

Hello everyone,

It's the last week of August as I write this and fall is in the air. I hope that all of you enjoyed summer in special ways away and that you feel rejuvenated. Regina is still experiencing hot dry weather but the nights are cool, leaves are changing color, and I've been raking a bunch up in our back yard for the past few weeks. I wanted to share a photo I took in early August of a misty morning view of Wascana Lake and downtown from my office window.

SLA's office staff continue to be very busy with planning various programs such as Saskatchewan Library Week (SLW). Of note is that SLW's will be piloting a Cree language initiative with a SLW poster in Cree and an author visit to a few PNLs libraries by Louise Halfe! SLA staff and volunteers also adjudicated Culture Days grant applications. Libraries had some very interesting projects and ten lucky libraries were selected for a \$300 grant. The 2018 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference Planning Committee (CPC) Executive has been meeting regularly. Alix-Rae Stefenko, President of the Manitoba Library Association and Prairie Provinces representative to the CFLA Board, has joined the CPC. There are some great program ideas for a very special week of national meetings, socials, keynotes, and sessions from May 1 – 4, 2018. Watch for regular updates on the conference site <https://saskla.ca/2018-conference>.

I really enjoyed attending The Partnership Summer Retreat in Toronto on Aug. 15-16. Judy Nicholson and I were on a panel about advocacy work and government relations. The retreat is a great networking and learning opportunity to connect with executive directors and library association board members from across Canada. All expenses are paid too. It's a great perk if you have aspirations of being a future president, vice-president, or treasurer of SLA!

I was pleased to learn that Alan Kilpatrick, member at large on the board, has published his first article titled Legal Information Innovation in Saskatchewan in The Partnership Journal <https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/3988>. Congratulations Alan! I highly recommend this journal for people wanting to publish on any aspect of library work.

I'm happy to announce that SLA's 4th annual province-wide Happy Hour will occur on Thursday, November 2. SLA will once again provide funds for snacks (excluding beverages) for locations to host a social. Save the date and details will be coming soon!

My institution, University of Regina, had its annual end of summer barbeque. Staff also took part in the rubber duck race. People would choose a numbered duck and at an appointed time all would throw theirs into a large water fountain. The individual with who had the first duck to float from the middle back to the fountain's edge would win the collected pot of money. If you have a fun story or staff activity that your workplace does and would like to share it then please email Anne Pennylegion, Program Coordinator slaprograms@sasktel.net.

I'd like to express my sincere best wishes to Gloria Bearss on her new appointment as executive director of the Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists and provincial coordinator of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. Gloria had provided administrative support to SLA since 2012 and was very helpful in operationalizing numerous tasks including conference planning. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Calvin Chiang

who will be SLA's new administrative assistant. Finally, SLA's executive director position has been advertised in several sources and on SLA's site <https://saskla.ca/saskatchewan-library-association-searches-for-a-new-executive-director>. The board continues to work with Judy Nicholson on executive director succession planning and I greatly her willingness to be flexible with the timeline.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Shires". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Shires, President (2016-2018)