

Hi Everybody,

I am back from my holiday, tanned and refreshed, and with pleasure I note that the days are already getting longer here. We will be wearing linen suits and open-toed sandals before we know it.

It is a jam-packed week in Canadian library land, with the OLA Conference, a meeting of The Partnership, and the big CLA vote on the future of that national organization all happening at the same time. I am staying home, but SLA is well-represented in Toronto by SLA Vice-President Michael Shires and our Executive Director Judy Nicholson.

Nominations are underway for the 2016-2017 SLA Board, and we have some expressions of interest already, but need more. Please think about what you can bring to our organization in the coming year. It is an exciting time of change, and we have some great things getting off the ground. We need thoughtful, dedicated, and funny people like you, to help us meet our goals and to remind us why libraries and library folk are really and truly wonderful. If you can't give of your time in the coming year, please take a moment to phone a colleague and encourage them to participate. I have been very pleased to find that every time we ask a member for help, they do their best to step up. You guys are awesome, and I'm proud to be part of such a great group.

Last week, the SLA Board had a phone meeting with the Manitoba Library Association (MLA) Board, as well as library association representatives from the other Manitoba and Saskatchewan library associations. We talked about the idea of sharing a SK-MB representative on the proposed national library federation board. There is willingness to explore going forward with a shared representative, as long as the structure of that representation and the communication channels are well-crafted. We have struck a tiny working group (2 SLA and 2 MLA) to outline three scenarios for the respective Boards to consider, and should have that ready by April. We will try to have something ready to share with you at the May SLA AGM that I hope will meet your needs related to strong communication and representation, and a new vision for collaboration between the two provinces.

Locally, we are continuing to build relationships with our fellow library associations in Saskatchewan. We hope to meet with the Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians (SALT) in the near future at one of our Board meetings.

If you haven't applied yet for a Continuing Education Grant, you have until February 15th to get your application in! Travel the world learning new things!! How can you resist?

And, if you can believe it, it is time to come up with a theme for Saskatchewan Library Week 2016! There's a theme contest that you can enter, where what you come up with could bring you fame (we will brag about you) and fortune (\$50 gift card). Conquer Saskatchewan with your creativity – one library bookmark and poster at a time - I dare you. Check this newsletter for further details on this awesome contest.

And, as my mother used to say, "That's all the news."

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Schmidt
2014-2016 President