

Letter from the President

Greetings! Earlier this year, the Board decided, after looking at other library associations across Canada, to stop publishing SLAte in July and August. Since we are in very unusual circumstances this year, we feel that we should at least publish the July newsletter so we can keep the lines of communication open.

So, I am happy to be bringing you a brief update this month. I would like to thank the SLA staff, Board and our volunteers Michael Shires and Brad Doerksen, for all the hard work that went into planning and running the SLA AGM on June 25. This was our first virtual AGM and I believe it went very smoothly. I hope that we will be able to continue with in-person AGMs, but open it up with a virtual component so that we can reach as many members as possible. I feel like the AGM was a success and I am looking forward to the exciting year to come.

I would like to thank Linda Winkler, Lukas Miller and Christina Winter for their hard work on the SLA board. It was a pleasure working with each of them. I hope they enjoy a well-earned break from SLA, but I also hope to see them back! I would also like to welcome Elaina St. Onge and Luke Muller, who will be joining the Board in Members-at-Large positions. And, finally, I would like to thank Anthony Woodward, Darrell Yates, Amber Daigneault, and Nicole Bergen for continuing their amazing work on the Board. I believe we have an exciting year to come. I would also like to thank the SLA membership for putting your trust in me to be your President for another term.

I am particularly looking forward to working on the resolution that came in via the AGM for the Board to look at possibilities around bursaries for Indigenous people in the library community. This proposition engendered some very exciting discussion and brainstorming at the AGM and I believe we will be able to do some very interesting work on this project.

We are curious to see how public libraries move forward now that they have received government approval to physically open their spaces. Dorothea Warren and I met with representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Export Development and the Provincial Library and Literacy Office last week to discuss the guidelines that were being released and, in more general terms, plans for public libraries in Saskatchewan. A lot of great work has been done in other areas that libraries can use for direction when developing their own specific guidelines. There was a sincere understanding that all libraries – urban, rural and northern, have very different requirements, sometimes even within their system. We appreciate all the hard work and planning that have already gone into reopening libraries and we appreciate that plans continue to evolve and develop. Please, let us know if there is anything SLA can do to support you.

I know that we are in different times and your summers look very different than in the past. I hope that you are able to take some enjoyment in your surroundings.

Have a good summer.

Amy Rankin

President, SLA