



# Discussion Points – Saskatchewan Libraries

PRESENTED TO MINISTER BRONWYN EYRE

BY THE SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

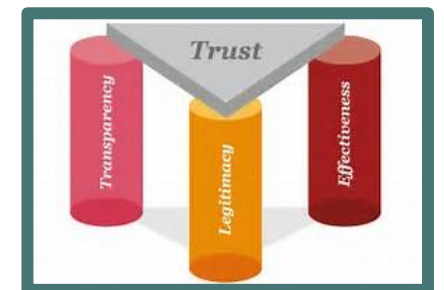
NOVEMBER 17, 2017

# Importance of Libraries to the People of Saskatchewan

- ▶ Our public libraries are not a luxury – they are a vital link for every resident and every community ensuring success of all people of Saskatchewan, regardless of location or background - our Provincial Public Library System ensures that all residents of Saskatchewan have access to library services with one library card for all Saskatchewan public libraries.
- ▶ The passion for Saskatchewan libraries was evidenced on April 7, 2017 when almost 6,000 Saskatchewan residents, in over 85 communities, came out to celebrate their libraries and protest budget cuts at the DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) rallies.

# What is the Government's Vision for Saskatchewan Libraries?

- ▶ SLTA, along with the citizens of Saskatchewan, need to rebuild our trust in this government's support for public libraries. For as long as briefs have been presented to the Minister, SLTA has been told how important libraries are. How has this changed?
- ▶ What is the government's vision for the future of Saskatchewan public libraries? Saskatchewan libraries need a cogent, coherent and shared vision for libraries. Libraries need to be able to plan accordingly.
- ▶ The government indicated they want collaboration between the public library systems and the government. What is the government's timeline for collaboration?
- ▶ SLTA would like to take an active role in the collaboration process and be represented on any committee(s) the government strikes regarding public libraries and all public library matters.



# Review of the Saskatchewan Library Act

- ▶ The government stated it will be engaging with libraries, municipalities and the public to develop a long-term strategy for the future of libraries. This will include reviewing *The Public Libraries Act* to ensure libraries have modern legislation that reflects current needs. This will also involve working with libraries to find efficiencies, including options for transportation and co-location, to ensure the most effective use of available resources.
- ▶ SLTA is not convinced that these examples are going to result in efficiencies.
  - ▶ Public libraries do not belong in public schools, just like public schools don't belong in public libraries.
  - ▶ SILS can not function without a coordinated provincial transportation system, which is currently paid for by PLLO.
  - ▶ Currently, there are too many public libraries that are not open very often. To provide more efficient service there need fewer public libraries that are open more often.
- ▶ What is the timeline for the review?
- ▶ SLTA would like to take an active role in the review process.

# Moving Forward

- ▶ SLTA will continue to advocate for public libraries in Saskatchewan; to support adequate, sustainable funding in order to maintain a high quality of public library service for the province.

