



SPRING 2017
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SALT

Saskatchewan Association
of Library Technicians

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nicolle DeGagné, SALT President

It is with a troubled mind and heart that I write this issue's President's Message. We are all aware of the provincial budget cuts announced in March. These cuts hurt our communities, and the essential services used by so many in this province. I encourage you to contact your MLA and lend your voice in protesting these cuts, not only to libraries, but to all the services which will be affected by the decisions made in our Provincial budget. If you haven't done so already, please sign the petition to restore funding to libraries here: <https://www.facebook.com/librarypetition/>

A Facebook and Twitter group has also been created called "Save Saskatchewan's Libraries". I encourage you to join. There are also a number of rallies and sit-in's planned throughout our province, with information being shared on the Save Saskatchewan Libraries Facebook page. SALT encourages you to continue contacting us through our Facebook page, as well as through our website. Have information about an event being organizing in your community or library? Please feel free to send information to our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/sasksalt/> and we would be happy to help spread the word!



Book decorations from SALT's 40th birthday party, Mar. 11, 2017

PUBLIC LIBRARY CUTS

The Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians (SALT) is concerned by the \$4.8 million in cuts to funding libraries in the 2017-2018 provincial budget. Our organization is also concerned about the 5% reduction in grants to Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions. Public and post-secondary libraries are at serious risk of seeing operations drastically impacted or ended.

For over 40 years, SALT has advocated on behalf of Saskatchewan's library technicians and library support workers. We emphasize the vital role libraries play in communities and the impact they have in various sectors, whether it be public, school, post-secondary, health, or special libraries. Libraries support new Canadians, children, seniors, students, the disabled, and the disenfranchised. There is a place for everyone in a public library, and these spaces provide much more than book lending. We cannot stress enough how critical it is that our Government continue to recognize the special place that libraries have in Saskatchewan.

We urge the Provincial Government to work with our regional library systems to find an alternative funding solution.

SALT encourages our members to write to their MLAs, Premier Brad Wall, and Minister of Education Don Morgan to express your concern about the future of our libraries. You can find contact information for your local representative here:

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas/current-mlas-print-version>

In addition, please continue to voice your concerns on social media, through letter writing, and through involvement in your library organizations. We ask that our members show continued support for their local libraries by advocating for and accessing their programming and services.

For more information, please contact SALT at sasksalt@gmail.com or visit www.sasksalt.ca

Letter to the Premier:

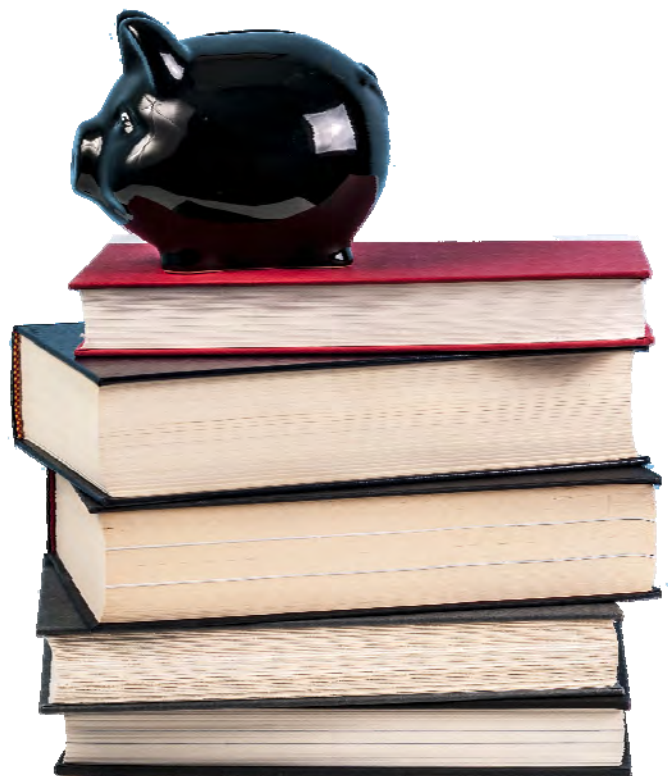
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByHxallaMLd2ZjJrVkZoQ1JmWGC/view>

Save Saskatchewan's Libraries:

<http://savesasklibraries.ca/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SaveSkLibraries>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1863999523837974/>





SALT'S 40TH BIRTHDAY BASH



We had a great time celebrating 40 years of SALT on March 11th at AKA Gallery in Saskatoon. A night filled with drinks, snacks, cake and games was the perfect outlet for old colleagues to catch up and an opportunity to make new friends. Library Jeopardy highlighted Saskatchewan Libraries and SALT history. Congrats to the winning team (pictured top left). We couldn't have achieved 40 years of service without the hard work, creativity and leadership of the current executive and countless volunteers over the years. Here's to 40 more years!

Thank you to our sponsors who contributed to the event: AKA Gallery, Italian Star Deli, Malty National Brewing and the many generous donations of door prizes. Thank you Katelyn Haskell, SALT Vice President for coordinating and the entire executive committee for pitching in to make this event a success! We're looking forward to more social events throughout the coming years.

View our revised Highlights in SALT History timeline: http://www.sasksalt.ca/~*!{}_E

GETTING TO KNOW SASK LIBRARIES

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY SCHOOL LRC, SASKATOON



"I love my students," says Sarah Wiwchar, solo Library Technician at the Princess Alexandra Community School in Saskatoon. "They're fun and respectful and it is so exciting when they find something they enjoy reading. I love when they come up to me and suggest new titles or subjects they are interested in. I truly believe that if someone doesn't like reading they just haven't found the right subject/genre yet. Our school is small enough I know each of my kids by name."

Sarah has been working at the core community school located in Riversdale for the past 2 years after finishing her LIT program at Sask Polytechnic. She is a half time technician working with a half time Teacher Librarian. "I love that my TL and I are both open to each others' ideas and focus on improving our library. I'm able to suggest something outrageous, she might need to reign me in, but we work together to figure out the best solution. She gets excited about things I get excited about. I enjoy being included in the purchasing of books. She likes my input because I know what kids are borrowing. She also cares about the kids and their growth, especially in literacy."

"We want it to be their space"

The Library provides a gamut of services to staff, students, children in day programs and parents at the school. Services include: ILL, reference, readers' advisory, bibliographies/material requests for classes and liaising with the Saskatoon Public Library. As a part-time Technician it's a challenge to keep up to the demand. "It's unfortunate that Technicians can't be full time at one location, especially as 10 month employees; some schools have to depend on volunteers to for shelving." Sarah is impressed with the teachers she serves at her school who heavily rely on her library and the library staff. "They use the library!"

Sarah also is lucky to have support from her Curriculum Materials Centre, mainly for kits and she requests materials from other schools which help supplement her small collection. She has access to the Sask Alternate Format Materials Library which supplies curriculum materials in alternate formats for K-12 students with perceptual disabilities across the province.

cont...



GETTING TO KNOW SASK LIBRARIES CONT...

Sarah has completed a massive collection weed to clean up outdated and non-circulating books and make the library look more approachable. After moving the professional resources to the staff room to increase usage, she created subject and author bins for all collections including fiction, non-fiction and picture books. "I used to hate bins but they are very helpful when kids ask for "Frozen" books that are so many varied call numbers and I am the only person in the library to pull them. It prevents me from having to print a call list every time; the kids know where to go and can independently choose books themselves. Bins also make it quicker to shelve popular books such as true stories; kids can go in a bin instead of me having to take the time to shelve when these books are just going to go flying off the shelf when the next class comes in." She has recently created a "Parent/Staff" area of non-professional books to foster peer reading including titles recommended by staff.

"Every day is an excellent experience and adventure"

Another example of focusing on her users' needs is emulating the classroom environment by leaving the florescent lights off and letting the natural light in. "It is very basic, but it changed the mood of the library. We listen to our students/patrons to find out what they want; we want it to be their space."

Sarah is undoubtedly passionate about her work and her patrons. "I love my job, I can't say that enough. Every day is an excellent experience and adventure!" Thanks to Sarah for sharing your enthusiasm for your library! 🌱



YOUR LIBRARY HERE!

DO YOU WANT TO TELL US HOW
AWESOME YOUR LIBRARY IS?

ARE YOU WORKING ON A UNIQUE PROJECT
TO CONNECT WITH YOUR USERS?

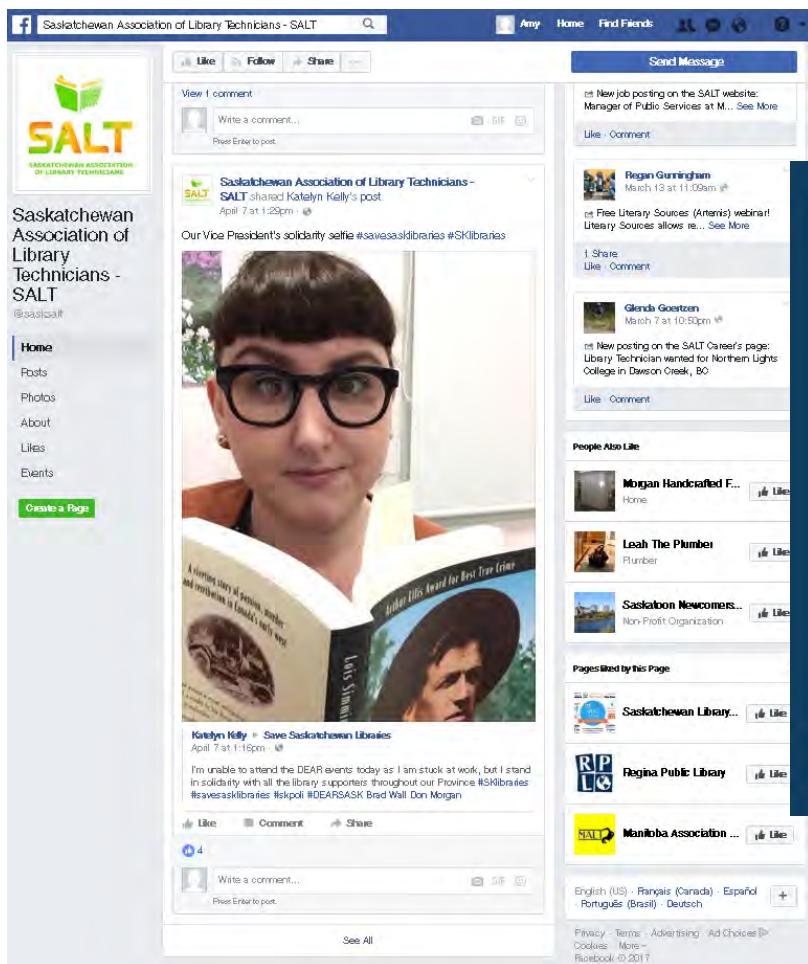
DO YOU HAVE A CO-WORKER WHO IS IMPRESSIVE
AND DESERVES RECOGNITION?

LET US KNOW AND WE'LL ADD A FEATURE
IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

CONTACT AMY WEISGARBER FOR SUBMISSIONS:
AMY.WEISGARBER@RQHEALTH.CA

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Our Facebook page is more active than ever and is the best way to keep up on the latest communication from SALT. Keep current on programming offered in-person and online throughout the province, library news and much more. We welcome submissions! <https://www.facebook.com/sasksalt/>



Library Worker of the Year Award

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

SALT Fall Workshop, Sept. 22, 2017



Libraries and Newcomers to Canada



The Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians will hold their annual Fall Workshop on Friday September 22nd, 2017 at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, SK.

We would like to invite presenters, vendors, organizations who are interested in topics such as how libraries and library workers can be of help to newcomers, how they can get involved with the community to promote library services, and exploration of what is already being done in various types of libraries to submit their intent to SALT.

Deadline to apply: **May 7th, 2017**. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in being part of our event, please contact our SALT Workshop Coordinators Carly and Sarah: sasksalt@gmail.com



sasksalt@gmail.com



Saskatchewan
Association of
Library Technicians



www.sasksalt.ca

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The SALT Executive wishes you all the best this Spring!

L-R: Brittany Schmidt, Carole-Anne Wilson-Hough, Glenda Goertzen, Amy Weisgarber, Steven Kabernack, Nicolle DeGagne, Carly Wiebe, Yvette Pinel, Rachel Kotei, Elisabeth Eilinger, Katelyn Haskell, Sarah Wiwchar