

The Trustee

Volume 8, Issue 1

Spring 2016

Inside This Issue:

President's Message	1
Notice of AGM and Call for Resolutions	1
Region Reports	2
SLA Conference	5
Saskatchewan Provincial Election Questionnaire	6/ 7
Trustee Development/ SUMA Motion/ Board of Directors	8

President's Message

The SLTA has been a busy organization in the fall and winter months. I think we have achieved some notable successes in a relatively short time

I would like to start my report by welcoming Karen Bonesky to our Board. Karen has been appointed to sit on the SLTA Board as the Multi-type Library representative. Welcome Karen; we look forward to working with you for the next several years!

I spoke earlier of some successes that we have had since the last report. The SLTA sponsored two Trustee Development sessions in Prince Albert and Saskatoon in the fall. Representatives from PNLS, Wapiti, and Lakeland attended the Prince Albert session while representatives from Palliser, Wheatland, and Parkland attended the Saskatoon session. Based on feedback, sessions were valuable and well received by participants. Approximately 30 trustees from six regions attended the two sessions. The trustees spent the day taking an in depth look at the Board Orientation, Advocacy and Planning, and Development modules. Sessions were led by Donna Challis and Audrey Mark. Thank you ladies. You did a stellar job! All of the modules developed by the Trustee Development Committee are available on the SLTA website.

Another of our successes was the *Libraries Matter* public relations campaign initiated by the SLTA. We delivered approximately 3500 comment cards to the Minister of Education. Our letter writing campaign was also a

resounding success. Hopefully our activities will influence our MLAs to provide adequate funding for libraries in the province so that we can continue to be on the cutting edge of library science.

In the coming weeks, we will be moving into phase two of the campaign. While plans are still incomplete, phase two will include an extension of the letter writing campaign as well as other initiatives. Your regional SLTA reps will bring details of the plan to your region as they are finalized. Please become involved and



President Dennis Taylor, Lakeland

participate. We need the strength of numbers.

Finally I would like to wish you all the best for

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for a happy and prosperous new year. If you have any suggestions about how the SLTA can better serve the needs of trustees in the province please share them either with me at dennis.taylor@littleloon.ca or our Executive Director, Nancy Kennedy, at njk@sasktel.net.

Respectfully,

Dennis Taylor President

Notice of AGM and Call for Resolutions

The Annual General Meeting of the SLTA will be held during the 2016 SLA Conference
Saturday, May 7, 2016
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Picasso Room, Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon

Resolutions shall be presented only by library trustees who are active members of the Association. Resolutions shall be sent to the SLTA Resolutions Committee Chair in writing at least one month prior to the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions may be presented at the Annual General Meeting on any matter with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the trustees in attendance. The resolutions from the floor must be in written form and ready for distribution at the Annual General Meeting. Forward resolutions to: Nancy Kennedy, Executive Director, SLTA, 79 Mayfair Crescent, Regina, SK, S4S 5T9.

Page 2 The Trustee

My Library Matters Because...

"It's a place to bond with my kids and grandchild!! AND READ.

> - M. Wills. Lakeland

"I am a teacher and I need several resources for my units in the classroom. I like bringing my children to story and craft.

- S. Norman, Meadow Lake Library

"It is the hub of our communities! All ages benefit from our libraries—promotes reading with our preschoolers and students, provides internet access to those who can't afford it, and provides free materials to our seniors and library materials to all who can't afford purchasing reading materials as well as many programs.

> - E. Anderson, Maidstone

"It provides access to a wide variety of material otherwise inaccessible to many. Children and adult programs are sources of inspiration."

> - V. Wildemann, Maidstone

Chinook

Chinook Regional Library has been operating in the southwest since 1971. Chinook covers an area of 49,949 sq. km. and serves a population of 46,184 through a network of 32 branches and 14 corner libraries.

Two years ago the region engaged in a strategic planning process that provides a focus for the future. This plan is reviewed and updated annually. Two of the components developed through this process are Chinook's Mission— Chinook Regional Library is dedicated to providing inclusive and welcoming services that strengthen and sustain lifelong learning in our communities and our Vision—Chinook Regional Libraries will be essential centers in communities and accessible resources for people, creating opportunities to participate, connect, discover and learn by responding to the needs of their communities, offering space for people and ideas to come together, providing materials that educate, entertain and inspire, remaining current and adapting to the needs of a changing society,

and providing a commitment to sustainable funding of programs and services.

Chinook's annual staff workshop each October is a great opportunity to engage staff in training, networking, and sharing best practices. As they develop greater understanding of the communities they serve through feedback and consultation combined with statistical data it becomes easier for management and staff to create and implement annual work plans that position their libraries as essential centers in . their communities. As training for local boards becomes accessible in the region there are opportunities for capacity building across the

With the Polaris conversion behind the region they move into 2016 with optimism. The School Readiness Kits were a hit in 2015. With demand established for 2016 the challenge/opportunity will be funding.

Lakeland

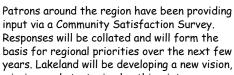
Lakeland welcomed a new Community Services Librarian in late October. Colin Evans is busy providing service support to all the rural branches in the region. He is currently working on a student carding campaign in Lashburn, is putting together a presentation on popular eBook devices, and has started a public newsletter.

The Lakeland Director Eleanor Crumblehulme and the North Battleford Head Librarian Amanda Foster have been working with the City of North Battleford and the local RCMP to create partnerships and develop programs to

benefit the community.

input via a Community Satisfaction Survey. Responses will be collated and will form the basis for regional priorities over the next few years. Lakeland will be developing a new vision, mission, and strategic plan this winter.

Lakeland has subscribed to Hoopla, an eResource that provides streaming video, music, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and comic books. Staff training is going on now and the service will be launched to patrons in late January.



Parkland

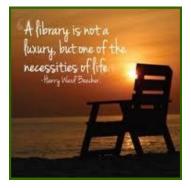
Things are going well at Parkland. Parkland had an adult colouring contest in October for Saskatchewan Library Week. They had over 200 entries. Parkland had six themes and the panel of judges selected one from each theme. The prize was an adult colouring book and art pencil crayons. It was a lot of fun and generated a lot of interest.

Parkland started streaming live music with Freegal on January 1st. This seems to be really enjoyed with Parkland patrons.

Staff is pleased with our Parkland's new Polaris system.

Parkland are working on a training workshop in

May and June with branch staff. Topics will be marketing and programming.





Chinook

Volume 8, Issue 1 Page 3

PNLS

On October 30, a revised letter was sent to Minister Don Morgan outlining more specifically implications of the lack of increases to the Provincial budget. They have not yet heard back from the Minister nor seen a letter from the opposition.

Advocacy has now been switched to election mode. The Advocacy and Executive Committees have come up with a number of questions to ask candidates.

The Northern Library Conference was held late September. The conference combined new library staff orientation with computer training on Polaris and L4U and other sessions promoting sharing programs with schools and communities. Feedback showed a satisfied group.

In the spring PNLS had purchased a replacement computer for each circulation computer in member libraries and half of the headquarters computers. These were tested in September when headquarters staff were trained on the two versions of Polaris: a web based version called LEAP and a version using remote desktop connection called POLARIS. PNLS continues to follow-up with member library staff to ensure that the implementation continues to be successful.

On November 27 the Executive Committee and staff met to develop a new strategic plan for the library system. Julie Arie and Kimberley Hintz of the Provincial Library and Literacy Office helped with the process which included some aspects of Hoshin Kanri. The final report will be presented to the full board at the Annual General Meeting.

After 25 years, Audrey Mark will be retiring in April 2016. Both she and the Board will be sad to see her leave.





PNLS Boardroom as a computer training centre.



Julie Arie discussing Hoshin Kanri.

Regina Public Library

The Mâmawêyatitân Centre is well on its way to becoming a reality in North Central Regina. Construction is more than 25 % complete, and is expected to finish in late Spring 2017. The Centre will house Scott Collegiate, a child care facility, a city recreational complex, the public library branch and a community policing centre. The building's unique design allows each tenant access to shared space and amenities, making total usable space more than if each partner were to build stand-alone facilities. Design plans are being finalized

for the George Bothwell Branch. In late 2015, RPL undertook public consultations to define a set of principles to guide its work to design the branch for the 21st Century. The principles were used to prepare a conceptual design that addresses RPL's service needs for the foreseeable future, introduces many new features, and provides the flexibility to evolve as community needs change.

Key features of the new design include:

- Better connection to the mall with a store front and more windows to see in.
- Children's area with natural light that is well separated from quiet reading areas.
- Dedicated space for young adults.
- New furniture to improve comfort and a café space.
- Flexible and responsive spaces throughout the branch including program rooms which can be opened up.
- Improved natural lighting and accessibility.

Balance between quiet reflective space and areas to meet and socialize.

RP Regina

Le Public Library

- Addition of after-hours access for large meeting spaces,
- Improved washroom facilities.
- Introduction of the Idea Shop: a creative space for the community and library staff.
- Strong technology support for people with their own devices as well as those using library technology.

Saskatoon Public Library

The Carlyle King Branch was renovated. A neighbourhood celebration will take place in February.

The Library held its first annual staff development day September 2015.

SPL's board is reviewing and revising its governing documents.

A Security Strategy Working Group, has developed competencies for security guards which are being used for the upcoming tendering Process. SPL has been working closely with municipal partners to address issues at some locations.

A new executive team is in place at SLP. A new Manager of Adult & Information Services was also hired. There are plans to hire a Manager at Frances Morrison Central Library, and a Facilities Manager.

Phase 2 of website development is underway.

A new central library project team has been formed. The team will create the business case and program. Design work on the new Branch in Stonebridge was completed in 2015. The branch is expected to open fall of 2016.

SPL's 35th Writer in Residence Is Dee Hobsbawn-Smith.

Library staff worked with community partners to host the northern evacuees. Evacuees were given access to the internet, donated books, children's programs/activities, and library cards.

SPL's Board approved a Campaign to forgive fines. The Goals of the "It was Getting



Awkward" campaign were to remove barriers and clean up patron records.

Staff hosted a membership drive at The Lighthouse and the Foodbank to promote the community access card. They also participated in YXE Connects. These are efforts to reach out to vulnerable sectors and remove barriers.

Staff formed a variety of community partners to deliver services to the community. SPL will be taking inventory of their partnerships in 2016.

Page 4 The Trustee

SLTA would love to have more local content to post on our social media!

Please add usnjk@sasktel.net - to your mailing lists and send us items we can share on social media about your libraries photos of events promotions for events, and more. Also, please remember to use our success stories page. It's as easy as http:// slta.ca/ advocacy/storysubmission.

We look forward to hearing from you!



The SLTA
appreciates and
encourages
individual
membership in
the Association.
A form is
located on the
SLTA website—
www.slta.ca.



Southeast

Southeast Regional Library was established in 1966. Southeast will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary from April, 2016 (Annual Meeting) through to the end of October, 2016 (fall Semi-Annual Board Meeting).

- Southeast will be hosting (along with the local branch) a BBQ at each of their 47 locations between April and October.
- Each branch can choose when they would like to host their BBQ.
- Branches may consider piggybacking off of other local or library events

- such as parades, rodeo weekends, or Saskatchewan Library Week activities.
- There will be no cost for local library branches but each branch will look after promotion, invitations to local dignitaries and other community members, volunteers, and supplying the BBQs.
- The BBQ itself will include a special celebration cake provided by Headquarters.
- Staff from Headquarters will be attending as many of the BBQs as possible.



 Headquarters will be purchasing promotional items such as balloons, stickers, tattoos, etc.

This will be the most practical, fun, and realistic way to celebrate 50 years of public library service at Southeast Regional Library. BBQs are fun for everyone and in true Saskatchewan fashion.

Wapiti

Regional Office budgetary constraints made for significant staff cuts and adjustments in service to branches were built into the 2016 budget. These changes will allow greater flexibility in future budgets should provincial funding constraints continue.

Wapiti is pleased and excited to share hosting duties with John M. Cuelenaere Public Library to launch the 2016 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month. The launch event will be held February 1, 2016 at John M. Cuelenaere Public Library.

Wapiti's Community Services

Librarian, Lindsay Baker, has been clocking a lot of miles bringing seniors across the region technology training and workshops on library e-resources and services to seniors where they live and meet in the community, not just at the local library. Assisted by a Federal "New Horizons for Seniors Program" grant, Wapiti is creating and delivering programs and services specially tailored to seniors across the region.

2015 ended with all new circulation computers installed in Wapiti branch libraries. The new circulation computers follow the



region-wide installation of new public computers in the branches in 2014, which in combination make Wapiti's branches that much better prepared for what's to come with technological change in libraries.

2015 saw exciting changes in digital services offered at Wapiti. Continuing a partnership with John M. Cuelenaere Public Library, Wapiti and JMCPL brought in Flipster to replace Zinio as the digital magazine provider. As well, Wapiti launched the digital streaming service "hoopla," which is proving popular with Wapiti patrons.

Wheatland

Wheatland Regional Library held the Fall General Meeting on October 17, 2015. The fall meeting provides an opportunity to present the budget for the coming year and an opportunity for various committees of the executive to report and announce the Nominating Committee. One of the highlights at the meeting is local branch library reports. Each meeting two regional board members introduce their library and highlight some of their activities and successes.

The new database - Hoopla—

will be coming to Wheatland. WRL is looking forward to a launch early in the year.

Wheatland is very excited to again have Rabbit and Bear Paws coming out for a 3-day tour in February as part of Aboriginal Storytelling Month.

Programming is again a priority for this year. WRL hopes to increase programming, possibly through kits from Central, more performers, and continued and varied support to local branches. Board and staff are looking forward to making this an event filled year!



The Board is continuing to work on governance matters, strategic planning and creation of supportive policies for head office and the branch libraries.

Wheatland Regional Library is interested in seeing how others celebrate milestones as the Executive is just in the process of striking a 50th Anniversary Committee to assist in 2017 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Volume 8, Issue 1 Page 5

Provincial Library and Literacy Office

The Summer Reading Working Group and PLLO continued the strategy of program development and practice discussion with a focus on expanding summer reading programming to incorporate an early years family engagement strategy. Continued support for summer Literacy Camps through participation in the counselor training session and outreach activities during the Camps. Use of the Storybird platform incorporated into regular program practice across the province and use of culturally appropriate content developed by Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples supported. The development of popular Storybird related program templates for dissemination on the Library Toolshed.

Eight school divisions continue to receive funding in support of summer literacy camps; in the summer of 2015 reserve located camps for First Nations learners were launched in collaboration with Frontier College and four Saskatchewan First Nations. PNLS continues to receive a grant to purchase culturally and community relevant materials to support continued reading and learning of learners and families. The Saskatchewan Community Literacy Fund provides one-time funding of up to \$50,000 to organizations to offer short term adult, workplace and/or family literacy programs in their communities.

Family literacy hubs continue to promote and deliver family literacy programs and services tailored to fit community needs in four core areas: public awareness, quality programs and services, practitioner training and support and community outreach and networking.

PLLO is working with Palliser, Wapiti, RPL, and SPL to support the public library needs of the Syrian refugees.

The Committee on Aboriginal Library Services (CALS) is hosting an official signing ceremony for the Strategic Alliance between Saskatchewan Public Libraries and the Office of the Treaty Commission (OTC). The ceremony is scheduled for May 6, 2016 in Saskaton.

There are currently 50 images available in Storybird and another 50 images being

added as part of the LSSAP Digital Aboriginal Imaging Project.

Over 6,000 books were donated by the Maskwacis Cultural College Library for Saskatchewan Indigenous youth.

A Facilities Inventory has been completed by 195 branch libraries in the province - designed to assist public libraries with their infrastructure planning.

The National Network for Equitable Library Service provides downloadable library materials to patrons with print disabilities. Over 10,000 items are now available in the SILS catalogue.

The cataloguing unit continues to supply enhanced metadata records to the SILS catalogue. The metadata records provide catalogue descriptions for eBooks, printed books, audio books, streaming resources, resource kits and a variety of other materials. The unit participated in the SILS migration from Sierra to the Polaris ILS. The unit also supports technical aspects related to CNET in the operation of the Polaris ILS. Chinook is waiting municipal approval to migrate its last unconnected branch over to the CNET network. Due to budget restrictions, the remaining unconnected CNET branches in Parkland will not be connected by tower construction in the spring of 2016 as planned. The unconnected branches in Parkland will continue to have high speed internet service provided by YourLink and Sasktel Fusion instead of a CNET connection.

The MLB and PLLO staff continue planning for the joint SLA, SLTA and Multitype, Library Conference, to be held May 5-6, 2016 in Saskatoon. The theme is Cooperation Saskatchewan Style: 20 Years of Success celebrates the 20 year anniversary of the Multitype Library System and embodies the spirit of cooperation so apparent in Saskatchewan. Keynote speaker will be celebrated Canadian novelist Joseph Boyden.

The Multitype Library Board has two new representatives appointed in October 2015. Karen Bonesky and Marilyn



Belhumeur were appointed to represent the SLTA and Aboriginal library services respectively

The Multitype Training and Promotion Committee created a social media kit to promote multitype e-resources and it was uploaded to the Library Toolshed. The toolkit has ready-made tweets.

PLLO hosted and presented five multitype database webinars between September and December 2015. The live webinars are archived on Library

Seven new book titles were submitted to the Saskatchewan eBook Initiative and digitized in November 2015. The eBook titles are available to all Saskatchewan library patrons through library2go.sk.ca.

Updates to the Saskatchewan Libraries website content and design will be completed in April 2016.

The Multitype Database Licensing Program conducted a Cost Per Use analysis to assist in the development of a renewal strategy in 2016/17. The Committee will make purchasing recommendations for 2016/17 at its AGM on April 18, 2016.

The MDLP just finished its third annual End User Survey on library online resources. Results will be posted soon.

The MDLP conducted trials of several new products, including EBSCO Flipster, in which several public libraries expressed their interest.

The Public Library System Financial Reporting Policy Manual was revised and updated and sent to all Public Library Directors.

The Saskatchewan Public Library System Statistical Summaries for 2010 and 2011 are complete and published; the draft 2012 and 2013 have been sent to library directors for review. These reports offer comprehensive data on the public libraries' resource sharing activities through the SILS ILS, which was a Canadian first in public library cooperation.

My Library Matters Because...

(Continued from page 2)

"I don't have a personal computer. I use the one available at my local library."

- C. Hill, Kipling

"Brings a lot of joy and information to my life."

- B. Braun, Weyburn

"I like meeting and talking to the different people I meet at the library."

> - S. Ewert, White City

"I can order my books etc. from anywhere in the province without having to drive to the city, especially helpful/convenient for seniors."

- L. Webb, Lumsden

"The unlimited access to audio books and books with large prints. Also a good place to meet friends."

- Prairie River

"I am able to get books on CD as I am visually impaired."

> L. Schaeffer, Qu'Appelle

Saskatchewan Library Association Conference 2016

May 5-7, 2016, Saskatoon, SK (http://saskla.ca/programs/conference)

SLTA is pleased to offer Fundraising for Small Organizations Part 2 hosted by Karen Mercier.

Is it possible to raise needed funds in a small charity or library environment? Can you compete with the large and sophisticated fundraising orientated charities? **Absolutely!** This session will provide practical and cost effective tactics and strategies to boost your fundraising program.

Participants will take away from this session how to effectively raise more funds in a resource short (money and staff) environment, how to analyze fundraising programs and fundraiser for effectiveness, and how to undertake larger projects

(capital and/or programming) and fund them successfully.

Come listen to Karen Dackiw, Director of Development, Regina Humane Society tell you how!

SLTA is also pleased to co-sponsor a pre-conference — How can we strengthen libraries and librarians in the advancement of knowledge, creativity and literacy in the 21st century? - hosted by Wendy Newman.

Libraries have been loved for over 3,600 years but their relevance in the digital age is being questioned—their economic and social impacts often poorly understood. This train the trainer pre-conference will take an inspired, strategic, evidence-based approach to support advocacy. It

will help Saskatchewan library leaders and front line staff strengthen their ability to understand and share the transformative work that libraries do every day.

Wendy Newman is an advocate for the transformative power of librarians and libraries in the communities they serve. She recently retired as Senior Fellow, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, after a long career in library administration. She has an extensive background in public, academic, and special librarianship as well as public policy advocacy on the local, provincial, and national

We hope to see you there!

Page 6 The Trustee



Questionnaire - Saskatchewan Provincial Election 2016

We asked...

Our province's libraries are essential to the growth and wellbeing of our communities. They provide programming people of all ages, as well as access to technology and resources not always available to members of the general public. Despite our province's population growth over the past decade, our libraries have struggled to expand and modernize, due to stagnant levels of funding.

1. What is your party's plan to make sure Saskatchewan libraries are a priority, and what is your party's vision for libraries in the next five years?

Our province's libraries have seen funding rates that are significantly lower than the rate of inflation. Over the past three years, our libraries have seen funding increases of 0%, 1% and, once again last year, 0%. This is a serious funding shortfall, and many libraries across the province are finding it harder and harder to operate with the money they have.

2. How will your party work to address this funding shortfall and ensure libraries have strong, stable funding that at minimum matches the rate of inflation?

Many in Saskatchewan depend on the Saskatchewan Inter-Library Loan System, known as SILS, that allows library users in the province access to material in any libraries across the province. However, at a cost of \$1.2 million annual, SILS is a large cost to our library regions, but remains an integral part of Saskatchewan's library system. In years previous, we have asked the government to consider taking over the cost of SILS, which would help reduce some of the funding shortfalls and financial strain that our library regions face.

3. Would your party consider taking over the cost of SILS from library regions?

Due to serious funding shortfalls, many of our libraries are suffering from infrastructure issues due to deferred maintenance. Other libraries have deferred from making investments in technology that would be beneficial to their users and members of the public.

4. What is your party's plan to ensure that our province's libraries are upgraded and have the ability to continue to make investments in their core infrastructure?

Response from the Premier's Office:

"Thank you for your email of February 15, 2016, on issues of importance to members of the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association. I am pleased to respond on behalf of our Party.

The Saskatchewan Party will release its election platform to the public during the spring provincial election campaign. However, with regard to your request for specific inquiries, our government stands on its record.

Since 2007, operating grants to the ten public library systems have increased by over 45 per cent. While we continue to invest in our libraries, it is important to remember that government grants account for less than 40 per cent of library operating grants.

In the 2015-16 Budget, our government was pleased to maintain the provincial grant funding to support libraries and the innovative services they provide. The provincial funding remained constant at \$11.09 million, despite the economic downturn.

The operating grant funding includes:

- \$8.25 million for resources sharing grants for regional libraries
- \$2.38 million funding for Community Net
- \$114,000 for the Sask. Information and Library Services (SILS)
- \$100,000 for InterLibrary Loan
- \$100,000 for the National Network for Equitable Library Service.

In addition to provincial operating grants, since 2007-08 our government has also invested:

- \$5.2 million dollars in the Single Integrated Library System
- \$400,000 in the Multitype Digitization Initiative

Volume 8, Issue 1 Page 7

- Literacy beyond funding public libraries:
 - \$815,000 for Adult Literacy
 - * \$537,000 for Family Literacy
 - * \$500,00 for Literacy Initiatives
 - * \$600,000 for Literacy Camps

Our government recognizes that equitable library services, resource sharing and a strong provincial public library system are a vital part of our infrastructure and integral to our government's vision for the future of Saskatchewan. We realize that there is more work to be done and we will continue to explore opportunities to capitalize on the province-wide cooperation of our libraries for the benefit of all Saskatchewan residents.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond on the important services that libraries provide to Saskatchewan residents. We appreciate the work of the Saskatchewan Library Trustee's Association advocating the importance of Saskatchewan's public libraries."

Response from the Leader of the Opposition:

"Thanks for your letter and questionnaire outlining the issues that are important to the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association.

As you said in your letter, libraries re vitally important to Saskatchewan today and to our future success. I'm please to provide our responses to your questionnaire.

What is your party's plan to make sure Saskatchewan libraries are a priority, and what is your party's vision for libraries in the next five years?

I know how much libraries matter in our communities and throughout our entire province. My daughters love visiting libraries and I want them to be able to enjoy that experience throughout their entire lives. I know people of all ages, cultures and walks of life benefit from strong public libraries, from the resources, programs, technologies and services available in libraries, and especially from safe places to learn, explore, grow and collaborate.

Recognizing the tremendous value of libraries, Saskatchewan's New Democrats want to deliver stable, reliable funding that meets the growing needs of public libraries. It's not acceptable for the government to keep forcing libraries to do more with less. Despite record resource wealth over the last many years, they chose not to invest in what matters most to families and communities, including our libraries. They let us down in some of the best economic times our province has ever had, and we can't trust them in tough times.

I firmly believe Saskatchewan will only achieve its full potential when we ensure that all people are able to achieve their individual potential and fully engage in our economy, society and communities. Libraries have an important part to play in that, including strengthening Indigenous languages in every part of our province, making sure that newcomers have access to the English-language resources they need, and enhancing programming for seniors and children. I want to work to help make that happen. And I look forward to continuing to regularly visit Saskatchewan's libraries with my daughters.

How will your party work to address the funding shortfall and ensure libraries have strong, stable funding that at minimum matches the rate of inflation?

The underfunding of libraries that we've seen under the Sask. Party, during boom times, is entirely unacceptable. New Democrats will put a stop to that. We will cut Sask. Party waste and redirect that money to things that matter - and that includes better, reliable funding for libraries.

Would your party consider taking over the cost of SILS from library regions?

I know how important the inter-library loan program is to ensuring people in every part of our province have access to the wealth of resources available through the library system. I think the provincial government can and should help with this, and I would certainly take a serious look at this specific proposal and welcome a meaningful conversation with libraries about this.

What is your party's plan to ensure that our province's libraries are upgraded and have the ability to continue to make investments in their core infrastructure?

Deferred maintenance is a serious issue affecting many institutions in our province, not just libraries. I've heard from many leaders in our schools, hospitals and universities who are frustrated by the lack of action on deferred maintenance under the Sask. Party government, and I'm disappointed to hear that libraries are feeling the same squeeze. After a decade of record resource wealth, it shouldn't have to be like this. Our party's plan is to make sure all provincially funded organizations – including school divisions, health regions, and library boards – receive sustainable funding each year so they can provide the spaces and services Saskatchewan people should be able to count on.

Again, thanks for your letter and for highlighting the issues that are important to the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association. Thanks as well for all that you do to build a stronger Saskatchewan. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead."



Nancy Kennedy Executive Director c/o 79 Mayfair Crescent Regina, SK S4S 5T9

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Contributions are welcome.
Please send articles, photos, and stories to njk@sasktel.
net.



Page 8 The Trustee

Trustee Development Workshops—Audrey Mark

Trustee Development Training Sessions were held in: Prince Albert on Saturday, October 31, 2015 and Saskatoon on Saturday, November 7, 2015. The session planned for Saturday, November 14, 2015 in Regina was cancelled due to the small number of participants.

President Dennis Taylor, Donna Challis and Audrey Mark facilitated the sessions. In both sessions there were good discussions and feedback was positive. If your board is interested in the material please visit http://slta.ca/trustee-development/in-a-nutshell.

Prince Albert







Suma Motion Submitted by the Town of Osler

SLTA is please to report that the motion below was passed at SUMA in February.

WHEREAS under the *Public Libraries Act*, 1966 the province establishes the boundaries of the Regional Library Systems and requires that all Municipal Governments within a Regional Library System must participate unless they are part of the provincially approved Municipal Libraries (Saskatoon and Regina), making libraries a joint responsibility of all Municipalities and the province; and

WHEREAS the *Public Libraries Act, 1966* sets out one of the main purposes of the provincial library system is to facilitate equitable access to basic library services by all residents of Saskatchewan; and,

WHEREAS there is a limited ability for Regional Library Systems to support their headquarters through the levy structure; and,

WHEREAS there is now a Single Integrated Library System in place to ensure accessibility to materials for all residents the cost of which is born in part by municipalities and,

WHEREAS there is no fee for service with respect to use of the library; and,

WHEREAS the government has indicated that Libraries fall under the Ministry of Education;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA lobby the Provincial Government and the applicable Ministry to ensure ongoing adequate funding of SILS and the Library Systems in order to provide library services to all residents of the province regardless of where they reside or their financial circumstance.

Your SLTA Board of Directors		
CHINOOK REGION Gail Beuhler, Frontier Email: gail.beuhler@gmail.com Tel: (306)296-4449	SOUTHEAST REGION Donna Hartley, Ogema Treasurer Email: dhartley@sasktel.net Tel: (306)459-2718	LAKELAND REGION Dennis Taylor, Hafford President Email: dennis.taylor@littleloon.ca Tel: (306)549-2165
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