October 10, 2020

Dear

Re: Support to Saskatchewan Libraries

The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) is a provincial, non-profit organization that furthers the development of library service in the province. Our members include public, academic and special libraries. SLA provides information, advocacy, awareness, education, membership benefits and cultural opportunities for library workers and the public at large through its operations and programs.

Libraries have a critical role in the educational, social, economic and cultural life of Saskatchewan residents and are influential in Saskatchewan communities. As a leader of a political party in the 2020 Provincial election campaign we are asking you to express your support of Saskatchewan libraries. Representatives of Public Library systems have expressed the following priority needs:

➢ Technology enhancements
  Community need for increased access to virtual programming, E- resources, software, computers and other equipment has been ongoing and is now further highlighted by the pandemic.
➢ Connectivity (Band width/CNET increases)
  Particularly in rural and remote areas in the province the need for improved high-speed internet access and more reliable connection has been identified.
➢ Infrastructure (capital needs)
  A sustained and predictable level of baseline funding has been an ongoing concern.
➢ Operating grant increases
  Libraries are committed to meet evolving community needs; however the reality of increasing operating costs across the board limits their capacity.

 Further we would ask that you provide us with a statement of your position on libraries which we can share with our members and the people of Saskatchewan. This may be directed to slaexdir@sasktel.net

Thank you for your anticipated support to libraries and your service to the province.

Sincerely,

Amy Rankin, President SLA