

President's Message

Hello everyone! I hope that you have had a wonderful summer. The SLA Board, staff, and committee volunteers have been working hard on several projects. One of which is that key members of our 2017 conference planning committee have been drafting a guidelines document. It looks fantastic and it will be beneficial to many future Conference Planning Committees (CPC).

Your association Executive (President, both Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Executive Director) have been meeting over the summer and discussing high level agenda items. Many will be brought forward to Board of Director meetings in the coming year for further discussion and decisions. Speaking of the Board, our retreat is scheduled for August 28th to 29th at St. Peter's College near Meunster, SK. The college shares grounds with St. Peter's Abbey and SLA's Board retreat was held there in 2015. It's a wonderful place for new and continuing Board members to strategize about priorities that the association should take in the coming year that align with key actions in SLA's strategic plan. This, in turn, will guide work that many of the committees will embark upon. We've got a great agenda I'm really looking forward to it and also to socialize with everyone.

In mid August I attended The Partnership's annual Summer Retreat in Toronto. The Partnership is a representative group of approximately 7700 library workers from all the provincial and territorial library associations in Canada. The two day retreat was attended by leaders from these associations. The agenda included professional development activities and discussing updates from other associations, and shared challenges. The Partnership also coordinates the nation-wide Job Board, Education Institute webinars, and the Continuing Education Certificate. The group also publishes an open access journal that contains peer-reviewed and non peer reviewed articles. The Partnership Journal is celebrating its 10th anniversary so I'm inviting all library workers to consider submitting articles on any aspect of their work from any type of library.

Another bit of news from The Partnership Retreat was that the Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération Canadienne des associations de bibliothèques CFLA/FCAB Canadian Federation of Libraries is scheduled to hold elections this fall. The federation is planning to have its first elected board in place for its first AGM at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference in February 2017. SLA will work with the Manitoba Library Association to work out logistics of participating in elections and devising a process for forwarding a name to our shared Prairie Provinces seat on the CFLA/FCAB board.

I would like to emphasize a new initiative that CFLA/FCAB is undertaking. It is creating an ad hoc committee to respond to calls to action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report. This is a great opportunity to participate in ground breaking work. Please contact Camille Callison at Camille.Callison@umanitoba.ca or Kevin Brennan at Kevin@newba.ca if you are interested or want more information. The federation has been active in many other projects as the Canadian Library Association continues to wind down its activities. SLA will continue to forward official federation updates in newsflashes.

SLA received grant applications from libraries for Culture Days and for the association's Continuing Education. It is very gratifying to be able to offer these member benefits to financially support library workers with their programming ideas and in their lifelong learning.

On September 18 SLA will participate in [The Word on the Street](#) – Saskatoon's Book and Magazine Festival. Saskatoon is one of five cities in Canada that helps celebrate literacy with providing free activities such as author readings, storytelling, and an exhibitor marketplace. SLA members will volunteer to staff a booth and it is a great opportunity to promote ourselves and the benefits the libraries of all types play in communities. Please check it out and stop by our booth if you are in downtown Saskatoon that day.

One major program that we will heavily promote at The Word on the Street is a pilot program called One Book One Province. As we prepare to celebrate SLA's 75th anniversary, the association welcomes One Book One Province among the events planned for 2017. The One Book Committee has been hard at work this summer drafting a communications plan. Our plan states that One Book "... aims to increase literacy and to create a reading culture by providing opportunities for residents to become more socially engaged in their community through a shared story. One Book also aims to promote the value of libraries and literacy organizations, while raising their profile in the province, by providing opportunities for multi-organization collaboration in planning, promotion, and programs. The overarching theme is the promotion of tolerance and understanding of different points of view." The chosen title for One Book One Province is *The Education of Augie Merasty*, by Joseph Auguste Merasty and David Carpenter and published by the University of Regina Press. An official press release from SLA and the University of Regina Press is forthcoming. I'm very excited that SLA was able to take on this

Ministry of Education Multitype Library Board initiative. Stay tuned for details as we head closer to 2017!

Regina was a host for SLA's second 2016 summer social on August 10. Several people dropped in for the casual come and go event. Details are at <http://saskla.ca/sla-2nd-summer-social>.

One last note. Feel free to submit articles, news from your library, etc. to Anastasia Gould, Vice-President of Membership and Publications anastasia.gould@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. SLAt is your newsletter so feel free to contribute content. We want to hear from you!

Best,

Michael Shires

SLA President, 2016-18