

## Letter from the President

Greetings! I started the month of February at the OLA Super Conference, which was a great time to learn and meet with colleagues from across the country. My message from the February SLAte provided an update about the Partnership meeting. Since then, I met again with the Partnership subcommittee that is reviewing the viability of the Continuing Education Certificate. We are looking at ways to renew the program. Please let me know if you have any thoughts about this program and/or the Education Institute. Keep an eye out for a survey soon coming your way about the Education Institute and the Continuing Education Certificate.

The first week back in the office also brought a great visit and meeting with the Regional Library Directors who combined a tour of the RCMP Learning Resource Centre with a meeting with Dorothea Warren and I about SLA. This was a timely meeting as we were to meet with Deputy Premier Wyant later that week about libraries and SLA. We are excited to see that this will be the first of regular meetings in the future.

Later that week, Dorothea, Darrell Yates and I met with Minister Wyant, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education and Clint Repski, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education. This was a positive meeting that I know continues the tradition of fruitful meetings in the past. SLA was happy to present Deputy Premier Wyant with a copy of *A Geography of Blood* by Candace Savage, which you know is the One Book, One Province (OBOP) selection for 2020. We were able to share much information about libraries in Saskatchewan and about SLA. One of the important messages that we received from this meeting was to encourage our patrons and library users to continue to send in their messages of support for libraries. Testimonials are attention getters and I believe it would be powerful for SLA to share some in SLAte every month as well. Please send in your submissions as they come in and don't forget to ask your patrons to write their powerful stories to MLAs.

Two major SLA programs are coming up: OBOP and the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference. Planning for OBOP has been going on for months and I was pleased to be able to bring greetings on behalf of SLA at the launch, which took place Thursday, February 27 at Government House. There will be many OBOP events happening across Saskatchewan this month. Visit your local library and join us in reading *A Geography of Blood*.

The Saskatchewan Libraries Conference is approaching. I am excited by the slate of speakers that will be there. I am looking forward to seeing you all on May 7 and 8 (with an exciting preconference session on May 6). Of course, we have to remember that the office staff and our Conference Planning Committee are all working hard behind the scenes to make this happen

The Board of Directors is meeting March 1 and 2 both for an in-person meeting and for the continuation of the development of the Communications Plan. With the work that was undertaken in October, we look forward to having, as a result, an overarching communication strategy for SLA.

I would also like to invite you to consider joining the Board. Positions open include: two Member-at-Large positions; VP of Engagement and Communications; and President. Please feel free to contact any Board member or the SLA office if you have questions and visit the SLA website for complete descriptions of the positions.

Happy Spring!

Amy Rankin

SLA President