

## SLTA Meeting with Minister Gord Wyant June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Attending:** Sharon Armstrong (President) Dennis Taylor (Vice President) Donna Hartley (Treasurer) Clint Repski (Assistant Deputy Minister) Alison Hopkins (Provincial Librarian)

Discussion on:

- Who is SLTA and what do we do?
- Who are the Trustees and what are their roles?
- Challenges and struggles for Public Libraries
  - \*increased library usage
  - \*more newcomers to the province
  - \*staffing
  - \*declining Canadian dollar for ordering library materials
  - \*no increases in provincial funding to cover inflation
  - \*municipalities are asked to pay increases in library funding
- Public Library co-operations
  - \*schools
  - \*other government departments
  - \*aboriginal initiatives
  - \*SUMA and SARM
  - \*SLA
- Literacy – important role of Public Libraries
- Consultation process – who needs to give input? Library Act?
  - \*SLTA and Director involvement

Minister Wyant realizes that he was not well informed about Public Libraries before and has learned so much in the last 5 months. He is aware of the passionate support of Public Libraries, but also thinks there are a lot of people who don't know everything libraries provide. He understands that there have not been any increases in funding. He explained that he has to be able to justify any future financial investment in Public Libraries.

He thanked us for our comments and will take them into consideration. We were assured that SLTA would have further input into the consultation process.

