation, work at regional levels, include the online tutor project at RPL & Parkland. Work Group Team: Saskatoon, Wheatland, Lakeland, Southeast.
3. **Assessment of Community Needs** - Purposeful assessment of community needs, funding, learner's abilities and resources, using a community development approach. Look at a broader approach than strictly literacy needs. Work Group Team: Regina, Parkland, Chinook, Saskatoon.
4. **Economic Development** - Contact with Enterprise Regions and municipalities to create partnerships with library regions to work on economic development. Work Group Team: Regina, Parkland, Lakeland, Palliser.
5. **First Nations & Métis Success** - Roundtable with government, publishers, and First Nations councils to address needs and create children's programs, material & services in First Nations and Métis languages. Work Group Team: Pahkisimon Nuyeᑭáh Library System, Wapiti, Lakeland.
6. **Early Childhood Education** - Develop a partnership to work with government on early learning initiatives. Work Group Team: Saskatoon, Regina, Wheatland, Parkland.

Actions to Grow Relationships Between Government and Public Libraries

1. Libraries Deliver Government Services

- Begin a discussion about a **partnership** between the provincial government and public libraries **to develop capacity for libraries to deliver government information, resources and services.**
- Discussion to include ways for government to take advantage of the public infrastructure that already exists in libraries and what additional supports libraries might need to fulfil this role.

2. Continuing the Dialogue

- Continue communications between government and libraries, as an **ongoing, regular, dialogue** that increases synergies and leads to collaboration and partnerships.
- Identify a **point person** in each Ministry as a library liaison to pursue relationship building.
- Provincial Library & Literacy Office will take responsibility for calling together the **teams** and identifying government contacts who would be most interested in working in the areas identified

APPENDIX G