

Hello,

Signs of fall have been noticeable for a while and the scenic view from my office window at the University of Regina illustrates the changing of seasons.

SLA's Board of Directors and office staff were very busy over the summer. The One Book One Province committee chair (Colleen Murphy) and her team have done a tremendous amount of work planning this exciting new program. Flyers are being distributed across the province and the official kick off is only a few months away! Special thanks to Kimberley Hintz and Deborah McConkey who staffed SLA's booth at the Word on the Street fair in Saskatoon on Sept. 18 and helped promote the One Book One Province program.

Another committee that was very active this summer was the 2017 Conference Planning Committee (CPC). Bill Sgrazzutti (Conference Manager and Chair), James Hope Howard (Local Arrangement Coordinator), Judy Nicholson (Executive Director), and I have been drafting a new CPC Handbook. It adopts a new conference planning model and includes guidelines for committee positions, responsibilities, timelines, etc. It replaces the 2009 conference planning handbook. The first meeting of all CPC members is late September and the committee is happy to accept new individuals, including a Program Chair. Time commitment is very reasonable and it's a great opportunity to collaborate with others, learn about SLA, gain professional development experience, and help plan a very special conference. Please contact Bill (William.Sgrazzutti@uregina.ca) or Judy (slaexdir@sasktel.net) if you are interested.

In mid August, on behalf of SLA, I flew to Toronto and attended The Partnership's annual two day summer retreat. It was great to meet other executive board members and staff and hear updates from Canadian provincial and territorial associations. In my view, SLA fares well compared others in terms of our governance review, board training, strategic planning, engaging with membership, programming, and offering grants. There is more work to be done and your board is gearing up for an exciting and productive year.

Speaking of grants, congratulations go out to Sara Roberts and Jennifer Martin! Sara is the recipient of a Category 1 grant to attend a continuing education opportunity and Jennifer is the recipient of a grant to attend the Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians' fall 2016 workshop in Saskatoon.

Staying on the theme of continuing education, the Partnership coordinates two great programs. The first is the Education Institute (EI) www.educationinstitute.ca. One hour webinars and longer web courses are offered year-round for library workers in all sectors. Reasonably priced sessions are conducted using Adobe Connect and they are archived. Rates are available for single users, groups, and institutions. An institutional rate allows all library workers access to all sessions for one year – it's a great deal! Alan Kilpatrick, one of SLA's Members at Large, is conducting an EI webinar on Oct. 4. Details are on page 9 of the [EI's Fall 2016 catalog](#).

The Partnership also supports the national [Continuing Education Certificate](#) (CEC). It is an excellent tool for library workers to plan and record professional development activities. The one time registration fee is \$40 and at the end of the three year program you receive a certificate documenting your work. Attending and/or hosting an EI session qualify for CEC credit. I'm registered in the program and participation also supports SLA.

Our Board of Directors participated in a retreat Aug. 28-29 at St. Peter's College and Abbey in Meunster, SK. It's a fantastic venue and it provided us with inspiration for developing new ideas for the upcoming year. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is in La Ronge, SK Oct. 2-3 and I'm sure it will be an enriching experience.

Finally SLA will again be offering a province-wide Happy Hour. It's scheduled from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 3. SLA has funds to cover food (excluding beverages) for a limited number of cities/towns to participate. A promotional poster is being drafted and Happy Hour locations will be added and a downloadable copy will be available closer to the date. Please consider being a host in your community for this fun event! Follow Happy Hour and post comments on Twitter using the hashtag #ssaklaHH. There will be prizes for the best tweets and photos!

Best,
Michael Shires, President