

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT



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Saskatchewan Library Association

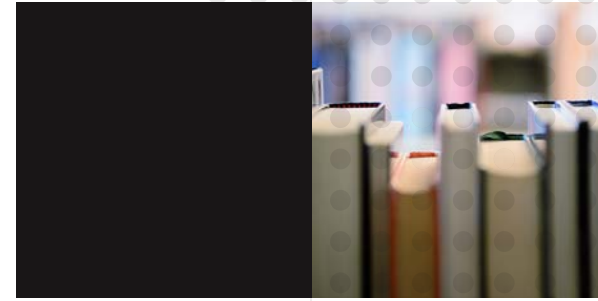
2023/24 Annual Report

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2024

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Stephanie Campbell



VISION

To build an engaged library and information community that is an active force in Saskatchewan’s social, economic and cultural development.

MISSION

To be the voice of and support for Saskatchewan’s library communities.

GOVERNANCE

SLA is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors and guided by input of the membership.

The organization has several standing and ad hoc committees, as well as representatives on provincial and national organizations. Four positions on the board are elected each year to provide continuity and stability.

SLA is located on Treaty 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 territory and traditional homelands of the Métis — an important part of our past, and a crucial part of our future.

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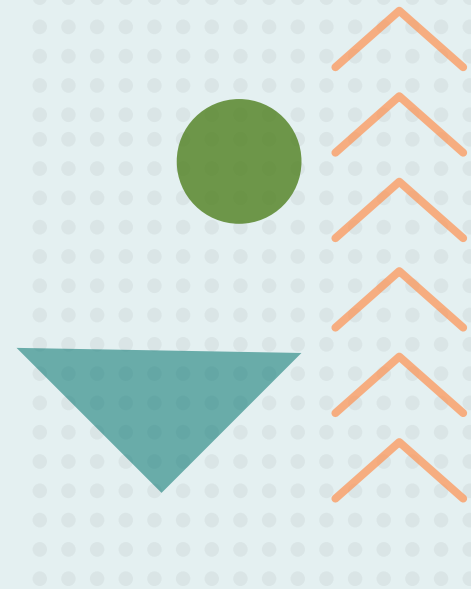
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ROLES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Saskatchewan Library Association achieves its mission by fulfilling the following roles:

- Encouraging communication and fellowship among members, library staff, and others;
- Fostering continuing education for library staff;
- Identifying and responding to issues and situations that affect library staff and libraries;
- Supporting the principles, standards, and practices that are essential to the provision of excellent library service;
- Promoting cooperation among libraries;
- Promoting the awareness of libraries as integral parts of their communities;
- Partnering with other cultural organizations in promoting the cultural development of the province; and,
- Partnering with other library associations to achieve common objectives.



1. Library staff recognize the diversity of viewpoints in society; they encourage the free exchange of ideas and knowledge and as such they must operate in an environment of intellectual freedom.

5. Library staff are key to accessing library resources and information and to fostering new experiences and discoveries.

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES

The Saskatchewan Library Association is a province-wide, volunteer, non-profit organization designed to further the development of library service in the province.

The Saskatchewan Library Association is a general rather than an exclusively professional organization that includes as members: individuals, institutions, and organizations who share a common interest in library service.

2.

Library staff nurture an informed democracy and a compassionate pluralism.

3.

Library staff are committed to literacy and lifelong learning.

4.

Library staff possess both general and specific knowledge and are skilled in its application in an information environment.

6.

Libraries are better supported by the unified efforts of an umbrella organization which can bring together key constituents — members, government funding agencies, other organizations, and library users.

7.

Libraries of all kinds are fundamental to the cultural, educational, recreational, economic, and political well-being of the people of Saskatchewan.

8.

Libraries are valuable assets to the community by adding to and reflecting the quality of life in the community.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JAMES HOPE HOWARD

It is my honour and privilege to introduce our Annual Report for 2023-2024 on behalf of the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) Board of Directors.

The Board has held five full-group meetings since the last report at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, and our wide variety of board subcommittees have generally met monthly, with some meeting more frequently, as targeted events or programs approached on the calendar.

This past governance year was also the first year of our new strategic plan, which the board had developed across the 2022-2023 year and presented for ratification at the 2023 AGM. The five strategic priorities in our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan are:

1. Promote the value of libraries;
2. Foster and champion equity, diversity and inclusion;
3. Support capacity and efficacy within the library and information management sector;
4. Build and leverage partnerships; and,
5. Strive for operational excellence.

I encourage you to keep these strategic directions in mind as you read the rest of this year's Annual Report, as you will find many examples of alignment throughout the excellent work that has been done by our organizational subcommittees over this past year. The full 2023-2027 Strategic Plan document is available on our website.

In a tumultuous time for libraries across the continent and all around the world, the SLA provided guidance and support to Saskatchewan libraries on top-of-mind issues and hot-button topics, issuing statements on the SLA's Commitment to Open Access to Information, Resources, Programs, and Services, the SLA's Commitment to Intellectual Freedom, and most recently the SLA Statement on Material and Program Challenges. The SLA also signed on nationally to The Partnership In Defence of Drag Storytime: A Statement of Support from Canada's Library Associations.

New partnerships, like our *Get in the Game for Literacy Success* programming with the Saskatchewan Roughrider Foundation, and continuing partnerships, like our participation in the Regional Park Pass Lending Program with the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association (SRPA) and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), both reflected and reinforced the connective role that libraries play in the broader cultural fabric of Saskatchewan.

Befitting the central and prominent role that libraries play in Saskatchewan daily life, the physical office of the SLA also changed locations over this past year, relocating to the Regina Telephone Exchange heritage building, right in the heart of downtown Regina.

I believe that together we have all developed a provincial organization that we can be very proud of, and one that reflects strongly on the character of libraries and memory institutions in Saskatchewan. I greatly appreciate all of the contributions that have been made this year by my fellow board members, by the staff of the SLA office, and by engaged members and participants all across the province.

I would like to extend particular thanks to SLA Executive Director; Tina Kleisinger, Program Coordinator; Milena Dzordeski, and Communications & Research Coordinator; Lynn Penner for their fantastic work throughout this past year. I have felt very fortunate to work with such a dedicated and hardworking team, and I look forward with excitement to another successful year to come in 2024-2025.

In a tumultuous time for libraries across the continent and all around the world, the SLA provided guidance and support to Saskatchewan libraries on top-of-mind issues and hot-button topics ...

It is with pleasure; I submit the Saskatchewan Library Association Treasurer's Report for the 2023-2024 year. The 2023-2024 year was eventful, in many ways!

Thank you to Saskatchewan Lotteries and Sask Culture for supporting the work of the Saskatchewan Library Association. Annual funding received allows for the organization to continue to provide service and support to all types of libraries in Saskatchewan, and through libraries, the ability to develop and enrich the lives of all Saskatchewan residents. Libraries across Saskatchewan are fundamental to the educational, cultural, recreational economic and political well-being of our communities.

Thank you, as well, to the wider-library, cultural and community partners – your partnership, program support and commitment allows for us to enhance Saskatchewan communities and promote the value of libraries as part of the culture of the province.

SLA continues to remain in a solid financial position, with enough in our general fund and in reserve to meet future demands and obligations.

The annual audit for the year ended January 31, 2024, and was conducted by RDS Chartered Professional Accountant Prof. Corp.

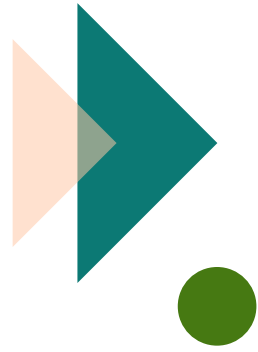
The audited financial statements accompany this report.



TREASURER'S REPORT

MICHELE FEDYK





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TINA KLEISINGER



Building an engaged library and information community that is active in Saskatchewan's social, economic, and cultural development is the vision of the Saskatchewan Library Association. In 2023-24 the SLA Board and staff made advancements, in support of the organization's mandate, with the completion of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The plan will serve to guide the organization's work with renewed focus and opportunity in our efforts to be the voice of and support for Saskatchewan's library communities.

The 2023-24 year saw some staffing changes, with a good-bye to Program Coordinator, Mary Lou Van De Bon, and hello to Milena Džordeski. Mary Lou sought to begin a fulfilling new phase of life, while Milena joined the organization, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in both the non-profit and cultural sectors.

SLA volunteers are unparalleled! Each year the Committee structures come together with enthusiasm to serve

and enrich Saskatchewan's library and cultural communities. Much gratitude is extended to the members of all committees. You, along with the representatives who serve on a number of external boards and working groups, allow for SLA to work with great influence and reach. This work also serves to demonstrate the alignment of SLA priorities with the mandates of many external organizations. Sharing common goals such as opportunities for lifelong learning and supporting diversity, inclusivity, and equity across the province, continues to validate the important work of all of our membership.

A key tenet of SLA and libraries across the province is a focus on lifelong learning. In 2023, SLA provided a variety of professional development opportunities available to all, in every corner of the province. The annual provincial libraries conference served to highlight the many ways libraries serve, support, and enhance Saskatchewan communities. Opening keynote, Mr.

John Lagimodiere, a member of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, brought stories from his lived experience and fostered conversation on reconciliation through laughter and reflection. In addition, there were a number of informative presentations focusing on topics that allowed the participants to reflect on how libraries can respond to the ever-evolving needs of our communities while fulfilling our mandate to contribute to the overall cultural, social, and economic well-being of our province.

Working across the province and engaging with various governmental and community-based organizations continues to be an important priority for the SLA. The Regional Park Pass Lending Program, a partnership between: Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, Regional Parks of Saskatchewan and SLA expanded in 2023 to include the involvement of all library regions in the province. Saskatchewan residents enjoyed the benefits of nature with 1200 passes being circulated over 7000 times.

2023 also began the formation of another exciting partnership. The Saskatchewan Roughrider Foundation and SLA joined together, as two winning teams, to promote literacy development with the "Get in the Game for Literacy Success" - It's as easy as 1-2-3! The contest ran during Saskatchewan Library Week and is a testament to our love for the Riders and reading!

In 2023, the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild, our longtime partner of One Book One Province, joined SLA, Sask Books and Sask Book Awards to host the Saskatchewan Book Awards ceremony. The gala event was held during the annual Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, in celebration of Saskatchewan authors and publishers.

Partnerships are foundational to SLA programming and include subject matter experts, artists and numerous volunteers from the community and are supported by the tremendous effort and commitment of the library community. Without your dedication to SLA, our notable events and programs would not be as successful. These efforts serve to raise awareness, increase access and participation with our libraries. They also serve to promote the wonderful resources that are within our provincial library network. My thanks is also extended to both the staff and the organizations who work alongside the SLA.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the SLA Board, Lynn Penner and Milena Džordeski - thank you for your hard work and for your incredible and dedicated contributions. Thank you to SLA President, James Hope Howard for the leadership you have provided to our organization. Your dedication and vision have served to create the conditions that have strengthened SLA and positioned us to continue to impact the communities we serve.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This year has been a time of renewal and reimagination at SLA, but also a year of lean economic times for many of our members, both of which are reflected in the organization's membership.

The number of individual members has fallen slightly over the 2023-2024 fiscal year as people retire from the library and information services field, switch careers, or look for ways to tighten budgets. Despite the decrease, SLA has also had 19 new individual members join in that time frame.

Meanwhile, the number of institutional members has risen over that same time period as organizations look for cost-effective professional development opportunities and value they can provide to their employees. SLA is pleased to be meeting those needs for employers.

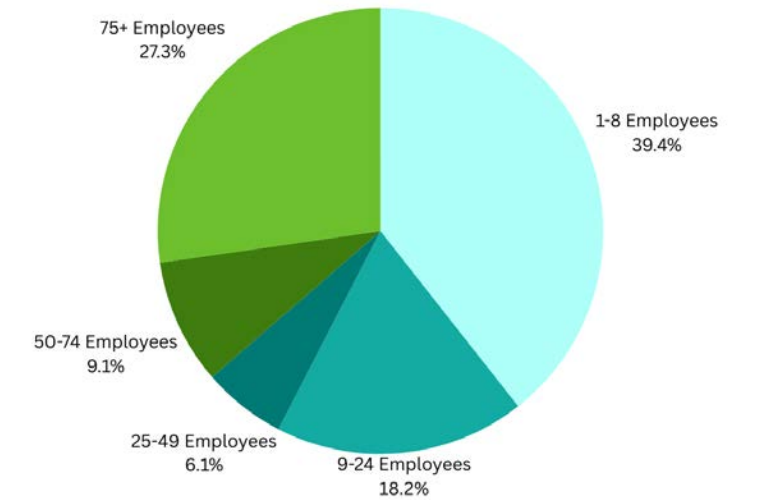
98

Individual members

33

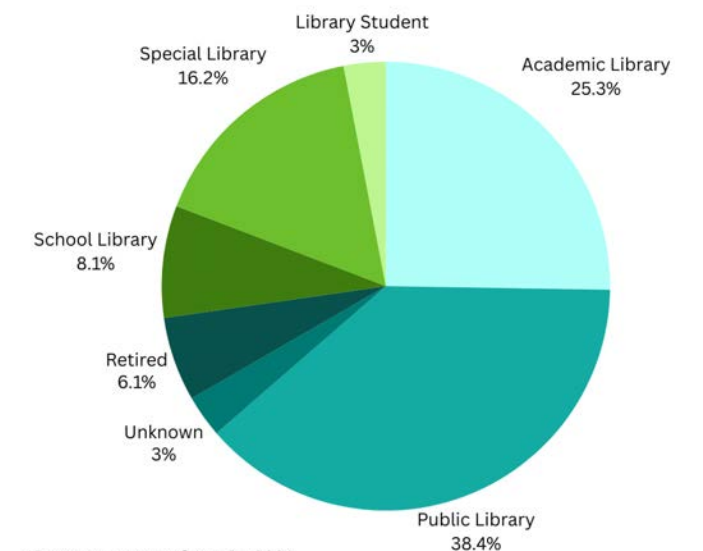
Institutional members

Institutional Members by Size



*Data accurate as of Jan. 31, 2024

Individual Members by Library Type



*Data accurate as of Jan. 31, 2024

Throughout 2023, SLA has sought to provide additional benefits to individual members to provide incentive for those covered by their employer's institutional membership to still seek out an individual membership. The individual member benefits rolled out this year are an SLA Individual Member Directory and access to an individual members-only website section with additional learning resources. More benefits are currently being developed by the Communications & Engagement Committee.

SLA looks forward to another year of engaging with our members and finding new ways to meet the ever-changing needs of Saskatchewan's library and information service community.



Advocacy Committee

MORGAN KELLY, CHAIR

Thank you to committee members: Chau Ha (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), Danielle Raymond (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), Oksana Moshynska (Saskatoon Public Library), Riane Lapaire (National Network for Equitable Library Service), James Hope Howard (SLA President), Lynn Penner (SLA), and Tina Kleisinger (SLA).

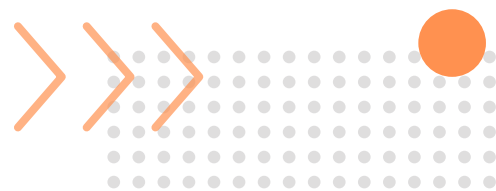
Much of the Advocacy Committee's work this past year has revolved around encouraging the advocacy efforts of library users and the public. In September and October 2023, we created a "Share Your Library Story" survey to be sent out to organizations that partner with libraries, with the intention of sharing the impact libraries have on other sectors. Responses were gathered and several were shared as part of the promotional campaign during Saskatchewan Library Week. The rest of the responses will be retained for promotional and advocacy use in the future.

In response to the growing climate of materials challenges in libraries across Canada, the Advocacy Committee created a specific statement regarding materials and program challenges in libraries. This statement is supplemental to our 2023 statements surrounding intellectual freedom and open access, and reaffirms SLA's commitment to everyone's right to information in all types of libraries.

As part of the Freedom to Read Week campaign, a social media contest was held to encourage users to "bail out" a banned or challenged book by interacting with the posts. Winners received a copy of the book in question on each post, as well as some Freedom to Read-themed prizes.

A new project for the Committee this year was the creation of an Advocacy Toolkit, intended to be used for the upcoming provincial election. This toolkit will provide staff and the public alike with the necessary information to ask candidates important questions and garner support for their libraries during election periods. This toolkit will be an ongoing advocacy effort and will continue to be reviewed to include year-round advocacy information.

The Advocacy Committee continues to engage in exciting initiatives that we hope will further the advocacy work of libraries across the province. Thank you again to all of the committee members for your input and hard work.



Thank you to Shannon Carnahan (Lakeland Library Region), Alan Kilpatrick (Law Society of Saskatchewan), Philip Munoz (Regina Public Library), James Richards (Southeast Regional Library), Jo Shepherd (mâdawêyatitân centre), Megan Stecyk (Regina Public Library), Reagan Villeneuve (University of Saskatchewan Library) and Lynn Penner (SLA),

Over the past year, the Prison Library Sub-Committee strengthened its partnerships with Regina Correctional Centre, White Birch Remand Centre, and Paul Dojack Youth Centre by continuing to provide reading materials to incarcerated adults and youths in these facilities. We are on track for our goal of quarterly donations, having already completed two deliveries of approximately 45 boxes, representing around 2,200 individual books.

Other highlights this year include our volunteer work with the Big Book Sale, selecting and packing books for distribution to a number of correctional facilities across the province. Committee members also presented a poster-session at the 2023 SLA Annual Conference, which raised awareness about our work and expanded our network of donors and supporters. Finally, the PLSC voted to dedicate this year's budget to purchasing books by Indigenous authors and creators only. This was in recognition of Calls to Action Numbers

36 and 37, which discuss the over-representation of Indigenous people in the Canadian carceral system, and the need for culturally relevant programs and services.

We were fortunate to receive many in-kind donations from individuals, local businesses, and libraries throughout Saskatchewan. A special thanks to Wayne Nickel from JerBear Books, who gave the committee 70 brand new books worth over \$1100 - our largest contribution to date.

The PLSC looks forward to continuing to support and promote individuals' right to read and access information while incarcerated.

Prison Library Sub-Committee

MARIKA HUNTER, CHAIR



Thank you to committee members: Regan Gunningham (PLLO), Robert Thomas, (University of Regina), Christina Winter (University of Regina) James Hope Howard (SLA), Oksana Moshynska (SLA), and Luke Muller (SLA).

The mandate of the Continuing Education Committee is as follows:

- Develops and promotes continuing education opportunities for members.
- Promotes and adjudicates applications for the CE Grants; considers and recommends new continuing education initiatives to the Board.
- Ensures policy and guidelines are current and relevant.
- A sub-Committee adjudicates award applications.

The Committee adjudicated two continuing education grant applications in Fall 2023 and will review the Spring 2024 applications after the February 15 deadline passes. The Committee has also drafted a rubric, based on established criteria, to assist in future adjudication processes.

The Committee has also offered the following webinars for the 2023-2024 year:

- “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion in the Library and Workplace Community,” presented by Wendy Li.
- “Understanding Our Changing Copyright Landscape,” presented by Christina Winter and Kate Langrell.
- “Fundraising 101,” presented by Kathleen Crowther.
- “Professional Ethics & Political Realities: Responding to Intellectual Freedom Challenges in Public Libraries,” presented by Michael Dudley and Sharon Day.

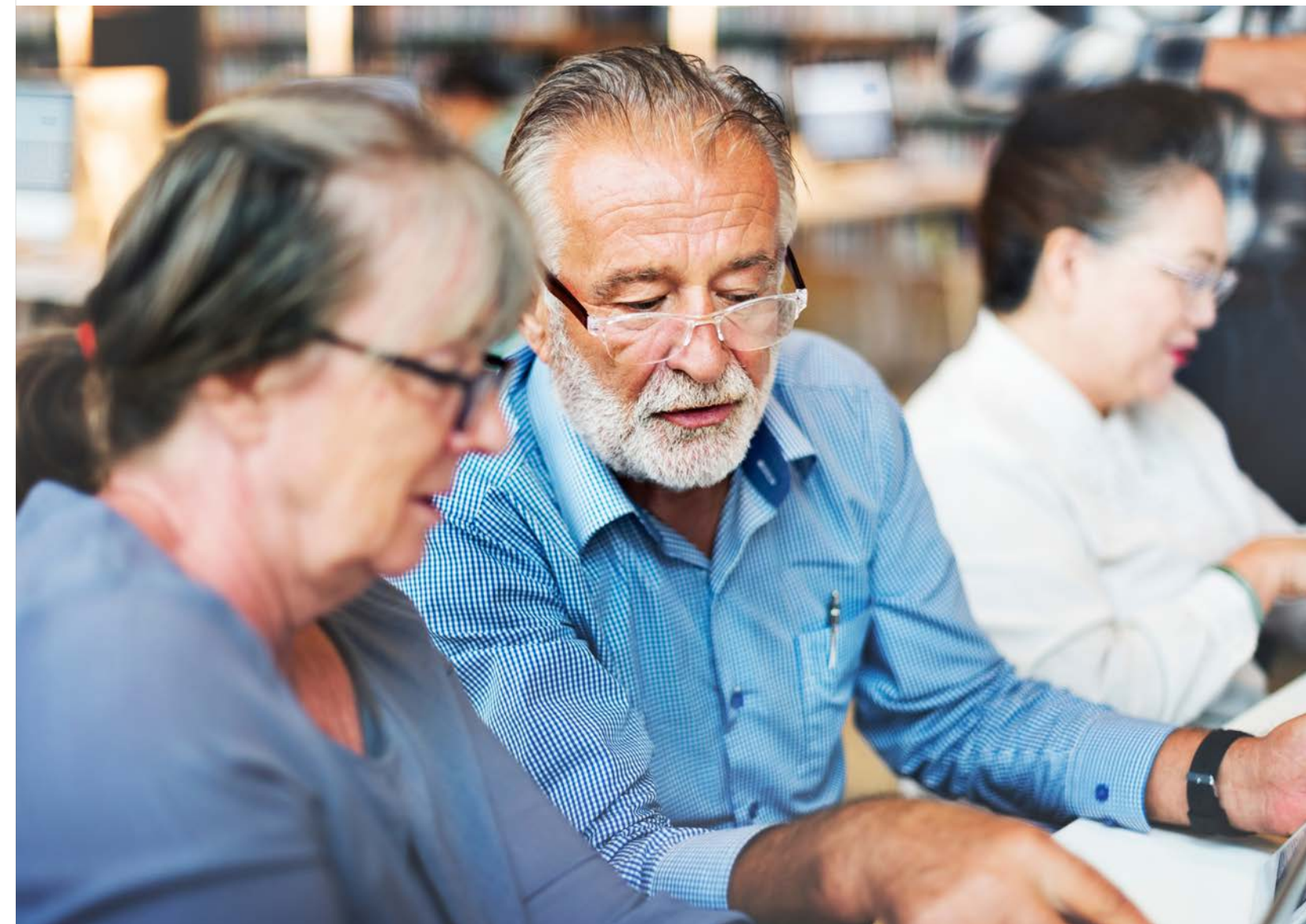
At the time of writing, we are also pursuing leads for additional sessions.

The Committee expresses their gratitude to CE session presenters for sharing their time and expertise for the benefit of SLA members. We would also like to thank Lynn Penner and Milena Džordeski in the SLA office for their expert support of our work.



Continuing Education Committee

CARA BRADLEY, CHAIR



Awards Sub-Committee

ROBERT THOMAS, CHAIR



Thank you to committee members: Barbara Nelke (University of Regina), Cara Bradley (University of Regina), JoAnn Murphy (University of Saskatchewan), Kimberley Hintz (Regina Public Library), and Lynn Penner (SLA).

This sub-committee, formerly the Continuing Education Bursary Sub-Committee was modified and renamed in 2023, with the purpose of adjudicating and selecting recipients for all of SLA's awards and bursaries – allowing for the Continuing Education Committee to focus more on professional development opportunities for members.

In our first year, we evaluated applications and selected recipients for the Maureen Woods Education Bursary, Indigenous Student MLIS Education Bursary, Mary Donaldson Award of Merit, and SLA Frances Morrison Award. We also reviewed SLA's policies and selection criteria for the Mary Donaldson Award of Merit, the SLA Frances Morrison Award, and the Honourary Life Member Award. We made recommendations for policy updates that more accurately reflect the purposes and processes for these awards to the SLA Board of Directors.

Having all of SLA's bursaries and awards consolidated under this one committee has worked very well this year, and we look forward to continuing this important work in the coming year.

Thank you to committee members: Ann Liang (University of Saskatchewan), Brad Doerksen (University of Regina), Cara Bradley (University of Regina), Christina Winter (University of Regina), Jason Redshaw (Estevan Public Library), Michael Shires (University of Regina), James Hope Howard SLA), Deborah Pelletier (SLA), and Lynn Penner (SLA).

The committee's focus this year has been on updating and reviewing to ensure that the work of the committee is reflective of the SLA's vision and goals, more representative of SLA member needs, and paving a way to attract new memberships.

The committee updated its terms of reference to reflect the past trial consolidation of the Communications and Member Engagement Committees into one committee. The single committee has been working well, and with the SLA office taking on the communications of SLA, it made the most sense to represent the ways the committee could support that role.

In reviewing the previous terms of reference for the committee, we found there were many aspects of the committee work that is now effectively being performed by SLA office staff, such as posting to social media. The committee agreed that reviewing the current Communications Strategy and documenting the current communications workflow were good work practices. This strategy ensured that SLA's communications focused on

equity, diversity, and inclusion. Together, in discussion with other committee partners, it was determined that the Speaker Series would align with the objectives of the Continuing Education Committee, and the Communications and Engagement committee could focus on the outreach of webinar opportunities.

Membership benefits, engagement, and attracting new members continue to be an ongoing deep topic of conversation. The committee has some great pilot ideas that will hopefully roll out for fall.

While 2023-2024 has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work, we are excited for what this framework will be for members for 2024-2025 and onward!

Communications & Engagement

RIANE LAPAIRE, CHAIR



PROGRAMMING

MILENA DŽORDESKI PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Saskatchewan Library Association works alongside the committee membership to help coordinate, plan, and organize multiple programs throughout the year. The impact that the SLA has through this programming further supports our vision of building an engaged library community that supports Saskatchewan families and communities. I would like to start by thanking the Program Committee members: Tawn Marshall (Lakeland Regional Library), James Hope Howard (SLA President), Sean Stares (PNLS), Morgan Kelly (Southeast Library Region), and Kate Wagner (Legislative Library) for their dedication to this important aspect of our mandate.

Program Activities in 2023-2024

In contrast with the previous couple of years, SLA is delighted that all hosting libraries delivered the below program initiatives in-person.

Family Literacy Day is an event marked every year on January 27 in libraries and literacy organizations across the country that raises an awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in literacy activities as a family.

2023 Family Literacy Day theme was "Celebrate Your Heritage", and SLA awarded 7 libraries with grants to help

them provide suitable programming for families in their communities.

Activities ranged from author readings, writing programs and visits from Indigenous Storytellers to creating a Dream Catcher and a Literacy Olympics. Programs had an average of 66 participants and took place in libraries from Île-à-la-Crosse to Fillmore.

SLA's **Summer Performer Tour** program continues to occur with SaskTel's generous sponsorship of \$4,000.

In 2023-2024 SLA provided grants of up to \$300 to support in-person programming in celebration of Summer Performer Tours. Some of the programming summer reading clubs in the communities of Leoville, Broadview and Rockglen; Library on Location (LOL) in Fort Qu'Appelle, Young Wizards' Camp in Luseland, improvisation and storytelling experience in Norquay; learning about traditional Indigenous teachings and crafts in Shaunavon; and community hoola hooping for all ages in Tugaske.

Some of the performers who lead these activities were storyteller Eloise Mosquito and artist Taneshea Francis of Nakaneet First Nation, movement artist Andrea Murphy, magician Danny Kazam of Lumsden, and *Free My Muse Theatre Company* from Yorkton.

Culture Days is an annual event that raises the awareness, accessibility, participation, and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural

life of their communities from mid-September to mid-October. As this time period coincides with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation observed on September 30, and public commemoration is a vital component of the reconciliation process, Culture Days is committed to marking and honouring this important day.

In 2023 SLA provided 10 grants, five of which were for library programs focusing on culture and five with specific focus on Truth and Reconciliation efforts. Library communities spanned from Île-à-la-Crosse in the north to Shaunavon in the south, and their activities included storytelling events, celebrations of multiculturalism and neurodiversity, as well as workshops on crocheting, beading, orange t-shirt making, and stone carving.

Saskatchewan Library Week is an annual, week-long event celebrated the third week of October by all age groups in all types of libraries, in both urban and rural communities throughout the province.

2023 Saskatchewan Library Week took place from October 15-21, with the theme of "Libraries Create Community." As part of SLA's commitment to become more environmentally conscious, the 2023 poster for Sask. Library Week was sent electronically to all the libraries in the province, replacing a massive seasonal mailing campaign from previous years and marking a new chapter in SLA history.



SLA provided 24 grants of up to \$250 to libraries across the province to fund a variety of engaging activities, including: author readings, beading, button, and mitt making, crafting puppet characters, book covers and book folds, escape room hosting, computer literacy activities, music concerts, and film screening on Canadian wildlife. The diversity of these activities attests to the important and versatile roles libraries have in the lives of our communities.

With the goal of promoting literacy in the province during the Saskatchewan Library Week, SLA partnered with the Saskatchewan Roughrider Foundation to offer an online contest fittingly titled "Get in the Game for Literacy Success." This contest asked library patrons to take pictures of themselves reading in their library setting and submit their pictures in order to win attractive Roughrider-themed prizes. We have received 80 creative entries and pleasantly surprised two families and one young lady from Saskatchewan.

530
Book Spine Poetry
Contest entries
in 2023

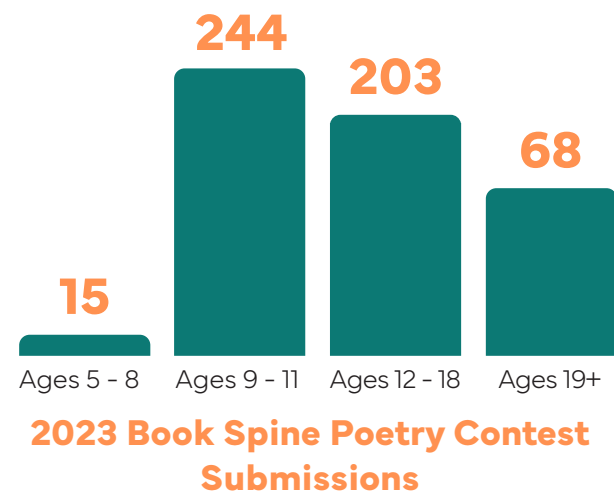


Book Spine Poetry Contest

Book spine poetry comes to life when a pile of books is arranged in such a way that a title from each book spine represents a line of a poem.

SLA’s Book Spine Poetry Contest is one of our most successful programs, as with each year it draws more and more participants from all over the province and in four different age categories.

This past year, we received 530 entries for Book Spine Poetry Contest from throughout Saskatchewan. Of those, 68 were submitted by adults, 203 were contributed by teens, 244 by children ages 9-11 and 15 by children ages 5-8. The poems were adjudicated and three winners in each category received an Indigo gift card as a prize.



Regional Park Pass Lending Program

The Regional Park Pass Lending Program is a partnership program with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association (SRPA) and the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA). In 2023, the program was successfully offered for the second year.

Throughout the summer of 2023, (May 18 to September 15), 1,200 regional park passes were made available on loan to Saskatchewan library card holders. The program aimed to enhance knowledge of and visitation to Saskatchewan’s nearly 100 regional parks and 308 library branches while also providing equitable access to parks and open spaces.

Program Goals:

1. Reduce barriers to accessing parks and open spaces.
2. Increase visitation to and awareness of Saskatchewan’s regional parks and libraries

Circulation metrics gathered from 308 branches indicate that 1,200 passes circulated over 7,000 times, an increase of over 4000 compared to 2022.

Participating libraries for the 2023 program were:

LIBRARY	# OF BRANCHES	# OF PASSES
Chinook Regional Library	31	95
Lakeland Regional Library	32	85
Palliser Regional Library	20	55
Parkland Regional Library	55	70
Southeast Regional Library	46	180
Wapiti Regional Library	44	95
Wheatland Regional Library	46	110
Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS)	12	70
Prince Albert Public Library	2	20
Saskatoon Public Library	9	195
Regina Public Library	9	195
URegina	1	15
USask	1	15
TOTAL	308	1200

90%

of borrowers said their regional park experience was either exceptional or great (94% in 2022)

100%

of borrowers said they would be interested in using the program in future years (99% in 2022)

67%

of regional parks said they believed the program increased knowledge of and interest in Saskatchewan's regional parks (53% in 2022).

100%

of libraries and regional parks said they would like to see the program continue (99% in 2022)

Surveys were circulated and completed by 213 pass borrowers (102 in 2022), 100 library branches (81 in 2022), and 48 regional parks (35 in 2022). Feedback and Regional Park Pass circulation metrics were also gathered by program partners, as well as website and QR code analytics.

The Saskatchewan Library Association's continued effort to support the work of our library network in supporting lifelong learning, providing cultural, economic, and social opportunities for engagement, and meeting the need of diverse populations through a focus on diversity, and inclusivity has been demonstrated in 2023, led by the effort and planning of our Program Committee.



BORROWER TESTIMONIAL

Great program! I'm on a budget, so being able to borrow the park pass instead of buying one meant more funds available for fun stuff at parks. And my kids always enjoy borrowing books to take with us and take out more books when we return the pass."



ONE BOOK ONE PROVINCE

COLLEEN MURPHY, CHAIR



One Book One Province Saskatchewan began many years ago as a request by the Ministry of Education's Multitype Library Board (MLB) to implement a province-wide shared reading program that would aim 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. It would also aim to promote libraries and literacy organizations, while raising their profile in the province, by providing opportunities for multi-organization collaboration in planning, promotion, and programs.

Seeing an alignment with its own vision and mission, SLA agreed to take on the project as part of its 75th anniversary activities. The promotion of tolerance and understanding of different points of view became the overarching theme for the program. March 2017 became the first OBOP month, celebrating the title *The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir* by Joseph Auguste Merasty with David Carpenter.

Since that date, OBOP has grown and become an established program of the SLA, featuring a wide variety of titles that each, in their own unique way have brought the province together in a shared conversation around important topics including:

- 2018 *Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens*, Amy Jo Ehman
- 2019 *Just Pretending*, Lisa Bird Wilson
- 2020 *A Geography of Blood*, Candace Savage
- 2021 *Blanket Toss under Midnight Sun: Portraits of Everyday Life in Eight Indigenous Communities*, Paul Seesequasis
- 2022 *Arab Cooking on a Prairie Homestead: Recipes and Recollections from a Syrian Pioneer*, Habeeb Salloum
- 2023 *5 Little Indians*, Michelle Good



In 2024, *One Book One Province* month will be moving to the month of April. The 2024 title *Miss G and Me* by Jennifer Wallace, weaves together poems, journal entries,

anecdotes and personal essays, the award-winning book shares a daughter's insights into her Jamaican mother's immigration story and familial relationships, inviting readers to experience Jamaican, English and prairie Canadian voices, cultures, landscapes, and mindsets.

Jennifer is a French immersion teacher, judo sensei, writer, artist, and author. She loves teaching, singing, painting, reading, travelling, and buying too many children's books. She is looking forward to "partnering with community minded organizations interested in celebrating women, newcomers, diversity, nourishment, the health system, education, and familial ties. She is eager to meet readers, build connections, and bring people of all walks together."

In celebration of *Miss G and Me* by Jennifer Wallace, the Committee looks forward to once again commemorating this special occasion with His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, honorary patron at the Government House.

The Committee is further appreciative to the library community and their support of the annual event as partners and hosts of the author events. Thank you to the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for their generous sponsorship of this program.

Thank you to the 2023-2024 committee: Mary Chipanshi (University of Regina), Paula Daigle (First Nations University), Joe Geary (Saskatoon Public Library), James Hope Howard (President, SLA), Kathleen Irwin (Community Member), Morgan Kelly (Southeast Library Region), Ann Liang (University of Saskatchewan), Milena Džordeski (SLA).



SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY CONFERENCE



RYAN MONKS
PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

as Keynote, and Endnote, Shawn Cuthand (The Feather News writer/producer and comedian and filmmaker). In her address to conference delegates, Ms. Weir informed attendees on the role of LAC in the library landscape and shared some insight on how libraries can respond to the ever-evolving needs of communities in fulfillment of their mandate of contributing to the overall cultural, social, and economics of their communities. Mr. Cuthand, shared with delegates his life story from a humorous lens and ended the conference on a high note. Mr. Cuthand began his comedy career to honour his storytelling ancestors.

Many thanks to the conference sponsors: Saskatoon Public Library, Regina Public Library, Library Bound, University of Saskatchewan Library, TD Summer Reading Club, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Carr McLean, CVS Midwest Tape, University of Regina, and United Library Services, as well as the many exhibitors whose support is critical to the conference.

Thank you to the SLA Staff, Conference Planning Committee and Conference Program Committee, whose dedication to the success of the conference cannot be overstated.

Libraries Expand Horizons was the theme for the 2023 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference, bringing reflection to the many ways libraries serve, support, and enhance Saskatchewan communities. The sessions educated and informed delegates from across the province on topics including, inclusion, accessibility, family literacy, community engagement, reconciliation in the library and, many other important topics.

The conference began with the Mary Donaldson Lecture and acclaimed Métis speaker, Mr. John Lagimodiere. John, a member of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, former editor, and publisher of Eagle Feather News and, a regular contributor to CBC, shared stories from his lifetime, fostered conversation on reconciliation and brought lessons and laughs to all in attendance.

Thanks to our incredible speakers, Leslie Weir (Librarian and Archivist of Canada)

BURSARIES & AWARDS

MAUREEN WOODS EDUCATION BURSARY

2023 Recipient:
Desirae Munro



The Maureen Woods Education Bursary was established in 2002 to promote the continued growth of professional librarianship in Saskatchewan. This bursary is open to all students enrolled in or accepted to an American Library Association (ALA) accredited graduate degree program in library and information science or equivalent. The bursary is awarded in the name of Maureen Woods, who was a Saskatchewan leader in library services.

Desirae has been working in Saskatchewan's public libraries since 2019 and recently finished her MLIS with the iSchool at Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY). She sees the library as the heart of the community being served - fitting not only the "third space" concept, but personally sitting at the centre of her Ikigai (the Japanese concept of something that gives a person a sense of purpose, a reason for living). Desirae loves working with people and credits the great librarians she grew up with for the inspiration to finally pursue her dream of being a librarian when she "grows up" (although astronaut still sounds fun). She looks forward to continuing her work in library leadership roles that strengthen and build our communities.

She sees the library as the heart of the community being served - fitting not only the "third space" concept, but personally sitting at the centre of her Ikigai ...

INDIGENOUS STUDENT MLIS EDUCATION BURSARY

**2023 Recipient:
Myles Shingoose**



The Indigenous Student MLIS Education Bursary was established in 2023 to support a person of Canadian Indigenous ancestry in the pursuit of a graduate degree program in library and information science. This bursary is open to any person of Canadian Indigenous ancestry (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) who is enrolled in or accepted to an American Library Association (ALA) accredited graduate degree program in library and information science or equivalent.

Myles is a member of the Cote First Nations on Treaty 4 land. He holds a master's degree in history through the University of Saskatchewan and is currently working towards a Master of Library and Information Services degree through the University of Alberta while working full-time at the

University of Saskatchewan library. Myles spent two years working at the Saskatoon Public Library in Interlibrary Loan and Outreach and Access services before moving to the University of Saskatchewan Library where he has spent the last five years in Interlibrary Loan and in the Indigenous Studies Portal (I-Portal). His work in the I-Portal has allowed him to continue his historical scholarship while contributing to highlighting Indigenous focused scholarly resources.

HONOURARY LIFE MEMBER AWARD

**2023 Recipient:
Betty Leslie**

Each year, SLA accepts nominations for the Honourary Life Member Award to recognize individuals who have had an active role in SLA and who have made a substantial and longstanding contribution to library service in Saskatchewan.

In 2023 Betty Leslie was recognized for the incredible contributions made to the library community in North Battleford. Betty was recognized for her incredible service as a Board member for 23 years. In her life of library service, Betty was responsible for many achievements, including; Comic-con Festival, the inclusion of audiovisual materials into the collection (i.e., DVDs and CDs), installation of a staff washroom, purchase of a microfilm reader and printer and the

installation of new carpeting. Betty Leslie was presented with the award by SLA President, James Hope Howard on June 22, 2023, during a virtual and in-person celebration.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prairie Representative - Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) Board of Directors

BRAD DOERKSEN PRAIRIE PROVINCES REPRESENTATIVE

The CFLA-FCAB was founded in 2015 to be the national voice of Canada's library communities. The CFLA-FCAB works to influence public policy, advance library excellence, and raise the visibility of libraries in Canada to advance our national intellectual, social, economic, and cultural success. During the past year, CFLA has continued this important work on behalf of our member associations, including the Saskatchewan Library Association.

2023 marked the second year of my term representing Saskatchewan and Manitoba on the CFLA board. During the course of the year, I participated in a number of board projects and working groups. One such project was the creation of a board handbook to support orientation of new board members and strengthen continuity of board practices.

CFLA makes an annual submission to the federal budget consultation process. The most recent submission



recommended that the Government of Canada introduce legislation to ensure that Canada's libraries and users have access, on reasonable terms, to e-content from multinational publishers. That the federal government commit to \$200 million over the next four years to implement sustainable infrastructure upgrades in targeted community hubs across the country, and that the government increase support for Indigenous libraries and Indigenous library workers by investing in scholarships, training, and paid funding, as well as the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation.

Since its inception, CFLA has four strategic committees: Copyright, Cataloguing and Metadata Standards, Intellectual Freedom, and Indigenous Matters. In 2023 a fifth was added: the Climate Action Committee. It is at the level of these committees that much of the activity of the federation takes place and joining one is a great opportunity to make a national contribution to libraries and the communities we serve.

One area of activity CFLA hopes to see grow in the future is the nation policy forum. After several years of pandemic interruption, we were able to host a modest virtual forum in conjunction with the Manitoba Library Association in May. The board hopes to return to an event more like the inaugural forum that SLA hosted in 2018 in future years. A call for expressions of interest in co-hosting for 2025 has been issued. 2023 also saw the release of a new strategic plan.

CFLA-FCAB Copyright Committee

CHRISTINA WINTER SLA REPRESENTATIVE

The Copyright Committee meets monthly by teleconference and monthly updates on the committee's activities are published in *SLAte*. The following are some highlights of the committee's activities.

- At the January 2024 meeting Don Taylor was elected as Chair of the CFLA Copyright Committee, nominations were invited for the vice-chair role and the committee shared their gratitude for the work of Victoria Owen, Chair of the committee from 2017-2023.
- The AI working group completed the draft submission to Federal Government's Consultation on Copyright in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence, and submitted it to the CFLA executive for approval. The AI Working group presented at the OLA Copyright Symposium on Dec. 7.
- The Accessibility Working Group continues its work on the Reasonable Search document.
- The Crown Copyright Working Group continues its work on the draft Crown Copyright Code of Best Practices for Libraries.
- The Public Lending Rights (PLR) Working group continues its work on the draft statement on PLR.
- Committee members contributed to a call for anticipated 2024 major copyright issues from CFLA's Copyright and Other Legal Matters Committee.
- The E-book Collaboration umbrella group continues to review provincial consumer protection legislation as well as the potential for a provincial government to support public libraries e-book licensing changes via provincial legislation.

CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee

DEBORAH PELLETIER
SLA REPRESENTATIVE

The committee has been hard at work this past year drafting a report based on the responses from the associations, institutions, and libraries who endorsed the 2017 CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report. This follow-up report will focus on examples of successful actions taken by organizations in Canada with the hope of inspiring others. Following its completion, the report issued to the CFLA-FCAB in the Spring/Summer of 2024 and should be available for members by the fall.



Multitype Library Board

DALE STORIE
SLA REPRESENTATIVE

Board Members, 2023-2024

Other Information Providers

- Jeremy Mohr, Manager, Reference and Outreach Services, Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan - *represents archives.*
- Dale Storie, Associate Dean (Research), University of Regina (Board Chair for 2023) - *represents a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association.*

Post-Secondary Education

- Abigail Durkee, Library Director, Archibald Library, Briercrest College and Seminary - *represents a library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system.*
- Ann Liang, University of Saskatchewan Library - *represents post-secondary library employees.*

Public Libraries

- James Hope Howard - Director, Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System - *represents a public library director.*

School Libraries

- Kathryn Bell, Weyburn Comprehensive School - *represents a library director from a school library or school library system.*
- Lois Smandych - *represents the Saskatchewan School Board's Association.*

Special Libraries

- Alan Kilpatrick, Co-Director & Law Librarian, Law Society of Saskatchewan, Legal Resources - *representing special library directors.*
- Vacant - *represents special library employees.*

Provincial Library and Literacy Office

- Alison Hopkins, Provincial Librarian/ Executive Director, Saskatchewan Provincial Library and Literacy Office.

Meetings and Reports

The MLB held an in-person meeting on June 8, 2023 at the George Bothwell Branch of the Regina Public Library. In addition, there was a virtual board meeting held on November 23, 2023.

The Multitype Library Board's (MLB) Annual Report for the fiscal year 2022-23 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on July 28, 2023. The report is available online at Saskatchewan Publications and the MLB site.

All formal communiqués, minutes and documents of the Multitype Library Board are available on the Saskatchewan Libraries website.

Highlights

Indigenous Subject Headings

The Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings Project has the aim of modernizing terms in library catalogues related to Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan. This project is a response to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations- Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques call to action 5 that "libraries should strive to decolonize access and classification" and is led by the Multitype Library Board for Saskatchewan libraries.

The Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings are now available online at https://mlb.libguides.com/SK_ISH.

The Multitype Library Board extends its thanks to the many Indigenous community members and library staff who shared their expertise, insight and dedication in supporting this project, as part of a shared journey toward reconciliation. It also thanks the Outreach and Technical Advisory



The Saskatchewan Indigenous Subject Headings Project has the aim of modernizing terms in library catalogues related to Indigenous Peoples in Saskatchewan.

Groups, composed of Saskatchewan library sector staff, for their work on this project.

Science Online

The Multitype Library Board has approved funding for a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) resource, *Science Online*, for three years (August 01, 2023 – July 31, 2026). This resource is available to all partners in the Saskatchewan Electronic Resources Partnership (SERP) program.

Saskatchewan Book Awards

GWEN FISHER
SLA REPRESENTATIVE

In 2023 the Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA) celebrated 30 years of recognizing, celebrating, and rewarding the excellence of Saskatchewan writers and publishers, promoting literacy, and building Saskatchewan readers along the way.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards has a strong reputation across Canada's writing and publishing communities. It provides a supportive environment for Saskatchewan's authors and publishers, as well as a venue to showcase our province's literary talent.

In 2022, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, SaskBooks, and the Saskatchewan Library Association formed a one-year Memorandum of Understanding to collectively partner the hosting of the 2023 Sask Book Awards Gala.

This partnership resulted in a very successful 30th Book Awards Gala event on Thursday May 4, 2023, at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon. The event was held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan

Library Association's annual conference. Notably, this was the first time the event was held outside Regina and was well received with representation from all over the province. Nearly 220 attendees including authors, publishers, sponsors, and community supporters attended the event. Special guests included SBA's patron, his Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Elder Julie Pitzel, and Mr. Danny Knight.

For the 2023 SBA season, the SBA received 176 entries for juried consideration in 14 award categories. Of the 176 entries, 41 jurors from across Canada selected 66 books as finalists that were announced at the SBA Shortlist Announcement on March 24, 2023. This year's award ceremony featured 45 nominated books representing the best of Saskatchewan's writing and publishing industry. The link that follows details the full listing of the 2023 Saskatchewan Book Award Recipients and our many valued sponsors.



Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library & Information Technology Advisory Group

CHASITY BERAST PROGRAM HEAD

The annual Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library and Information Technology Program Advisory Committee (LIT PAC) meeting was held on September 26, 2023.

Program Updates:

Eighteen students convoked in June 2022. The program has seen increases in both domestic and international students as well as an increase in students who self-identify as Indigenous.

- The current cohort of students successfully completed WORK 285 (Work Experience 1) in May 2023 and were able to work within a variety of Saskatchewan libraries.

Curriculum Update:

- A number of curriculum updates will occur in 2023, in support of student learning, engagement, experience, and outcomes.

Continuing Education initiatives:

The Library Clerk Applied Certificate Program continues to give people working in rural and remote libraries basic library operations knowledge so



that they can perform their jobs efficiently and effectively.

Other Initiatives:

- A comprehensive review is underway. This review is a summative assessment and builds on annual formative reviews to look at items including, but not limited to: key performance indicators, market demand, resource efficiencies, growth trends, labor market data, modes of delivery, and program sustainability.
- This review will result in a plan for program revisions to build on program strengths and address any identified gaps.

The Library & Information Technology Advisory Group looks forward to again having representation from SLA in 2024.

University of Regina Senate

KATE-LEE NOLIN SLA REPRESENTATIVE

The University of Regina Senate's general area is the academic welfare of the institution which has a variety of duties and powers. Most of the broader issues of academic policy within the University are reserved for its approval. In another role, it acts as an ultimate court in academic affairs.

The following are highlights from the meetings:

- Enrolment trends in 2023 have shown marked improvements. Combined with the financial measures taken for the current budget year, this means that the University expects to balance the budget for this fiscal year.
- With the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education, the University continues to engage with the provincial government on a future funding formula to ensure they can continue to meet the needs of the province.
- For the first time in its history, the University now has an Indigenous Engagement Strategic Plan. Entitled *Tapwewin kwayaskwastâsowin: Truth and Putting Things Right*, the Plan contains 34 recommendations intended to empower Indigenous students, staff, and faculty in all areas across the University, break

down barriers, and strengthen the relationships with First Nations University of Canada and communities in Treaty 4, Treaty 6, and beyond. The plan may be found here: <https://www.uregina.ca/indigenous-engagement/strategic-plan/>.

University Library:

- The Dr. John Archer Library Award winner in 2023 was Grace Fischer, a third year English Honours student. To enter, students must write a one-page essay describing how the library was instrumental in completing a recent assignment or paper for a graded course.
- In November 2023, the Library hosted an Author Recognition reception, where they celebrated members of the University of Regina community who have published or produced creative and academic work in the past year. Selected authors were invited to speak about their work, and attendees were able to browse the 2022-2023 honoured publications.
- Students can now sign out Archer Library books from their phones by downloading the Archer Self Checkout app and logging in. They can also see what other books they have out, and other account information like recall notices and outstanding fees.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent the Saskatchewan Library Association on the University of Regina Senate.

University of Saskatchewan Senate

AMANDA D. LEPAGE SLA REPRESENTATIVE

The University of Saskatchewan Senate is the bridge between the university and key stakeholders in the province. This governance body is comprised of 118 appointed and elected members including representatives from professional groups, societies, and organizations contributing to the social, economic, and cultural welfare of the province. Saskatchewan Library Association is currently represented on the Senate by Amanda D. Lepage, Director of Collections & Service Infrastructure at Saskatoon Public Library.

November 3, 2023 Meeting Review

At the fall meeting, presenters shared successes, achievements, and new initiatives with the Senators. Highlights include the launch of a new landmark fundraising campaign to support research, Indigenous achievement, student success, and visionary space; a new centre for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning; renewal of a partnership between the University and Meewasin Valley Authority, the inauguration of a quantum computing partnership with the Platform for Digital and Quantum Innovation of Quebec, and a new remote Bachelor of Education program in Pelican Narrows.

University's year has been marked with several awards and prestigious acknowledgements, including awards for leadership in vaccine research, a top-100 worldwide spot in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings (67th), and a significant leap in the QS World University Rankings (from 473rd to 345th out of 2,973 institutions).

The Senate heard a proposal to establish a College-Level School that unites the Departments of Art and Art History, Drama, and Music. University stakeholders have been studying potential solutions since 2021 with the goal of supporting a resilient and successful fine arts program at the University. The project team shared that the proposed amalgamation would improve student access to courses in other disciplines within the School, maintain sustainable enrollment in Fine Arts, magnify the voice and influence of Fine Arts disciplines, and mitigate resource challenges currently experienced by the existing competing three Departments. Extensive preparation and consultation was executed before the proposal came to the Senate, including approvals at the University Council and Board of Governors bodies earlier in 2023. Key activities for 2023 include naming the School, recruitment of leadership,

space planning, development of website and launch, and continuing consultation with students, faculty, and staff.

Committee reports were received and a new organizational member, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, was nominated and accepted into the Senate. From the Education Committee, five programs were confirmed to have changed their admissions qualifications. In 2023, there were no new honorary degrees awarded.

Senate Education Sessions

Two education sessions were presented to the University Senate at the fall meeting.

Senators learned about the ways Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is both a benefit and a challenge at for students, educators, and administrators in higher-level education. The presentation included a description and demonstration of GenAI using ChatGPT4 (openai.com), and an overview of GenAI impact in student assessment, teaching design, curriculum, literacy, and ethics. The presentation compared the adoption of GenAI to the evolution and adoption of calculators in mathematics, and asked the question: Does GenAI replace, hinder, or help intended learning? Discussion also explored the potential for human learning with GenAI assistance; for example,

if simple tasks can be offloaded to technology, what is the resulting cognitive potential? The presentation successfully communicated the complex issues behind this new technology, and shared how the University of Saskatchewan is working to understand the technology, developing approaches and support for students, faculty, and staff.

The second education session presented ways that University of Saskatchewan is supporting the Provincial Health Human Resource Action Plan, a strategy to attract, train, incentivize and retain health professionals for the benefit of Saskatchewan's health system. The University is working with the provincial government to expand programs in Nursing, Physical Therapy, Clinical Psychology, and Medical Education as well as considering implementing new educational streams in Speech Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, and Physician Assistance.

University TEDx Event

University Senators were invited to participate in an annual TEDx event in January. The theme of this year's event was Courageous Curiosity. Speakers inspired attendants with insights and stories of curiosity, discovery, music, personal learning, and more. The videos are available for everyone to view at <https://research.usask.ca/tedx/index.php>.



Willow Awards - Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Award (SYRCA)

**ERIN WALTON ON BEHALF OF NANCY GORMAN
SLA REPRESENTATIVE**

The Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards- The Willow Awards' #winwiththeWillows author contest was bigger and better in 2023. We were pleased to fund and offer four author visit opportunities with some of our finalist authors, and because we had overwhelming interest from our finalist authors to participate, an online draw was conducted to determine involvement. The board was excited to offer the chance for readers to win a visit with Maureen Fergus, Michelle Kadarusman, Dee Hahn, or Eric Walters.

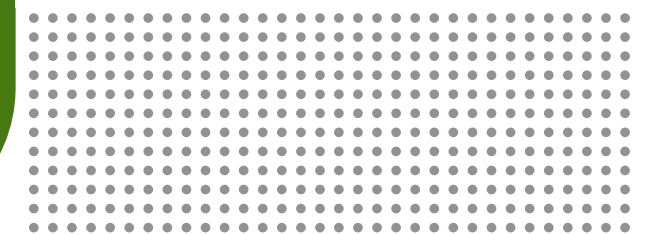
The Willow board continues to focus on making new connections across the province – we are pleased to welcome a new board member from northern Saskatchewan. We look forward to building this relationship and creating more connections with northern readers.

The SaskEnergy Willow Awards gala will again be hosted in May 2024 and will be live streamed across the province. The board is looking forward to celebrating with the community as the 2024 Willow Award Winners are announced.

The Willow Awards board values the connection that we have with the Saskatchewan Library Association. We are thankful for your partnership with us.



2023/24 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Saskatchewan Library Association:

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Saskatchewan Library Association (the Entity), which comprise the statement of financial position as at January 31, 2024 and the statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at January 31, 2024 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (continued)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements (whether due to fraud or error), design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going-concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements (including the disclosures), and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



March 19, 2024
Regina, Saskatchewan

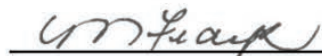
Robert D. Szautner
Chartered Professional Accountant

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2024

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	\$ 108,519	\$ -	\$ 108,519	\$ 73,776
Inventory	1,558	-	1,558	1,625
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	3,064
Prepaid expenses	8,691	-	8,691	14,698
Short-term investments (Note 3)	66,177	-	66,177	66,012
	<u>184,945</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>184,945</u>	<u>159,175</u>
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	101,789	-	101,789	101,794
RESTRICTED CASH	-	56,469	56,469	79,351
	<u>\$ 286,734</u>	<u>\$ 56,469</u>	<u>\$ 343,203</u>	<u>\$ 340,320</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable	\$ 20,482	\$ -	\$ 20,482	\$ 18,657
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	11,171	-	11,171	15,687
	<u>31,653</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,653</u>	<u>34,344</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>255,081</u>	<u>56,469</u>	<u>311,550</u>	<u>305,976</u>
	<u>\$ 286,734</u>	<u>\$ 56,469</u>	<u>\$ 343,203</u>	<u>\$ 340,320</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

 Director

 Director

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Operations
Year Ended January 31, 2024

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
REVENUES:				
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation	\$ 183,000	\$ -	\$ 183,000	\$ 183,000
Self-generated (Schedule 1)	129,251	-	129,251	101,143
Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)	-	1,135	1,135	510
	<u>312,251</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>313,386</u>	<u>284,653</u>
EXPENSES:				
Administration (Schedule 2)	187,900	-	187,900	160,597
Corporate Business (Schedule 3)	11,146	-	11,146	10,948
Programs and Services (Schedule 4)	82,693	-	82,693	72,398
Public Relations and Communications (Schedule 5)	1,011	-	1,011	15,560
Travel and Meetings (Schedule 6)	11,045	-	11,045	15,234
Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)	-	14,017	14,017	13,132
	<u>293,795</u>	<u>14,017</u>	<u>307,812</u>	<u>287,869</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	<u>\$ 18,456</u>	<u>\$ (12,882)</u>	<u>\$ 5,574</u>	<u>\$ (3,216)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended January 31, 2024

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 236,625	\$ 69,351	\$ 305,976	\$ 309,192
Excess of revenues (expenses)	18,456	(12,882)	5,574	(3,216)
Transfers (Note 5)	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 255,081</u>	<u>\$ 56,469</u>	<u>\$ 311,550</u>	<u>\$ 305,976</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Cash Flow
Year Ended January 31, 2024

	2024	2023
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues (expenses)	<u>\$ 5,574</u>	<u>\$ (3,216)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	3,064	(2,312)
Accounts payable	1,825	7,469
Deferred revenue	(4,516)	(86,983)
Inventory	67	777
Prepaid expenses	6,007	(4,387)
	<u>12,021</u>	<u>(88,652)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(66,177)	(30,752)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	66,017	60,908
	<u>(160)</u>	<u>30,156</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	<u>11,861</u>	<u>(58,496)</u>
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>153,127</u>	<u>211,623</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 164,988</u>	<u>\$ 153,127</u>
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 108,519	\$ 73,776
Restricted cash	56,469	79,351
	<u>\$ 164,988</u>	<u>\$ 153,127</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2024

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Saskatchewan Library Association (the "Association") is incorporated under The Non-profit Corporations Act of Saskatchewan. It promotes through information exchanges, education and advocacy, a province-wide support of libraries and library services to the citizens of Saskatchewan based on co-operation, accessibility and resource sharing. The Association applied for and received registered charity status in 2003.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASPNO).

Fund Accounting

A portion of the monies received by the Association may only be used for specific purposes and accordingly are accounted for in separate funds. Temporary transfers of monies between these funds are recorded as interfund receivables/payables. Permanent transfers are recorded as transfers in the net asset accounts.

The General Fund accounts for the day-to-day operations of the Association.

The following Restricted Funds do not maintain individual bank accounts, but the accounting records capture the activities and fund balances separately:

Mary Donaldson Award Fund – Initially established as a Trust, with SLA as the Settler on the Deed, to advance the cultural and informational contributions of libraries in Canada, to prepare and disseminate work on library services in the form of an annual lecture and present a Mary Donaldson Award of Merit scholarship. The Trustees transferred the Trust monies to SLA and dissolved the Trust with the approval of the Charities Directorate. The fund continues to support the Mary Donaldson Award of Merit scholarship for a library technician student. The lecture will continue under the auspices of the annual Conference Committee.

Frances Morrison Trust – The Frances Morrison Award is an award of merit for a selected recipient for outstanding service to libraries given in the name of one of Saskatchewan's exceptional librarians, Frances Morrison.

Maureen Woods Education Bursary – The Maureen Woods Education Bursary was established to promote the continued growth of professional librarianship in the Province of Saskatchewan. An annual bursary is awarded to an MLIS student each year.

Continuing Education Grant Fund – The Continuing Education Grant Fund is used to give grants to members to attend workshops, to organize and host workshops, and to attend the SLA conference as first-time attendees.

Indigenous MLIS Bursary Fund – The Indigenous MLIS Bursary Fund is used to support persons of Canadian Indigenous ancestry who are pursuing ALA accredited Master of Library and Information Science graduate programs or equivalents.

(continues)

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2024

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

The Association's policy is to present bank balances and term deposits with a maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition under cash and cash equivalents.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred. Capital purchases are expensed at the time of purchase.

Financial assets including cash, accounts receivable, long-term and restricted investments are reported at amortized cost.

Financial liabilities including accounts payable and accrued liabilities are measured at amortized cost.

Revenue recognition

Saskatchewan Library Association follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriated restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Grant revenues are allocated to the period the granting agency identifies. Grants relating to a future period are deferred.

Membership revenue is reported as revenue when received.

Programming and exhibition fees are reported in the period the related event takes place or the service is rendered.

Sponsorships relate to specific events and are reported as revenues when the event takes place.

Local businesses contribute services to assist the Association in carrying out its activities. The Association records contributed goods and services received during the year as revenue with an offsetting expenditure. The contributed services are \$NIL (2023 - \$NIL) which are reported at their retail value as provided by the supplier.

Capital assets

Capital assets purchased, such as leasehold improvements, furniture and office equipment are expensed in the year of purchase.

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2024

3. INVESTMENTS

	Maturity date	Interest rate	2024		2023
RBC GIC #010	Feb 15/23	1.60%	\$ -	\$	35,000
RBC GIC #019	Oct 27/23	3.00%	-		30,512
RBC GIC #020	May 10/24	4.55%	35,000		-
RBC GIC #021	Jan 26/25	4.00%	30,000		-
Accrued interest			1,177		500
Total short-term investments			\$ 66,177	\$	66,012

	Maturity date	Interest rate	2024		2023
RBC GIC #008	Feb 12/25	1.85%	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000
Accrued interest			1,789		1,794
Total long-term investments			\$ 101,789	\$	101,794

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue includes the following:

	2024		2023	
Grand Chapter of the Sask Order of the Eastern Star	\$	9,060	\$	9,060
Conference revenues		2,111		3,000
Sponsorships		-		3,627
	\$	11,171	\$	15,687

5. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The Board allocated current year conference excess of revenues (expenses) to each of the following restricted funds: \$NIL (2023- \$NIL) to Mary Donaldson Award Fund, \$NIL (2023 - \$NIL) to the Continuing Education Grant Fund, \$NIL (2023 - \$2,740) to the Maureen Woods Education Bursary, and \$NIL (2023 - \$5,000) to the Indigenous MLIS Bursary.

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended January 31, 2024

6. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Association is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and management and the board are responsible to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Association's risk exposure and concentration as of January 31, 2024.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. Receivables relate to event sponsorships, government rebates and interest accruals and represent no significant risk of collection.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Association has sufficient resources and equity at the yearend to manage its affairs for a reasonable period, so this risk is considered to be low.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. Interest rate risk is considered to be low since the Association has no debt or credit facilities nor does it rely on the interest income to support operations. The restricted funds offer support to their respective programs in relation to equity and investment earnings so some decisions may be affected by unusually low interest/investment revenues.

7. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Self-Generated
Year Ended January 31, 2024 (Schedule 1)

	2024	2023
<u>External</u>		
Corporate sponsorships	\$ 37,728	\$ 26,035
Donations	1,335	628
Grants - Sask Culture	-	10,000
	<u>39,063</u>	<u>36,663</u>
<u>Internal</u>		
Conference revenue	57,728	43,356
Fundraising	-	89
Interest income	3,720	2,826
Membership fees	13,270	14,940
Other income	-	964
Programs and services	15,470	2,305
	<u>90,188</u>	<u>64,480</u>
	<u>\$ 129,251</u>	<u>\$ 101,143</u>

Administration
Year Ended January 31, 2024 (Schedule 2)

	2024	2023
Office operations	\$ 32,761	\$ 32,356
Personnel	155,139	128,241
	<u>\$ 187,900</u>	<u>\$ 160,597</u>

Corporate Business
Year Ended January 31, 2024 (Schedule 3)

	2024	2023
Bank charges and interest	\$ 1,417	\$ 2,164
Insurance	317	315
Memberships	3,374	3,015
Professional fees	6,038	5,454
	<u>\$ 11,146</u>	<u>\$ 10,948</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Programs and Services
Year Ended January 31, 2024 (Schedule 4)

	2024	2023
Conference	\$ 48,679	\$ 53,440
Freedom to Read and Culture Days	3,671	2,731
One Book One Province project	7,044	3,191
Saskatchewan Library Week	7,454	7,555
Summer Reading Club	2,501	4,079
Other program expenses	13,344	1,402
	<u>\$ 82,693</u>	<u>\$ 72,398</u>

Public Relations and Communications
Year Ended January 31, 2024 (Schedule 5)

	2024	2023
Advertising and promotion	\$ 51	\$ 1,777
Membership expenses	264	31
Newsletter	696	613
Website contract	-	13,139
	<u>\$ 1,011</u>	<u>\$ 15,560</u>

Travel and Meetings
Year Ended January 31, 2024 (Schedule 6)

	2024	2023
Annual general meeting	\$ 2,333	\$ 1,847
Board	6,292	2,568
Professional development and leadership training	300	9,544
Staff	2,120	1,275
	<u>\$ 11,045</u>	<u>\$ 15,234</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Schedule of Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)
Year Ended January 31, 2024

	Mary Donaldson Award Fund	Francis Morrison Trust	Maureen Woods Education Bursary	Continuing Education Grant Fund	Indigenous MLIS Bursary		
						2024	2023
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 10,273	\$ 4,848	\$ 35,072	\$ 10,581	\$ 8,577	69,351	\$ 74,233
REVENUES							
Donations	205	80	850	-	-	1,135	510
	205	80	850	-	-	1,135	510
EXPENSES							
Bursary award	1,200	-	5,000	-	5,000	11,200	11,271
Grants	-	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	1,861
Other	-	317	-	-	-	317	-
	1,200	317	5,000	2,500	5,000	14,017	13,132
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	(995)	(237)	(4,150)	(2,500)	(5,000)	(12,882)	(12,622)
Interfund transfers (Note 5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,740
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 9,278	\$ 4,611	\$ 30,922	\$ 8,081	\$ 3,577	\$ 56,469	\$ 69,351

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SPONSORS!

Every donation to the Saskatchewan Library Association contributes to professional development opportunities, awards and bursaries, and programs and services for libraries and library workers. Many of SLA's programs also rely on sponsors to reach the most people possible.

Thank you to all our 2022-2023 donors and sponsors!

Donors:

Joylene Campbell
 Bryan Foran
 Marika Hunter
 Marilyn Jenkins

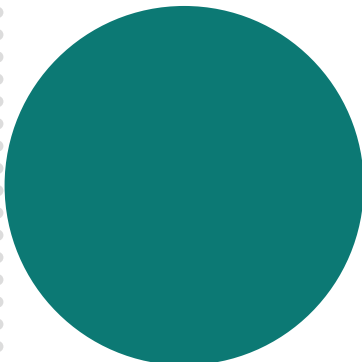
Jessica Kelly
 Allison Marcil
 Helen Molloy
 Dale Storie

Sponsors:





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