



SLA

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

PLSC

**PRISON LIBRARY SUB-COMMITTEE
INFORMATION PACKAGE**



WHO WE ARE

Many incarcerated people in the province have limited or no access to libraries. The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) established a Prison Library Sub-Committee (under its Advocacy & Development Committee) in 2021. Our mission is to improve access to library materials and services for incarcerated youths and adults in Saskatchewan's correctional facilities.

The PLC was modeled after similar organizations across Canada, namely the Manitoba Library Association's Prison Library Committee. Membership includes representatives from public, academic, and special libraries across Saskatchewan.

WHAT WE DO

The Prison Library Sub-Committee is currently partnered with the Regina Correctional Center, the White Birch Remand Centre and the Paul Dojack Youth Center and is providing incarcerated people at these facilities with reading materials through regular book drop-offs.

What this partnership entails:

- Gathering donated materials from community members and libraries
- Purchasing new books
- Sorting, processing and packing materials
- Coordinating drop offs and pick ups with institutions
- Soliciting feedback and requests from staff on behalf of incarcerated individuals

The PLSC also seeks out networking and collaboration with like-minded individuals and organizations, raises awareness and works toward advocacy for the right to read and access information within the carceral system.

**“WHEN INMATES’
INFORMATION
RIGHTS ARE
RESPECTED, THEIR
ABILITY TO GROW
POSITIVE
CONNECTIONS
BOTH INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE OF THE
PRISON SETTING
GROWS.”**

Commissioner Directive 720 governing federal institutions, the Prisoners' Right to Read

THE LANDSCAPE IN SK

According to the most recent Statistics Canada survey data, there are:

- 15 correctional facilities across Saskatchewan
- 2,121 incarcerated individuals in Saskatchewan
- 74 youth incarcerated in Saskatchewan
- 2047 adults incarcerated in Saskatchewan

Nationwide, Indigenous people make up roughly 5% of the population and 30-32% of the prison population. Saskatchewan has the highest incarceration rate of Indigenous people in Canada. In Saskatchewan:

- Indigenous people are incarcerated 17.7 times more than non-Indigenous people
- The provincial prison population is 76.5% Indigenous
- The federal prison population is 65% Indigenous





INMATES ARE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY TOO.

THE VALUE IN WHAT WE DO

The work of the PLSC is valuable because:

- Existing book donations and library programs often do not involve trained library workers, which can impact the quality of materials and services
- Access to information is a fundamental right not forfeited or suspended by incarceration
- Reading plays an important role inside correctional institutions and can improve the quality of life of both inmates and staff
- Access to reading materials and information helps individuals prepare for release and reintegration into the community, reducing recidivism

A YEAR IN REVIEW

From 2024-2025, The PLSC:

- Received 18 community donations and \$100 of monetary donations
- Purchased shelving and other necessary equipment to establish a library at Regina Correctional Centre
- Provided 54 Boxes of books to correctional facilities in Regina
- Completed 6 deliveries/pickups
- Put approximately 2,700 books into the hands of incarcerated individuals
- Hosted a vendor booth and presented at the 2025 SLA Annual Conference

**“FOR INMATES IN
CANADIAN
CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTIONS,
READING AND
ACCESS TO
INFORMATION IS A
RARE CONNECTION
TO THE OUTSIDE
WORLD. IT IS ALSO
A BASIC RIGHT.”**

Canadian Library Association (CLA), Prison Libraries Network

HOW YOU CAN HELP

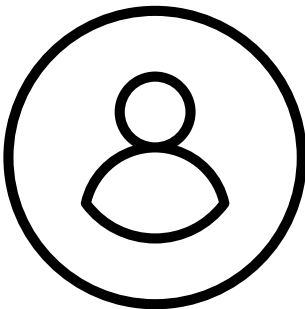
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MAKE A DONATION!

Donated books must be:

- Paperback
- In good condition

SLA also accepts monetary donations.



JOIN US!

Make a meaningful impact on the lives of the province's incarcerated population, and join the PLSC as a committee member or volunteer.

SLA membership is not required for volunteers.

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SPREAD THE WORD!

Tell your friends, family, colleagues about the PLSC and the issue of access to information in correctional centers.



**“FROM THOSE WHO
FIND COMFORT
AND LAUGHTER
AND WISDOM ...
AND THOSE WHO
FIND BRIEF
MOMENTS OF
FREEDOM AND
ADVENTURE IN THE
TURNING OF THE
PAGE, WE THANK
YOU.”**

Inmate Committee, letter to Books 2 Prisoners



HOW TO REACH US

To donate books, please contact Prison Library Sub-Committee Chair Marika Hunter: marikahunter@gmail.com. For donations in Saskatoon please contact Committee Member Maria Cruz at maria.cruz@usask.ca.

To make a cash donation or learn more about the PLSC, please visit us online: <https://www.saskla.ca/programs/prison-library-sub-committee/>

To become a PLSC Member or sign up to volunteer, please contact the SLA office: info@saskla.ca

THANKS!

Thank you to our many donors and supporters - the libraries, businesses, organizations, and individual members of the community who provided books or monetary contributions. Thank you also to our partners at Regina Correctional Center and Paul Dojack Youth Center, and to all committee members and volunteers - current and former.

Thank you to Sask Culture and Sask Lotteries for their generous support.

Current Members: Marika Hunter (Chair), Alan Kilpatrick, Geoffrey Allen, James Richards, Jo Shepherd, Joseph Cliff, Kaetlyn Phillips, Maria Cruz, and Yasmin Dar (SLA)

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Saskatchewan Library Association

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