

Letter from the President

Greetings! I can't believe this is the second report I have written to you from the comfort of my craft room/home office. A lot has changed and a lot has stayed the same. I feel like we are all getting a little more comfortable with online meeting software. I think that many of us, at least, are missing that in-person contact with our colleagues. I know I do.

Many of us are thinking about the conference that won't be (at least this year). Right now, we would have been looking forward to connecting with our colleagues and friends from across the province and for the chance to be reinvigorated by the discussions, learnings and connections made. I want to take this time to once again thank all those who put a lot of time and work into the planning of this conference. It was shaping up to be an engaging and interesting experience. I would also like to thank those folks who sent in their sponsorships for the conference. Sponsorships come from vendors, but also from libraries and other organizations. Without the support of sponsorships, we would not be able to offer the quality programming that delegates rely on. I would also like to thank our members who registered before we made the necessary decision to cancel the conference. It is heart-warming to see the support and interest of our members. We are hoping to carry forward as much of the work and commitments that were undertaken this year to next year.

Aside from COVID-19 related news, it has been a tough week for Canadians across the country, but most especially in Nova Scotia. My sympathy goes out to those of you in the province who are directly impacted by the continuing tragedy in the East. I hope that everyone is able to find the supports they need to help them get through these times of struggle. Please remember to be gentle with yourselves.

I just attended the webinar "Cities in the time of COVID – How will the role of public libraries be changed?". This was panel session with folks from across the country. The chat with all the participants was as interesting and engaging as the presentation. I believe the recording will be available at canurb.org/citytalk. This webinar reinforced what I already knew: public libraries are amazing. It also reminded me of the creative ways that libraries are using to connect with their clients during this very different time. I have been so proud of our libraries across the province. The creativity and resilience that library staff have shown has impressed and awed me.

Business at SLA continues. Marina, Anne and Dorothea are all working from home (with tiny forays into the office to access information and attend to administrative requirements). They have been doing amazing work finishing up the year-end that has to be completed for us to finalize the annual report and the audit. In addition to planning for the next cycle the staff are focussing on administrative catch up, policy updates, website review, manual development etc. The Board and Executive continue to meet as required. We will be having a Board meeting in the near future to determine planning for an AGM.

Thank you for all that you and your colleagues are doing to serve your communities – whoever and wherever they may be. Please reach out to me if there is something that you think SLA can help you with.

Amy Rankin

SLA President 2019-2020