

Name: Dorothea Warren

Title: Executive Director Saskatchewan Library Association

I have recently joined the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) and am looking forward to working with the many dedicated library workers, leaders and supporters in the province and beyond. My previous employment has been primarily in the Public Service in Yukon and Saskatchewan working in the health and social services sectors. Most recently I had the opportunity to work as an Assistant Deputy Minister with the Yukon Government's Department of Health and Social Services. This was an active portfolio of responsibilities including: income support, addictions, family and children's programs, youth justice, disability and seniors services as well as cross sector leadership in addressing homelessness and FASD. Moving to the Yukon was a wonderful adventure and allowed my husband and me to experience Canada's north. We were simply awestruck by the spectacular scenery, history of the Chilkoot Trail and Klondike gold rush and the present day cultural mix. The strong influence of First Nations is foundational to the territory and is complemented by those with roots back to frontier days, the arrival of new Canadians, and many "transplants" from other jurisdictions who have made their home in this fascinating part of Canada. The Whitehorse public library which shares space with the Kwanlun Dun Cultural Center is located on the traditional territory of both the Kwanlun Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwachun Council and overlooks the Yukon River. Similar to public libraries in Saskatchewan it provides a gathering place and a resource for all ages. I might add that the Yukon climate in winter is not typically quite as harsh as that in Saskatchewan.

Prior to moving to the Yukon I held a number of positions in both the Social Services and Health Departments which involved sector - wide strategic planning, development of performance management systems, project management oversight of legislation, policy analysis/development, service delivery, and case management.

Positions I have held in both Yukon and Saskatchewan have involved close collaboration with First Nations and Métis organizations to develop service agreements, jointly develop programs, define service needs and/or consult on future directions.

I have also had opportunities to work with advocacy groups and the not for profit organizations in various capacities – representing their funder, as a board member, consultant and employee, all of which have provided tremendous insight into the important and varied work done by community - based organizations. Currently, I have the privilege of serving as a board member for the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan and as a member of the Counselling and Investigation Committee for Saskatchewan Licensed Practical Nurses.

Although I have not worked in the library sector I recognize and value the role of libraries in the educational, cultural, recreational and economic wellbeing of our communities. I hope to use my experience in engaging stakeholders, building partnerships and in advancing mutual interests to support the important roles of libraries.

I am a reader and have an eclectic taste, reading across many genres. I am currently reading the "Great Australian Cookbook" which I received as a Christmas gift. It includes classics as well as contemporary

cuisine reflecting Australian ethnic diversity. The theme is similar to “Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens” by Amy Jo Ehman which I have also recently read.

After spending 5 years in the Yukon we returned to Saskatchewan because it is truly our home. We have adult children in Regina and family spread across the province living in northern communities such as Beauval to the south such as Ogema. I would like to meet many who work in and support libraries over the coming months and I hope that you find opportunities to extend an invitation, drop in or call. I look forward to working with you and learning from you.