

Hello everyone,

I have to begin by stating how much fun I had at our annual conference in Waskesiu! Speakers Bill Waiser Michelle Brownridge and Lyndon Linklater were fantastic. Concurrent sessions and the special plenary panel about the Saskatchewan Public Libraries Campaign were wonderful. The World Café was a great opportunity for attendees to comment on what would make SLA a world class organization. To top it off, the weather was perfect and I thoroughly enjoyed relaxing at the hotel's outdoor patio fire pit Thursday evening socializing and eating 'Smores. My sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers, sponsors, and volunteers who, I think, made our conference a great success!

Another conference highlight was the official unveiling of SLA's new logo and the association's visual identity re-branding. SLA has undergone a significant renewal of its mission, governance structure, staffing, programming, and services in the past few years. As part of this renewal, a new logo was designed to capture the values and mission of SLA. The logo's Visual Standards document states that it's our new brand ambassador. There are creative applications of the letters 'S', 'L' and 'A' that graphically represent relevance, partnership, inclusivity, connection, learning, and networking. The document goes on to state that the logo has purposeful movement and dynamic energy such as two hands about to clasp. Geometric lines of the logo also hint at the landscape while simultaneously suggesting multidimensionality and depth. In addition to representing Saskatchewan's abundant natural beauty, the bright green and teal colors represent the many ways libraries foster growth for individuals and society.

I am also excited to announce that at our AGM on May 4, SLA members endorsed the Canadian Federation of Library Association (CFLA-FCAB) Truth and Reconciliation Committee's 10 recommendations. I would like to thank Carol Cooley and Cynthia Bretell, who represented SLA on the national committee, for their work on the report. SLA's Board of Directors will discuss strategies for supporting and implementing the report's 10 recommendations.

While provincial funding to public libraries was reinstated due to the excellent emergency response advocacy done by Saskatchewan's citizens, post-secondary libraries are now facing budgetary challenges. SLA still meets regularly with the Regina-based concerned citizens group. Discussions continue about next steps with the forthcoming review of The Public Libraries Act, 1996. SLA has written a letter to key stakeholders proposing that conversations take place about provincial government comments of co-locating some public and school libraries. We also continue to update content on the renamed Public Libraries Saved web page <http://saskla.ca/advocacy/cuts-to-budget-information-page>. SLA is now engaged in planned, deliberate, and sustained advocacy. Check out our Advocacy Articles series site for details <http://saskla.ca/advocacy/advocacy-articles-series>.

Finally, it's with mixed emotions that I announce Judy Nicholson's retirement. She has been SLA's Executive Director since late winter 2014 and has worked with three Presidents. Judy has been a guiding force for the association on many projects including helping develop and implement our strategic and diversity plans, moderate summer retreats, conference planning work, and coordinate operationalizing and streamlining a plethora of SLA Office work. Her years of experience as a school teacher and working in the Ministry of Education were significant in helping transform SLA to what it is now and the exciting

future it faces. Judy has been graciously flexible with succession planning and she will work with SLA's Board of Directors for a final work date to occur later in 2017.



Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Shires".

Michael Shires, President (2016-2018)