

## **Executive Directors Report**

### **Summer Social**

Thanks to all who were able to join the Summer Social on August 22, 2018 at the Fireside Bistro in Regina. The group included attendees from Dr. John Archer Library, Provincial Library and Literacy Office, Legislative Library, and SLA board and staff. It was a great opportunity for those attending to catch up as well as meet new people

November Happy Hours will be held November 8, 2018. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Committee Memberships**

Many thanks to all of those who have stepped up to participate in Committee work. There are a few members to yet to confirm before we post the Committee lists. If anyone is interested it's not too late. The majority of Committee work begins in September and we always welcome new participants!

### **Partnership Retreat August 14-15, 2015**

The annual summer retreat of the Partnership of provincial and territorial library associations was held in Toronto in August 14-15. I was able to attend and benefit from this gathering of representatives from library associations across Canada. The opportunity to network, exchange information, learn, share opportunities and develop resources for our members through a nationwide network is valuable.

The following are some highlights from an action packed agenda and excerpts from the SLA reports:

- Associations reported on the status of Strategic Planning including: when plans were last updated; strengths and challenges of their plan; and best practices related to strategic planning.

Saskatchewan reported having a formal strategic plan that covers the period 2015-18. It includes vision, mission, goals and priorities. The goals fall under Communications and Advocacy, Value for Membership, Relationships and Representation, Healthy Organization and Funding. It is comprehensive plan that will be reviewed at a Board Retreat in August. The strengths of the plan also reflect some of the challenges. Similar to other associations operationalizing strategic plans is in part dependent on member engagement and involvement. Engaging members can be challenging and associations are often reliant on the same individuals. Clear priorities and linking priorities to committee work were noted. All associations that have strategic plans reflected on the importance of involving members in their development or revision.

Saskatchewan also highlighted the Life Cycles Capacity Building project and the opportunity it has provided to more closely align the outcomes of this project with strategic directions, operational plans and our committee work. Developing a Diversity Plan and working to embed that within Strategic direction as also noted.

- Updates from **CFLA-FCAB**, Katherine McColgan, Executive Director and **ASTED**, Lionel Villalonga, Executive Director. Both organizations spoke to recent developments within their organizations. CFLA/FCAB provided draft information on their strategic planning.
- A presentation and discussion on *How to Run a Board Meeting* was led by Jane Hilton, consultant. When the slides from this presentation are available they can be provided for information. There was considerable discussion on various processes that might be used to evaluate meetings and the merits of using consent agendas.
- Update from Jessica Lange, Editor-in-Chief of the Partnership Journal. As well as providing an update Jessica invited submissions which may be either peer reviewed or feature articles.
- Update from EI / CEC. The Education institute reported a significant decline in EI subscriptions (pass sscribers and webinar subscriptions). The institute is examining steps that can be taken internally to increase participation including: pilot a new webinar length, tone and voice refresh, a content review, bundling webinars for sale in the Library Market Place. Partnership members were asked to consider increased opportunities for promotion and awareness as well as suggestions for improvement.
- The 2019 OLA Super Conference is set for January 30 - February 2, 2018.
- Associations shared information on Indigenization Activities at the association level.

Saskatchewan reported working with an external consultant to develop a Diversity Plan and continued work to embed the diversity plan into planning and operations. Established an Indigenization Subcommittee of the Board. While recognizing the responsibility is shared its helpful to “assign individuals” in order to ensure that our focus is maintained. The subcommittee consulted with Office of the Treaty Commissioner for advice on Indigenization approaches and priorities.

The 2018 SLA conference featured panels whereby libraries (academic and public) shared their experiences and best practices. The Blanket Exercise as a conference session was well attended.

The One Book One Province program in its third year has featured Indigenous content *The Education of Augie Merasty* in 2017 and in 2019 we will be featuring *Just Pretending* by Lisa Bird - Wilson, Metis author which includes a series of short stories highlighting a range of challenges related to identity.

The Saskatchewan Library Week poster includes Cree and Dene translations of the theme “libraries transform.”

For the second year SLA is partnering with the Saskatchewan Writers Guild to support an Indigenous writer offering workshops and readings in selected northern schools.

Dorothea Warren August, 2018