

The **SLA Frances Morrison Award** is an award of merit for outstanding service to libraries given in the name of one of Saskatchewan's exceptional librarians. This award is open to all, individuals or institutions or groups, and not restricted to professional librarians or SLA members. In 1981 she was awarded the Canadian Library Association's Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award. In 1999 she received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit for her contributions to library services in Saskatchewan. In 1982, Frances Morrison joined with the Saskatchewan Library Association in creating this award.

The selection committee and the Board of Directors selected **Ruth Barker from Southeast Regional Library as the recipient of the 2017 SLA Frances Morrison Award**. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions to library services and to the library community and province.

Ruth provides outstanding service to libraries and the library management team in the Southeast Regional Library system {SE}, and collaborative leadership to provincial public library practitioner groups. Ruth's strong guidance, knowledge exchange, and professional practice have made significant, observable change to evidence-based practice, and served to support library staff capacity development in public libraries across Saskatchewan.

Her prior accomplishments in the field of Early Learning and Literacy and the relationships she has built over her professional life make her a pivotal member of the extended community of non-profits, Treaty and governmental organizations supporting literacy, and the development of children and families.

Ruth is both catalyst and glue - a responsive change agent grounded in outcomes-based practice with a far-sighted view of the collaborative future of libraries in the province, and a strong understanding of the needs of her communities. She is a cornerstone of her community of library practice.

She is a valued member of the Summer Reading Working Group and Evaluation Committee: exemplifying innovative practice through the development and sharing of; Storybird programming, {2013-2015}, Aboriginal Storysacks (2013-present), a model for STEM kits for rural libraries {2017}, and an ongoing engagement strategy for on-reserve and reserve-proximate practices.

In Saskatchewan, Ruth is recognized as a literacy leader, a family literacy expert, and a significant contributor to policies, programs and initiatives while she was on the board of directors for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.