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SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Annual Report

2024/25



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Saskatchewan Library Association
2024/25 Annual Report
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2025



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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Roles of the Association

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



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.



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.



2. Library staff nurture an informed democracy and a compassionate pluralism.



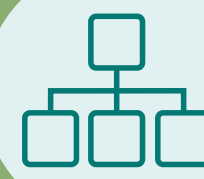
3. Library staff are committed to literacy and lifelong learning.



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



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



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.



V 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

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) Board of Directors, it is my pleasure and my privilege to introduce and present the 2024–2025 Annual Report.

It was another active and productive year for the SLA board, with four meetings of the full Board of Directors and a steady schedule of biweekly and monthly meetings held by our many and varied subcommittees. You'll find, as you read the reports of our fantastic subcommittees enclosed in this Annual Report, that their work over this past year has followed and furthered the goals that we had laid out as a team in the Saskatchewan Library Association 2023–2027 Strategic Plan:

- 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**



Even through uncertain times both here and abroad, Saskatchewan libraries and the Saskatchewan Library Association have remained front and centre in Saskatchewan life and culture all throughout the year, including but not limited to the One Book One Province program in the spring, a successful Saskatchewan Libraries Conference in May, fun and engaging summer programming – notably through strong partnerships with the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association, the Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Association and the Saskatchewan Roughrider Foundation – and our release of The Advocacy Toolkit For Saskatchewan Libraries in the fall, including the Vote Libraries social media presence during the provincial election campaign period.

In addition to this visibility and presence at our provincial level, the SLA has also been active and supportive at the national level of librarianship across the 2024–2025 year, including our continued collaboration and cooperation with The Partnership and with the Canadian

Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB). We are pleased to note that Ann Liang has been selected and confirmed as the Prairie Provinces Representative to the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors at their most recent AGM, and we look forward to her excellent contributions over the two-year term to come.

The amazing work and the successful cultural initiatives of the Saskatchewan Library Association would not be possible without the generous contributions of our funding agencies, SaskCulture and Sask Lotteries, and we are tremendously thankful to SaskCulture Outreach Consultant Paul Gingras and his team for their continued support.

Our shared association would not be as strong or as vibrant as it is today without the hard work and dedication of so many valued members, partners and contributors all across the province. I extend my thanks to all the volunteers on our Executive and subcommittees, to our Individual and Institutional

members who deliver and participate in SLA programs and events, and to the volunteers, presenters, exhibitors and sponsors that make our annual Saskatchewan Libraries Conference such a success each year.

I would also like to extend particular thanks to SLA Executive Director Tina Kleisinger, Program Coordinator Milena Dzordeski, and Communications & Research Coordinator Yasmin Dar, all of whom have contributed greatly to the success of the SLA throughout this past year with their fantastic work. (And special thanks and congratulations to former SLA Communications & Research Coordinator Lynn Penner, who departed the organization in August upon the birth of her first child. All the best, Lynn!) We as a province are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful team working to strengthen and champion all of our libraries across all of our sectors, and I am very proud and feel very fortunate to have served as the President of the Association for this past year. I look forward with excitement to another successful year to come for the Saskatchewan Library Association across 2025–2026.

Yours sincerely,



James Hope Howard,
SLA President 2024-2025



Treasurer's REPORT

MICHELE FEDYK

I am delighted to share my Treasurer's Report for the Saskatchewan Library Association's 2024-2025 fiscal year.

On behalf of the Board and staff, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Saskatchewan Lotteries and Sask Culture for their continued support of the Association. They and all community partners, acknowledged at the close of this report, allow for our continued service to all types of libraries that span the borders of our beautiful and diverse province.

The organization's financial resources have been managed in a sustainable manner, and we continue to remain in a solid financial position, with enough in our general fund and reserve to meet future demands and obligations.

The annual audit for the year ended January 31, 2025, and was conducted by RDS Chartered Professional Accountant Prof. Corp. The audited financial statements accompany this report.



Executive Director's REPORT

TINA KLEISINGER

I am pleased to highlight that 2024 was filled with continued growth and success for SLA. SLA began the year with an operating fund increase of \$18,000 bringing Sask Lotteries annual operating commitment to \$201,000 per year, as part of the new 3-year funding model. SLA is grateful to Sask Lotteries for their continued support enabling the organization to advance Saskatchewan's library and information community, and through libraries, the privilege of serving an audience varied in age, from all socio-economic backgrounds and diverse cultures. My gratitude is extended also to Sask Culture Consultant, Paul Gingras for his support and service to the organization.

SLA remains committed to ensuring member value by providing diverse, informative, and relevant opportunities for engagement, networking, and professional development. In 2024, a new award category and two new programs were introduced; The Early

Career Librarian Award of Merit, The Peer-to-Peer Mentorship and Forums, are exciting new additions to the already established categories of Programming and SLA Career & Student Awards, which bring complement to the Continuing Education Grants, Webinars, Provincial Libraries Conference, and the multitude of library program grant funding opportunities. In addition to the above, in 2024 the Board of Directors also approved developing an Indigenous Reads Program. The program will showcase Indigenous authors and their stories across Saskatchewan, Canada, and beyond.

SLA continues to focus on maintaining and creating new community partnerships to benefit the provincial library community and residents of Saskatchewan. In 2024, SLA partnered with the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations, Indigenous and Northern Relations,

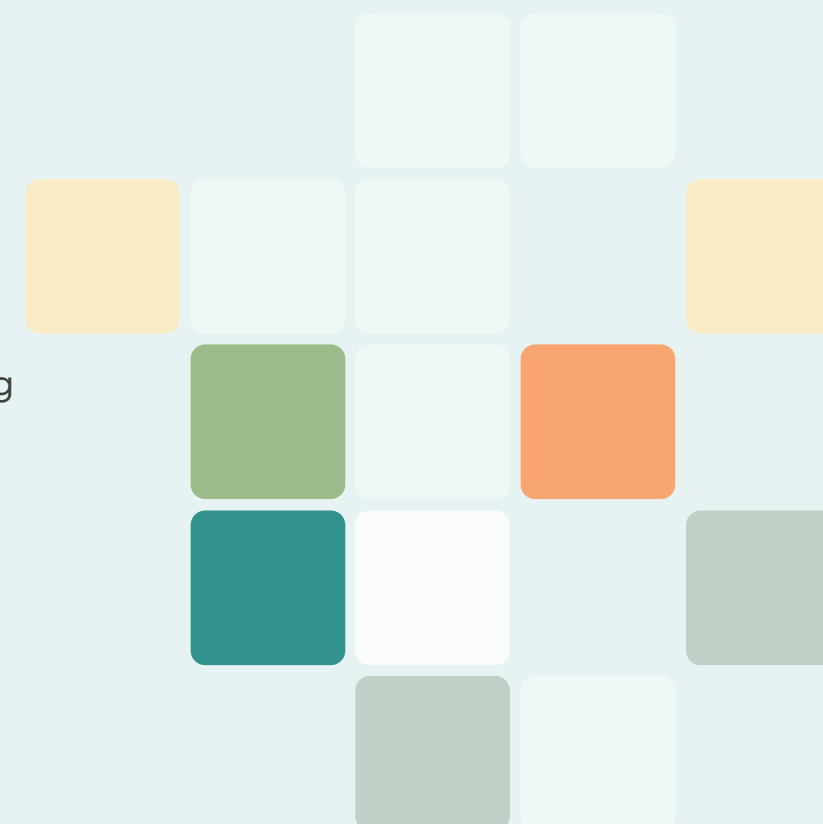
First Nation and Métis Relations Unit to reintroduce The Northern Tour Program and launch a new program – The National Indigenous Peoples Day Grant Program. The programs allow the Saskatchewan library sector to celebrate the many important contributions Indigenous Peoples have made and continue to make in our province and for residents, the opportunity to learn more about their culture, traditions, art, and spiritual teachings. The programs are a measure of the organization's commitment to respond to the 94 Calls to Action - to walk a path of reconciliation, through education, and with honour and respect.

The Saskatchewan Library Association continues to support the mandates of several external cultural and educational organizations in Saskatchewan. SLA is pleased to report that in 2024, the Association was invited to serve as a member of the search committee for the Dean of the University Library at the University of Saskatchewan. SLA is further grateful to the many representatives who have highlighted these organizations within this publication.

Recognition for the continued advancement of the organization can be attributed to the many hard-working volunteers who dedicate themselves to the important work of several committees. Their impactful work can be credited to the success in all areas of the organization, but specifically in 2024, their collective contributions

saw positive results in the membership area, with an increase in both individual and institutional memberships (8% for individual and 6% for institutional). I wish to extend much gratitude to the incredible team of volunteers - thank you for your impactful work!

In closing, I wish to extend my thanks to our members, your support enables us to continue serving Saskatchewan's vibrant library community. My gratitude, also to President, James Howard, and the SLA Board for their leadership and support this past year. The success of our organization is closely connected to the effort, experience, and collaborative work of our board. My thankfulness is also extended to my colleagues Milena Džordeski and Yasmin Dar for their dedication and valued contributions to our work of supporting and advancing the Library Sector in Saskatchewan. Many thanks to all of you!





Membership REPORT



YASMIN DAR
Membership, Research &
Communications Coordinator

This past year has been an exciting time of sustainability, forward momentum, and rejuvenation as membership levels throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year are on a steady upward rise.

Following last year's modest decline in membership levels, the Communications and Engagement Committee set to work on developing new ways to actively

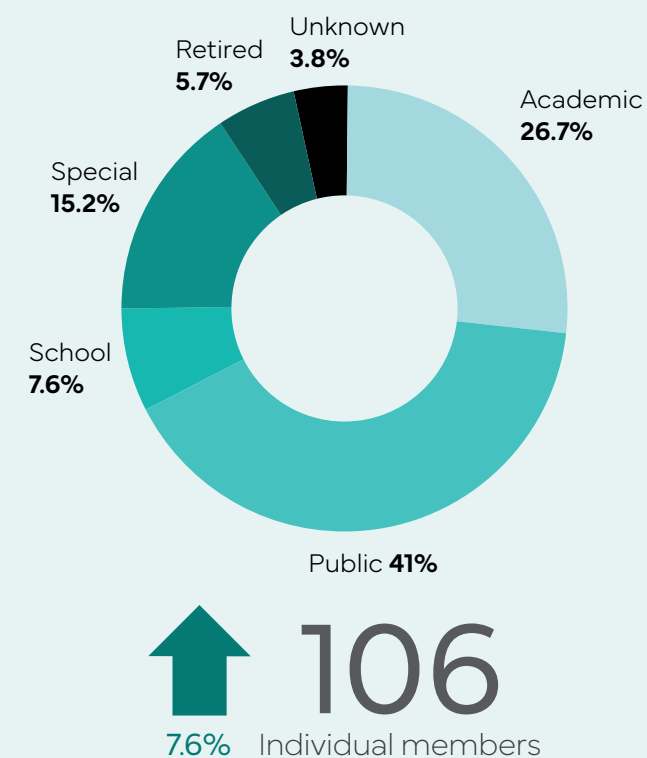
support members while promoting the value of SLA involvement. Our most recent numbers reflect those efforts and demonstrate the anticipated return to a more stable and growing base of both institutional and individual members.

While imagining new ways to attract and sustain membership, the focus this year has been on increasing organizational and program visibility, promoting community engagement, and developing more accessible pathways for member support and feedback. These goals have been actionably supported through the development and implementation of new strategies and initiatives as a continuation of the work undertaken by SLA's Communications and Engagement and Advocacy Committees.

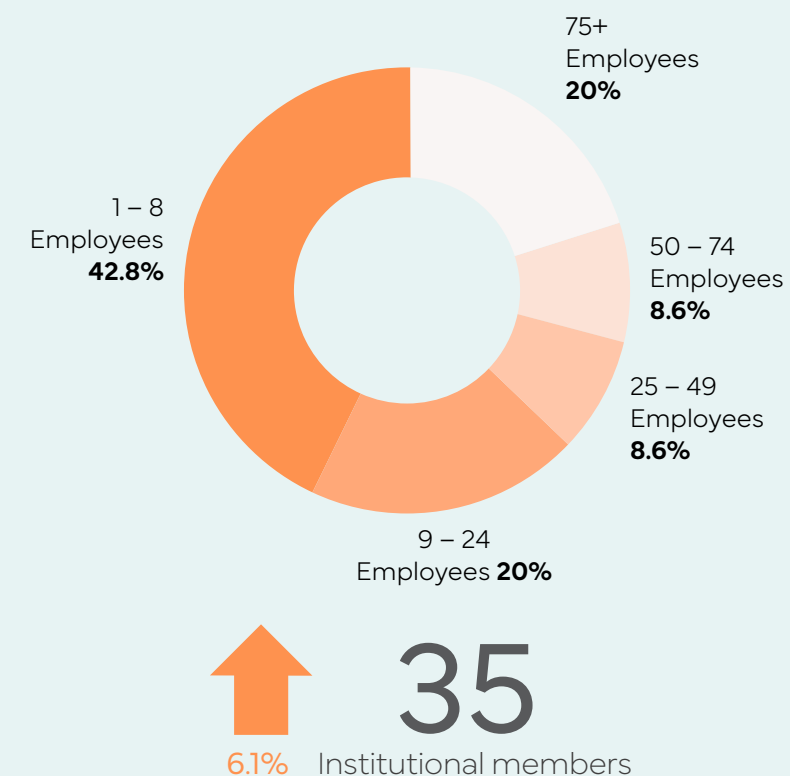
Some new additions this year are extra membership benefits, an online members forum, the Early Career Librarian Award of Merit, and presence on Bluesky social media channel. As well, the SLA has increased online promotion and calls for member engagement through our social media channels and e-newsletter, SLAte.

We look forward to keeping the momentum going in the year ahead as we continue the work of developing new ways to better serve our growing community of members!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS BY LIBRARY TYPE



INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS BY SIZE



Thank you to current committee members: Chau Ha (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), Oksana Moshynska, Jennifer Doede (Moose Jaw Public Library) James Hope Howard (SLA President), Yasmin Dar (SLA), and Tina Kleisinger (SLA). Thank you to outgoing members Danielle Raymond (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), Riane Lapaire (National Network for Equitable Library Service), and Lynn Penner (SLA) for your time and effort with the committee.

Early 2024 saw the release of the SLA Statement on Material and Program Challenges. This statement is supplemental to the 2023 statements regarding intellectual freedom and open access and was created in response to the growing climate of

materials challenges in Canada. Freedom to Read Week (February 18-24), hosted a Bail Out the Banned Book contest on social media. Participants who liked a post featuring a banned or challenged book by a Canadian author were entered to win a copy.

Our most prominent focus for 2024 was advocacy leading up to and during the Saskatchewan provincial election. We completed work on the SLA Advocacy Toolkit, which we released at the 2024 SLA Conference. This toolkit was intended for both staff and the general public to be able to ask candidates questions, express the benefits of libraries, and learn a bit more about the provincial budget cycle. Following the election, MLAs received a congratulatory

PRISON LIBRARY SUB-COMMITTEE



Marika Hunter, Chair

The Prison Library Sub-Committee (PLSC) had another productive year, providing quality reading materials to incarcerated individuals at Regina Correctional Centre, White Birch Remand Centre, and Paul Dojack Youth Centre. We gratefully received book donations from many community members in Saskatoon and Regina, as well as a few generous financial contributions. Alongside used materials, we purchased several new items to fill specific requests from students at Paul Dojack Youth Centre and a large batch of dictionaries for Regina Correctional Centre. In terms of advocacy initiatives,

letter, highlighting the value libraries play in building and maintaining communities, and our continued desire to further the development of library service by connecting, inspiring, and advancing the library and information management community that reflects all Saskatchewan people. Our final initiative in progress for 2024 was investigating best practices to solicit SLA member input regarding the Committee's plans and activities. We are currently exploring these possibilities through the SLA member website.

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 committee members for your input and hard work.

the PLSC began Books Behind Bars – a quarterly book recommendation on social media that highlights issues relating to criminal justice and incarceration. Committee members are also presenting an information session and hosting a vendor booth at the 2025 SLA Annual Conference.

Thanks to an unexpected and exciting supplement to our budget, we were able to purchase the infrastructure and supplies needed to create a physical library at Regina Correctional Centre. This will drastically improve inmates' access to books and reading options

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE



Morgan Kelly, Chair

throughout the facility. The committee expects the coming months to be focused on helping establish that space and develop systems for its operation.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen and expand access to library services within the carceral system in Saskatchewan.

Thank you to committee members: Maria Cruz (University of Saskatchewan), Yasmin Dar (SLA), Alan Kilpatrick (Law Society of Saskatchewan), James Richards (Southeast Regional Library), Jo Shepherd (mâdawêyatitân centre), Megan Stecyk (Regina Public Library).

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Cara Bradley, Chair

Thank you to committee members: Colin Evans, Regan Gunningham, James Hope Howard, Oksana Moshynska, Robert Thomas, and Christina Winter.

The mandate of the Continuing Education Committee is as follows:

- Develops and promotes continuing education opportunities for members.
- Promotes and adjudicates applications for the Continuing Education (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.

Three grant applications were received and adjudicated in 2024. The Committee has boosted efforts to raise awareness of the CE grants and is ready to review the Spring 2025 applications after the February 15 deadline passes. The Committee has also offered, or is planning to offer, the following webinars for the 2024-2025 year:

- "Professional Ethics & Political Realities: Responding to Intellectual Freedom Challenges in Public Libraries," FTRW webinar presented by Sharon Day and Michael Dudley, representatives from the CLFA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee.
- "Accessibly: Strategies for Creating Accessible Conference Presentations," presented by Riane LaPaire from the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS).
- "Unstuck in the Middle: Lessons for Leading Up, Down, and Across in a Library," panel discussion led by Mark Black, Branch Manager at Regina Public Library's Central Branch.

- "Developing Inclusive Mindsets & Eliminating Bias," presented by Nura Mehammed and Zane Arnott from the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association.
- "Othering, Discrimination & Racism," presented by Lara Paul from the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association.
- "AI, Bias and Libraries: Expanded Edition," presented by Veronica Ramshaw from the University of Regina Library.
- "Modernizing Library Reading Programs for Adults," presented by Devon Stolz, from the University of Toronto (and previously at Regina Public Library).

At the time of writing, we are also pursuing leads for additional sessions. The Committee expresses its 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, Milena Džordeski, Yasmin Dar, and Tina Kleisinger in the SLA office for their expert support of our work.

AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE



Robert Thomas, Chair

In 2024, the sub-committee adjudicated eleven applications for the Maureen Woods Education Bursary, Indigenous Student MLIS Education Bursary, Mary Donaldson Award of Merit, and Frances Morrison Award. The worthy award recipients are proudly published in the report.

I am also pleased to share that a new award category was developed and approved by the Board in 2024. The Early Career Librarian Award is an award of merit for outstanding service to libraries by someone who has made a contribution to the library profession during the first five years of their career. At the time of writing, the application process remained open, and applications were being received for this exciting new award.

I wish to extend my thanks to the Committee and look forward to continuing our important work together. Barbara Nelke (University of Regina), Cara Bradley (University of Regina), JoAnn Murphy (University of Saskatchewan), Kimberley Hintz (Regina Public Library), Morgan Kelly (Southeast Regional Library), and Milena Džordeski (SLA).

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT



Danielle Raymond, Chair

Thank you to committee members: 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 Yasmin Dar (SLA).

With the board's approval of the Communications Strategy developed by the committee last year, we have turned our focus to various projects to support networking and to promote SLA memberships and programs.

Mentorship Pilot Project

The committee supported the Mentorship Pilot Project assisting in matching its inaugural cohort of participants. The cohort represented a variety of interests and will conclude in May 2025, when the pilot project will be evaluated.

Outreach Strategies

The committee has generated various outreach strategies to ensure that our services and programs are promoted widely and are accessible to all members. Working with the Communications and Research Coordinator, the committee has prioritized several strategies, both big and small - that we will be rolling out in the months to come. We invite you all to share SLAte with friends and colleagues as we work to create further opportunities to connect.

Member Forums

With the member area enabled on the SLA website, the committee is working to foster participation in the member forums to enable rich and varied conversations between individual members. We have posted some initial topics but invite any individual member to begin their own thread or contribute to existing ones.

PROGRAMMING



Milena Džordeski
SLA Program
Coordinator

grants to help them provide suitable programming for families in their communities. Their programs took place in libraries from Eastend to Loon Lake, including activities such as Indigenous story reading, interactive story sack kits, family popcorn writing, a stuffy sleepover, mad hatter tea party, and a family party around the world!

The inaugural **2024 National Indigenous Peoples Day Grant** was formed with the input of Wendy Sinclair, RPL's Indigenous Services Advisor, and Deborah Pelletier, SLA's Board Member at Large. The nine grants were given to libraries across the province to celebrate the important contributions of Indigenous peoples and the national holiday on June 21. SLA gratefully acknowledges funding support for these grants by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations, Indigenous and Northern Relations, First Nation and Métis Relations Unit.

Summer Performer Tour

SLA again provided grants of up to \$300 to support in-person summer programming across the province. In 2024, grants were distributed to fifteen libraries to provide their communities with diverse programming. Part of the programming included a reading challenge, a community garden, Lab Rat Biology, "A Taste of the World" food event. Other libraries hosted community partners such as the Adventure Wranglers Reptile Show, Saskatchewan Science Centre's Go! Science Travelling Tour, and "Mr. Eric" Musical Tour with Eric Petkau. Libraries immersed their audiences in art and culture, providing them the

Thank you to all the Program Committee members: Tawn Marshall of Lakeland Regional Library, James Hope Howard, SLA's Board President & PNLs Director, Morgan Kelly of Southeast Library Region, Sean Stares of PNLs (until April 2024) and Kate Wagner of Legislative Library. We welcomed a new member on this team in April 2024—Emily Wong of PNLs, who provided an exciting new member input to our monthly discussions.

Here are the highlights of the activities that took place in 2024:

Family Literacy Day is an event marked every year on January 27 in libraries and literacy organizations across the country to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in literacy activities as a family. The 2024 Family Literacy Day theme was "Let's have a family party!" SLA awarded seven libraries with



15

205



Number of libraries to receive a grant for the Summer Performer Tour



Participants hosted by the Northern Tour Program

44

17



Culture Days library events held in 2024



Number of \$250 grants distributed by SLA for Sask Library Week programming

opportunity to learn about famous painters, create pendulum art and clay faces, and fine art. Once again, SaskTel’s generous sponsorship supported the funding of the summer grants.

A Northern Tour Program

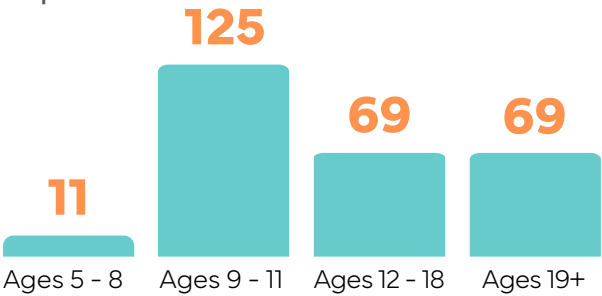
In 2024, SLA reintroduced the tour to Saskatchewan’s Northern with the generous sponsorship of the First Nations University of Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations, Indigenous and Northern Relations, First Nation and Métis Relations Unit.

The Tour visited nine Saskatchewan locations including: La Ronge, Montreal Lake, Stanley Mission, Pinehouse, Île-à-la-Crosse, Beauval, La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, and Pelican Narrows and hosted 205 participants during the week of September 16-20, 2024. The tour featured Harmony presenting

her painting, Kookum Magic, inspired by her father Harold Johnson’s short story, and guiding participants through storytelling traditions and symbolism. Each session included a hands-on creative activity where participants used symbolic materials to create mnemonic story sticks, representing personal or cultural stories important to them. The workshops encouraged youth and adults to explore the power of storytelling through traditional and personal narratives. The sessions concluded with a sharing circle, where participants shared their creations and the stories they represented. **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. In 2024, SLA provided eight grants of \$200 to libraries from different parts

of our vast province to provide their communities with activities such as creating a positive message stone path, beading poppies, wool needle felting sculpture, as well as learning opportunities such as a Chinese calligraphy class, an international potluck supper, and a multicultural festival. The hosted events allowed residents the experience of new creative and cultural activities. The limited number of eligible grants did not deter Saskatchewan’s vibrant library community from hosting events - SLA is proud to share that 44 library events were held across the province during Culture Days! **2024 Saskatchewan Library Week** took place from October 13–19, with the theme - “Grow with Your Library.” SLA distributed seventeen grants of up to \$250 to libraries across the province to fund a variety of engaging activities,

some of which included: an apple-growing project, a pumpkin pie social, and an escape room. Other fun activities included: “Librarian for a Day”, and “Patron Appreciation Day.” Once again, the diversity of the activities that took place during the third week of October showcased the important and versatile roles libraries have in the lives of our communities. **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. **2024 Book Spine Poetry Contest Submissions**





Book Spine Poetry Contest is one of SLA’s most popular programs, and it draws participants in four different age categories, from all over the province. For the first time last year, we welcomed 13 entries in French!

In 2024, we received 274 entries in total, of those, 69 were submitted by adults, 69 by teens, 125 by children ages 9-11, and 11 by children ages 5-8. The poems were adjudicated and three winners in each category received McNally Robinson Booksellers’ gift cards as prizes; two of the winning poems were in French.

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).

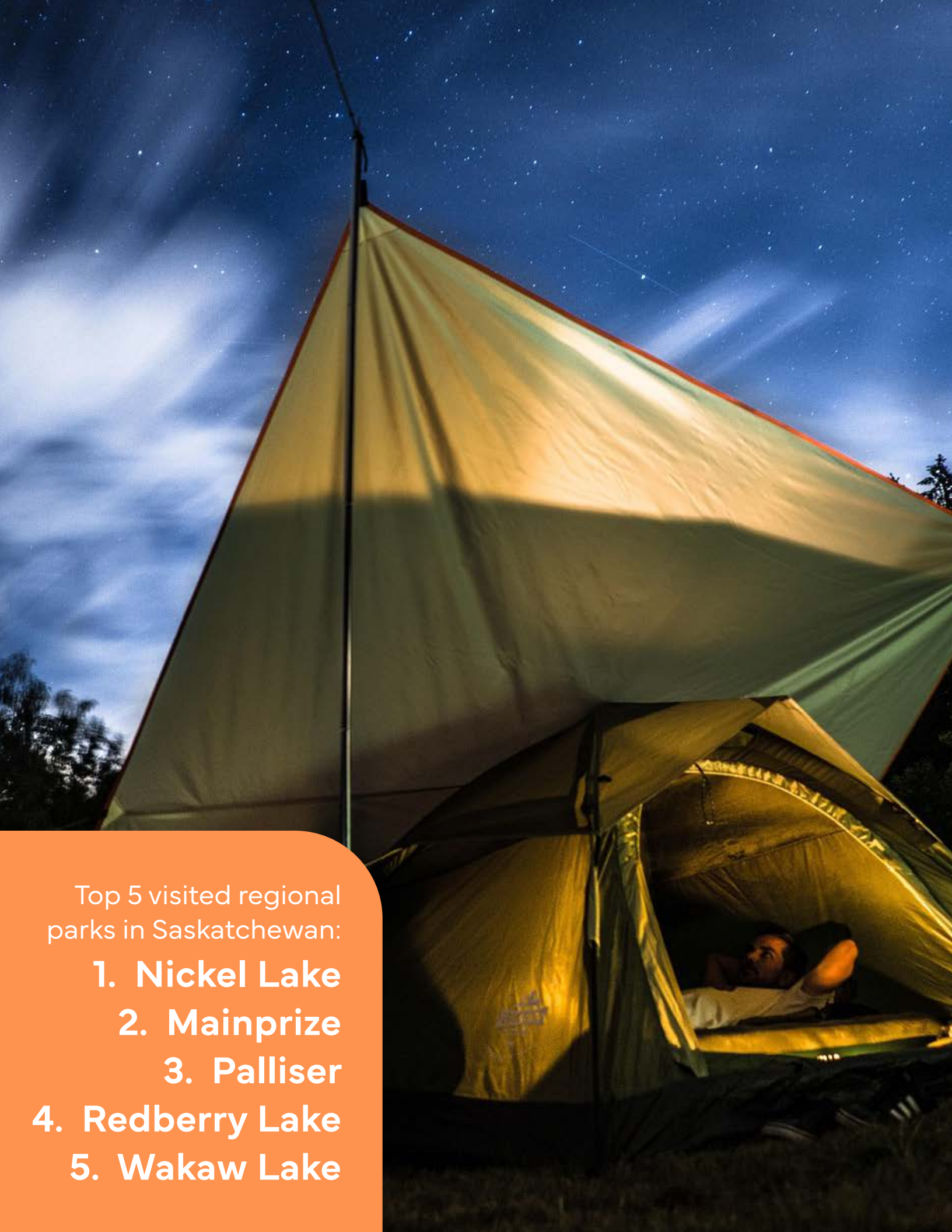
In 2024, the program ran successfully for the third year.

Throughout the summer of 2024, (May 17 to September 15), 856 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 307 library branches while also providing equitable access to Saskatchewan’s beautiful nature.



Pass Distribution

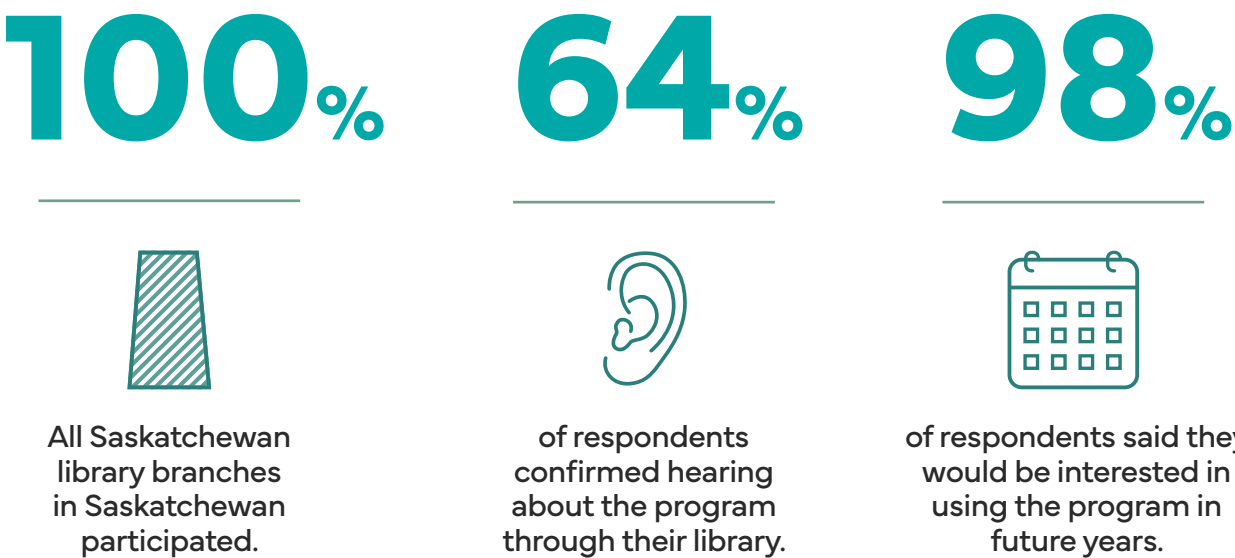
LIBRARY	# OF BRANCHES	# OF PASSES
Chinook Regional Library	31	66
Lakeland Regional Library	32	62
Palliser Regional Library	20	42
Parkland Regional Library	55	50
Southeast Regional Library	46	125
Wapiti Regional Library	44	66
Wheatland Regional Library	45	80
Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS)	12	50
Prince Albert Public Library	2	15
Saskatoon Public Library	9	145
Regina Public Library	9	145
University of Regina	1	5
University of Saskatchewan	1	5
TOTAL	307	856



- Top 5 visited regional parks in Saskatchewan:
- 1. Nickel Lake
 - 2. Mainprize
 - 3. Palliser
 - 4. Redberry Lake
 - 5. Wakaw Lake

Pass Circulation

LIBRARY	# OF PASSES	CIRCULATION
Chinook Regional Library	66	302
Lakeland Regional Library	62	429
Palliser Regional Library	42	380
Parkland Regional Library	50	326
Southeast Regional Library	125	897
Wapiti Regional Library	66	454
Wheatland Regional Library	80	594
Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS)	50	9
Prince Albert Public Library	15	113
Saskatoon Public Library	145	1,793
Regina Public Library	145	1,138
University of Regina	5	14
University of Saskatchewan	5	76
TOTAL	307	856





Colleen Murphy, Chair



One Book, One Province, Saskatchewan (OBOP) aims 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. OBOP encourages Saskatchewan's social, economic, and cultural development while supporting libraries and collaboration.

This year's selection was Jennifer S. Wallace's *Miss G and Me*, an award-winning book that shares a daughter's insights into her Jamaican mother's immigration story and familial relationships, weaving together poems, journal entries, anecdotes, and personal essays, and inviting readers to experience Jamaican, English and prairie Canadian voices, cultures, landscapes, and mindsets. A French immersion teacher, judo sensei, writer, artist, and author, Jennifer focused on "partnering with community-minded organizations interested in celebrating women, newcomers, diversity, nourishment, the health system, education and familial ties. She was most eager to meet readers, build connections and bring people of all walks together." She recapped her experience in the following video clip:

https://video.wixstatic.com/video/b0430d_74b380eeee42f41eea590aa7cf-d4e9849/1080p/mp4/file.mp4

His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of

Saskatchewan and Honourary Patron for OBOP, and Her Honour Donna Mirasty, graciously hosted the launch event at Government House on March 21, 2024. Close to one hundred people attended the One Book One Province launch, which began the month-long series of in-person and hybrid events that spanned the province, including:

- April 3 – Saskatoon – Saskatoon Public Library & the University of Saskatchewan Libraries
- April 4 – Weyburn Public Library Branch
- April 5 – Moose Jaw Public Library
- April 8 – Dr. John Archer Library, University of Regina
- April 9 – Prince Albert Public Library
- April 10 – Watrous Branch Library
- April 25 – Regina Public Library – Regent Place Branch ("Memoir Writing Workshop" with Jenifer)

In addition, *Miss G and Me* was also the Sam Maciag's *Novel Idea Society's* pick of the month and the Archer Library's Anti-Oppression Book Club pick.

For the third year, the Regina Public Library Film Theatre ran a monthlong film festival to tie in with the themes raised in the book. These weekly screenings included five predominantly Canadian titles: *Home Again* (Sudz Sutherland, Canada, 2012), *When Morning Comes* (Kelly Fyffe-Marshall, Canada, 2022), *A Brief Record of My Father's Time at Sea* (Jeanette Kong,



Jennifer S. Wallace

Canada, 2021), *Cette Maison* (Miryam Charles, Canada, 2023), and *Wide Sargasso Sea* (John Duigan, Australia, 1993).

Thank you to the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for their generous sponsorship and the many library workers across the province who contributed to the success of the program.

Thank you to 2024 OBOP committee members: Mary Chipanshi (University of Regina), Paula Daigle (First Nations University of Canada), Milena Džordeski (SLA Program Coordinator), Joe Geary (Saskatoon Public Library), Kathleen Irwin (Community Member), Morgan Kelly (Southeast Regional Library), Ann Liang (University of Saskatchewan), James Hope Howard (SLA President & PNLS Director).

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY CONFERENCE



Ryan Monks, Planning
Committee Chair

Our 2024 conference theme was ***Libraries Create Community*** – it reflected on the many ways libraries serve, support, and enhance their communities. The Conference Planning and Program Committees worked collaboratively to ensure that all delegates were energized and engaged over the two-day conference.

Thanks to our amazing speakers, delegates were treated to sessions focusing on truth and reconciliation, accessibility, removing barriers, climate action, community engagement, and more.

The 2024 Saskatchewan Libraries Conference began with Keynote Speaker, Leah Dorion who captivated the audience with stories from her life growing up in a

Métis community, sharing pictures of her incredible artwork, and closing her address with wonderful storytelling.

Mr. Cadmus Delorme presented the 2024 Mary Donaldson Lecture. Using experiences from his lifetime, Mr. Delorme focused on how individuals, libraries, and cultural organizations can help lead a path of Truth and Reconciliation through everyday interaction and intention.

Many thanks to the many conference sponsors: Regina Public Library, Saskatoon Public Library, University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina Library, Library Bound, Library, TD Summer Reading Club, CVS Midwest Tape, Ivy and Dean, and United Library Services. Your generosity, along with the support of the twenty-two exhibitors in attendance was vital to the conference's success.

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



SLA Bursaries & Awards

MAUREEN WOODS EDUCATION BURSARY

2024 Recipient:
Nicholas Antonini



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.

Nicholas Antonini was the chosen recipient of the 2024 bursary. Nicholas is a settler from Treaty 4 Territory (Regina, Saskatchewan). He is currently enrolled in the MLIS program at Western University. His previous work and education experience have informed his interest in knowledge framings and practices, particularly how knowledge is practiced in situ. He looks forward to exploring these interests in the applied context of the MLIS. He feels a deep commitment to his home, Saskatchewan, and is looking forward to contributing to the dynamic world of library and information science in Saskatchewan.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT MLIS EDUCATION BURSARY

2024 Recipient:
Colton Whelpton



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.

In 2024, Colton Whelpton was chosen as the recipient of the Indigenous Student MLIS Education Bursary. Colton is a member of the Tl'etinqox Government (Anaham) band, was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. Colton now lives on the traditional and unceded lands of the Musqueam people (Vancouver, BC). He serves as the Library Services Manager at the John Richard Allison Library at Regent College, supporting the diverse research needs of this graduate institution. Colton holds a MATS (2021) from Regent College and is currently pursuing an MLIS online through the University of Alberta.

MARY DONALDSON AWARD OF MERIT

**2024 Recipient:
Suzan Boudreault**



The Mary Donaldson Award of Merit was established in 1977 to recognize library technicians and the essential services they provide in Saskatchewan libraries. The bursary is given annually to a student who is enrolled in or graduating from a library and information technology program offered in Saskatchewan.

In 2024, Suzan Boudreault, in her second semester of the Library and Information Technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon was chosen as recipient of the Mary Donaldson Award of Merit. Following her education, Suzan plans to pursue a career as a Library Technician in an elementary school library in Saskatoon.

SLA FRANCES MORRISON AWARD

**2024 Recipient:
Gwen Schmidt**



The SLA Frances Morrison Award is an award of merit for outstanding service to libraries. This award is given in the name of one of Saskatchewan's exceptional librarians, Frances Morrison. She partnered with the Saskatchewan Library Association in 1982 to create this award.

Gwen Schmidt was chosen as the worthy recipient of this award in 2024.

Gwen began her career as a Literacy Librarian at the Frances Morrison Central Library after graduating from Dalhousie University with her MLIS in 1995.

Gwen's influence touched many during her long and impactful career spanning 28 years, with Saskatoon Public Library (SPL). There she held many positions including: Adult/Young Adult Librarian; Provincial Documents Librarian; Adult Collections Librarian; Virtual Reference Librarian; Branch Supervisor; Outreach and Access Services Coordinator; Manager, Branches; and finally Senior Manager, Neighbourhood Services.

Gwen will always be admired for her passion, dedication, and commitment to librarianship. She has fostered lifelong connections to the library community, and like, Frances Morrison she is a person with a drive and passion for libraries!

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ann Liang

SLA representative

Since joining the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) as the Prairie Representative in November 2024, I have had the opportunity to engage in national discussions shaping the future of libraries in Canada. The CFLA plays a crucial role in advancing library excellence, championing library values, and influencing public policy at both national and international levels.

Early in my tenure, I identified an opportunity to contribute my expertise in library marketing and communications. Recognizing concerns about momentum loss following the transition from the Canadian Library Association, I joined a consultation meeting focused on rebranding and refreshing the CFLA's website and overall brand identity. This effort aims to reestablish CFLA as a recognizable leader in Canadian library advocacy and policy.

During my short time on the board, I participated in decisions, including the approval of the Joint Position Statement on the Importance of Health Libraries in Canada. This statement highlights the essential role of health libraries in supporting professional development, medical training, and patient care decision-making.

Additionally, the board approved a letter to the Access to Knowledge Coalition (A2K), emphasizing concerns regarding WIPO's role in public lending rights and the limitations and exceptions concerning broadcasting rights. Key signatories, including CARL and IFLA, have also endorsed this letter.

We also supported an update to the Intellectual Freedom Committee Toolkit, ensuring its continued relevance in addressing pressing challenges facing libraries across Canada.

I look forward to further contributing to CFLA's mission in the coming year as the Prairie Representative for SLA.

CFLA-FCAB Copyright Committee

Donna Thiessen
SLA Representative

I was appointed to the Copyright Committee in November 2024, replacing Christina Winter who was recognized for her long and valuable service to the committee. The Copyright Committee is active, meeting monthly to review the progress of the projects. Most projects are initiated from within the committee.

Since joining, I have initiated a review of contract over-ride. CFLA has a statement on contract override that was issued a few years ago. The review will look at new policy statements globally, as well as more recent court decisions to determine if the statement should be updated. I have also joined the Controlled Digital Lending review committee; their review is based on the Internet Archive /Hachette United States lawsuit, which has continued to provide advice over the past two years.

The Copyright Committee is formed

based on representation from different library sectors in Canada. The appointment of Carol Shepstone to the Saskatoon Public Library has resulted in her appointment as the representative to the committee from the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC).

I am pleased to advise that the Committee is currently working on several other projects including: an e-book collaboration in partnership with industry representatives, input into the federal consultation on artificial intelligence, and a guide for libraries on accessible content and its production and distribution. The committee has a strong history of making significant contributions to addressing policy on copyright in Canada and ensuring the library sector is well represented. I would be interested in considering any copyright concerns or issues identified by the SLA that may require consideration by the committee.

I am grateful to represent SLA on the CFLA Copyright Committee.

CFLA-FCAB Indigenous Matters Committee

Deborah Pelletier
SLA Representative

The Committee on Indigenous Matters (Le Comité des affaires autochtones) exists to:

- explore issues and identify work-related concerns as well as sound practices and identify current work and sound practices related to the service offerings of libraries, archives and cultural memory institutions with and for Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) peoples on behalf of CFLA-FCAB
- promote initiatives in all types of libraries that advance and implement meaningful reconciliation as addressed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and in the Calls to Action
- to promote collaboration on these issues across all Canadian memory institutions including,

libraries, archives, museums, and educational and cultural organizations, and

- to monitor ongoing progress in these areas.

In 2024/25 The Indigenous Matters Committee released a "Steps to Reconcili-Action Report".

Following the release of the Reconcili-action Report and its highlight on supporting Indigenous Librarians, IMC began a new project, a Community of Practice for Indigenous Information Professionals, and has since held two meetings. This pilot program will run for a year with a final report to the CFLA Board with recommendations and further actions.

CFLA-FCAB Board has proudly appointed the next Committee Chair, Bethany Peterkin. Bethany is a member of the Manitoba Métis Nation and was born and raised on Treaty One territory. She is currently acting as the Indigenous Teaching, Learning & initiatives Librarian at Capilano University.

Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples Committee (LSSAP)

Lisa Ulriksen

SLA Representative

Lindsay Baker

Chairperson

The focus of the LSSAP committee for 2024 was the 21st annual Storytelling Month project. Wapiti Regional Library hosted the 2024 launch, with the Humboldt Reid-Thompson Public Library and Humboldt & District Museum and Gallery hosting Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater for presentations to school children and the public.

With the support of 125 volunteers, libraries hosted 103 storytelling sessions in over 61 locations, with over 10,000 participants. 52 Storytellers shared a variety of contemporary and traditional stories. The committee thanks all Storytellers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, hosts and audience members who took part and made Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling Month 2024 a success.

The committee is currently actively seeking new members. If individuals are interested in taking part, they can reach out to the committee's Chairperson, Lindsay Baker, at lssapcomm@gmail.com



Multitype Library Board

Dale Storie

SLA Representative

The MLB was established under the 1996 The Libraries Co-operation Act to facilitate the cooperative development of the multitype library system in Saskatchewan. MLB includes representatives from all library sectors in Saskatchewan who meet several times a year to discuss ways in which libraries can cooperate to share resources and services. Administrative support and funding are provided by the Provincial Library and Literacy Office.

Major initiatives in 2024-2025 included:

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

- **Science Online**

The Multitype Library Board 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.

The current chair of MLB is Abigail Durkee from Briercrest College and Seminary. The MLB Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023-24 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on July 29, 2024. The report is available online at Saskatchewan Publications Centre and the MLB site. More information about the Multitype Library Board is available on the Saskatchewan Libraries website.

Saskatchewan Book Awards

Gwen Fisher
SLA Representative

The Saskatchewan Book Awards began operations in 1993 when the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild, Saskatchewan Publishers Group (now SaskBooks), and the Saskatchewan Library Association joined forces to establish a provincial writing and publishing awards program.

Since its inception, The Saskatchewan Book Awards has had 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.

The 31st Annual SBA Gala and Award Ceremony, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre in Regina, SK on Friday, May 3, 2024, drew an intimate crowd of 190 guests including authors, publishers, sponsors and community supporters who attended the event and celebrated winners in 13 award categories. Of the 195 entries submitted to the Saskatchewan Book Awards 2024 Call for Submissions, 39 jurors from across Canada selected 35 books as finalists

that were announced at the SBA Shortlist Announcement held at the Regina Public Library on March 1, 2024. Regina Public Library’s Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence, Dickie Yuzicappi, announced finalists for shortlisted authors and publishers in 13 award categories.

The evening’s video presentation was produced by Amplify Digital Corp., and Access Communications cable network aired the awards ceremony on three occasions, following the event. CBC announcer, Candace Holmstrom, and Darian Agecoutay, Indigenous Lecturer from First Nations University of Canada, contributed to the voiceover. Involving a Cree language speaker to correctly pronounce all the Indigenous titles provided honour and respect to the authors and their Indigenous book titles.

Tim Blackett was a double award winner for his book, **Grandview Drive**, won the First Book Award sponsored by the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Government of Saskatchewan, and the Fiction

Award sponsored by Saskatchewan Book Awards. Other double award winners included Saskatoon author, Maria Endicott, whose book, **The Observer**, won the City of Saskatoon Book Award and the Book of the Year Award. Of note were double award-winning Indigenous authors, James Brady McDonald, whose book, **Carrying It Forward: ESSAYS FROM KISTAHPINÂNIHK**, received two awards for Non-Fiction and Indigenous Peoples’ Writing, and Solomon Ratt, whose book, **The Way I Remember**, published by University of Regina Press won the City of Regina Award and the Publishing Award. Gabriel Dumont Institute Press was also a double award recipient, winning the Publishing in Education Award and the Indigenous Peoples’ Publishing Award for Gregory Scofield’s book. The full list of 2024 winners can be viewed at: www.bookawards.sk.ca.

SBA will host their 2025 Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony at TCU Place in Saskatoon on Friday, May 9, 2025. The event will be hosted in conjunction with SLA’s Provincial Libraries Conference.





Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library & Information Technology Advisory Group

Michelle Fedyk
SLA Representative

I am pleased to report that 27 students graduated from the program in 2024 and that future students will soon enter a new facility as Saskatoon's new Sask Polytechnic campus is underway. A master plan for the other three campuses has also begun.

Other school initiatives include building a 5-year comprehensive strategic plan, increasing domestic and Indigenous enrollment, increasing industry connections, and employee engagement initiatives.

A five-year comprehensive curriculum revision was completed last spring and implemented in the fall. The team is also working with the Continuing Education Until to develop new micro-credentials in the areas of AI. The future continues to shine bright for Sask Polytech in many aspects from continued collaborations, the use of AI, new campus buildings, and innovative educational opportunities for students.



University of Regina Senate

Kate-Lee Nolin
SLA Representative

Key work:

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:

Key messages:

- The record enrolment that the University saw in the Fall of 2023 carried over to the Winter 2024 term, up 8.9% compared to Winter 2023. This upward trend continued into the Fall 2024 increasing 3.1% from the Fall 2023 term. With a total enrolment of 17,288 students, the University has a new all-time record.
- The University officially kicked off their 50th Anniversary on July 1, 2024 – 50 years to the day that they became an autonomous degree-granting institution. Several events were hosted throughout the year

including public lectures, a concert in honour of Dr. Lloyd Barber and outdoor 'Decades Movie Nights'.

- Two athletes from the University of Regina competed in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics. Swim team member Ovesh Purahoo of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies represented his home country of Mauritius in 100-metre freestyle, and Kenzie Priddell of the Faculty of Education competed for Canada in artistic swimming.

University Library:

- In May 2024, the Dr. John Archer Library launched a new interlibrary loan (ILL) system called Rapido, designed to enhance patron access to resources from libraries worldwide. This new system has made it easier than ever to get the materials, no matter where they are housed.
- Also in May, renovations on the main floor of the library began. In August the brand-new service desk for Information Services staff was opened after being temporarily relocated to the main Help Desk. The service desk staff can assist with computer and technology questions, printing set-up, U of R username and log-in troubleshooting, and other related issues.
- On June 25, 2024, the library celebrated National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day. Elder Betty McKenna, from Sapotawayak Reserve, Treaty 4 Territory in Manitoba and

Dr. Fidji Gendron, Associate Dean (Academic) and Professor of Biology at First Nations University of Canada, presented on the importance of flora and land-based knowledge from an Indigenous worldview. The event was free and open to the public.

- The University of Regina Author Recognition Program celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2024. The Dr. John Archer Library and Archives invited the campus community to join their celebration of 2023-24 University authors and creators. The program showcased not only printed text works but a variety of creative or scholarly projects published in various media such as artworks, websites and app development.

Just a reminder, members of the community, including faculty, staff, and students, can now pick up and return their public library materials at the new pickup station in the Archer Library. This opens up access to materials from library locations across the province, which can be delivered to the Archer Library pickup location within just a couple days.

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.

April 20, 2024, Meeting Review

U of S President Stoicheff shared the university's successes including receiving an increase in funding to develop new health science programming. He also celebrated that among the 97 universities in Canada eligible for the nation's 11 Rhodes Scholarships, the University of Saskatchewan students received two

this year. From various standing reports presented at the meeting, the Senate also learned that undergraduate and graduate associations are focused on supporting student mental health, service accessibility, and creating a sense of community and welcome.

October 26, 2024, Meeting Review

U of S President Stoicheff shared that honorary degree recipients for 2024 included philanthropists and business leaders Gordon and Jill Rawlinson, Man-Booker Prize-winning author Yann Martel, and Nobel Prize-winning scientist Dr. Emmanuelle Charpentier, PhD. The report also celebrated USask receiving its highest-ever performance in the QS World University Rankings (340th), and a place in the top quartile of ranked universities in the world for the second year in a row.

Information about the selection of the next University President was shared in a report from the Board of Governors. Dr. Stoicheff will complete his term at the end of 2025. The search for a new President will include both community and campus engagement, and more information can be found at <https://governance.usask.ca/presidential-search/index.php>. The Senate will also be selecting a new Chancellor at the spring meeting in 2025.

Senate Education Sessions

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

The Chief Sustainability Officer presented an overview of USask's progress on its Sustainability Strategy. The Sustainability Strategy includes a vision of not only physical environment, but also education, wellness, equity, and justice. It was noted

that USask is creating an inventory of new sustainability-related courses as well as maintaining the existing courses that share this focus. Major challenges for USask include its reliance on the SaskPower electrical grid and aging heating and cooling infrastructure. Work is being done to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings. The presentation emphasized that a sustainability strategy necessitates empowering students with knowledge and skills to identify real-world problems and develop competencies to find future solutions.

New Organizational Senate Member

The University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association was designated to be a new association member of the Senate at the spring meeting.



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

Riane Lapaire
SLA Representative

The Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards (SYRCA) – The Willow Awards helps promote reading and celebrates Canadian literature. Saskatchewan children and youth vote yearly on recipients from finalists in three age-based award categories.

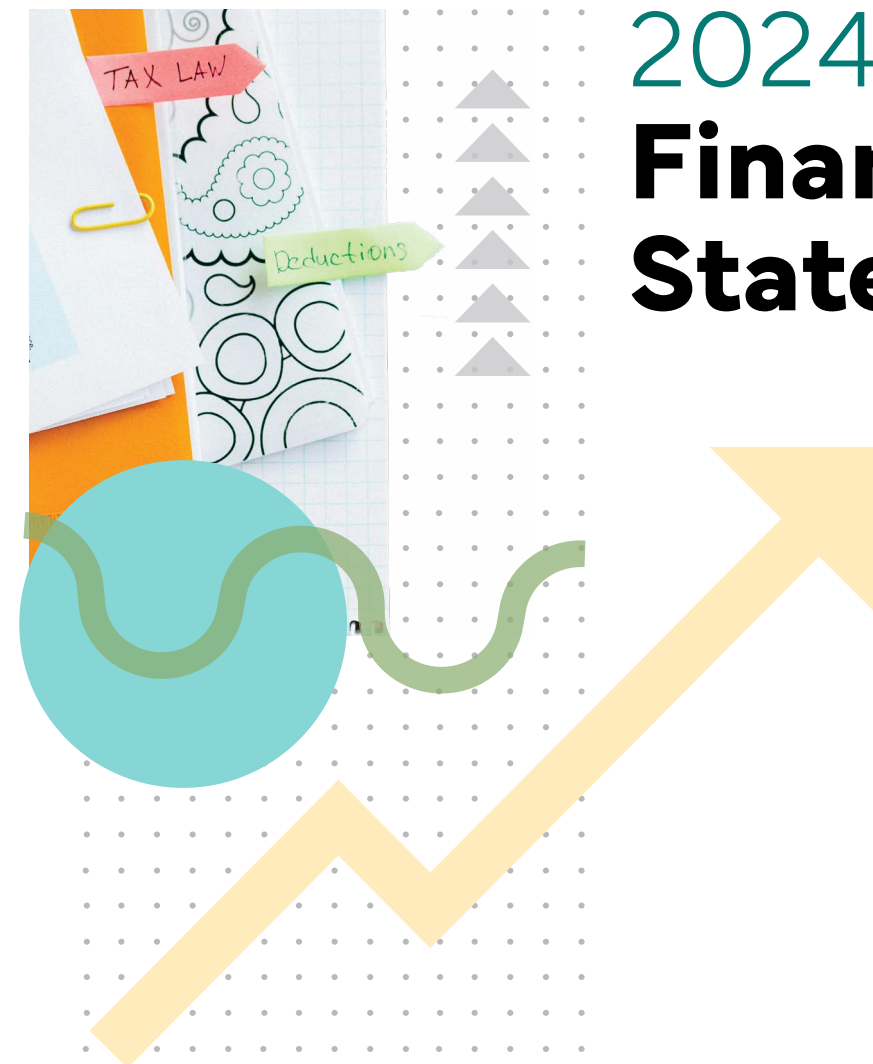
The #WinWithWillows author contest was once again a success in 2025, with four funded author visits chosen by a random draw for a chance for readers to win a visit with author duo Myles H. Charles and Miriam Körner, Maria Birmingham, Suri Rosen, or Anna Rosner.

Together with the community of Stockholm, SK, The Willow Awards board will host the SaskEnergy Willow Awards gala at Macdonald School on May 30th at 1 pm CST and will be live streamed across the province. Tune into this fantastic event to celebrate literacy and the Willow Award winners!

For more information about the benefits of The Willow Awards, to subscribe to Willow updates, to follow along on the voting excitement, or to live-stream the Gala, visit WillowAwards.ca.

The Willow Awards board values their connection with the Saskatchewan Library Association and is thankful for their continued partnership.

2024/25 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, 2025 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, 2025 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.


April 2, 2025
Regina, Saskatchewan

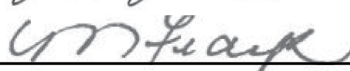
Robert D. Szautner
Chartered Professional Accountant

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2025

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	\$ 136,484	\$ -	\$ 136,484	\$ 108,519
Inventory	1,405	-	1,405	1,558
Accounts receivable	701	-	701	-
Prepaid expenses	5,253	-	5,253	8,691
Short-term investments (Note 3)	136,975	-	136,975	66,177
	280,818	-	280,818	184,945
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	-	-	-	101,789
RESTRICTED CASH	-	60,083	60,083	56,469
	\$ 280,818	\$ 60,083	\$ 340,901	\$ 343,203
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable	\$ 21,941	\$ 21,941	\$ 20,482	
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	9,060	-	9,060	11,171
	31,001	-	31,001	31,653
NET ASSETS	249,817	60,083	309,900	311,550
	\$ 280,818	\$ 60,083	\$ 340,901	\$ 343,203

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


Director


Director

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Operations
Year Ended January 31, 2025

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
REVENUES:				
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation	\$ 201,000	\$ -	\$ 201,000	\$ 183,000
Self-generated (Schedule 1)	129,619	-	129,619	129,251
Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)	-	510	510	1,135
	330,619	510	331,129	313,386
EXPENSES:				
Administration (Schedule 2)	189,330	-	189,330	187,900
Corporate Business (Schedule 3)	15,033	-	15,033	11,146
Programs and Services (Schedule 4)	99,581	-	99,581	82,693
Public Relations and Communications (Schedule 5)	2,144	-	2,144	1,011
Travel and Meetings (Schedule 6)	13,795	-	13,795	11,045
Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)	-	12,896	12,896	14,017
	319,883	12,896	332,779	307,812
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$ 10,736	\$ (12,386)	\$ (1,650)	\$ 5,574

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended January 31, 2025

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 255,081	\$ 56,469	\$ 311,550	\$ 305,976
Excess of revenues (expenses)	10,736	(12,386)	(1,650)	5,574
Transfers (Note 5)	(16,000)	16,000	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 249,817	\$ 60,083	\$ 309,900	\$ 311,550

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association
Statement of Cash Flow
Year Ended January 31, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues (expenses)	\$ (1,650)	\$ 5,574
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(701)	3,064
Accounts payable	1,459	1,825
Deferred revenue	(2,111)	(4,516)
Inventory	153	67
Prepaid expenses	3,438	6,007
	588	12,021
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of investments	(35,181)	(66,177)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	66,172	66,017
	30,991	(160)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	31,579	11,861
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	164,988	153,127
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 196,567	\$ 164,988
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 136,484	\$ 108,519
Restricted cash	60,083	56,469
	\$ 196,567	\$ 164,988

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year ended January 31, 2025

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, 2025

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 (2024 - \$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, 2025

3. INVESTMENTS

	Maturity date	Interest rate	2025	2024
RBC GIC #020	May 10/24	4.55%	\$ -	\$ 35,000
RBC GIC #021	Jan 26/25	4.00%	-	30,000
RBC GIC #022	Dec 04/25	3.25%	35,000	-
RBC GIC #008	Feb 12/25	1.85%	100,000	-
Accrued interest			1,975	1,177
Total short-term investments			\$ 136,975	\$ 66,177

	Maturity date	Interest rate	2025	2024
RBC GIC #008	Feb 12/25	1.85%	\$ -	\$ 100,000
Accrued interest			-	1,789
Total long-term investments			\$ -	\$ 101,789

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue includes the following:

	2025	2024
Grand Chapter of the Sask Order of the Eastern Star	\$ 9,060	\$ 9,060
Conference revenues	-	2,111
	\$ 9,060	\$ 11,171

5. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The Board allocated current year conference excess of revenues (expenses) to each of the following restricted funds: \$NIL (2024 - \$NIL) to Mary Donaldson Award Fund, \$NIL (2024 - \$NIL) to the Continuing Education Grant Fund, \$NIL (2024 - \$NIL) to the Maureen Woods Education Bursary, and \$16,000 (2024 - \$NIL) to the Indigenous MLIS Bursary.

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year ended January 31, 2025

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, 2025.

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, 2025

(Schedule 1)

	2025	2024
External		
Corporate sponsorships	\$ 43,397	\$ 37,728
Donations	1,061	1,335
	44,458	39,063
Internal		
Conference revenue	61,940	57,728
Interest income	3,648	3,720
Membership fees	14,545	13,270
Other income	2,486	-
Programs and services	2,542	15,470
	85,161	90,188
	\$ 129,619	\$ 129,251

Administration

Year Ended January 31, 2025

(Schedule 2)

	2025	2024
Office operations	\$ 28,097	\$ 32,761
Personnel	161,233	155,139
	\$ 189,330	\$ 187,900

Corporate Business

Year Ended January 31, 2025

(Schedule 3)

	2025	2024
Bank charges and interest	\$ 2,620	\$ 1,417
Insurance	964	317
Memberships	3,090	3,374
Professional fees	8,359	6,038
	\$ 15,033	\$ 11,146

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association

Programs and Services

Year Ended January 31, 2025

(Schedule 4)

	2025	2024
Conference	\$ 53,958	\$ 48,679
Freedom to Read and Culture Days	3,493	3,671
One Book One Province project	6,382	7,044
Saskatchewan Library Week	4,189	7,454
Summer Reading Club	3,926	2,501
Other program expenses	1,700	12,332
The Northern Tour	6,538	-
Family Literacy Day	1,247	-
Prison Library Committee	6,077	1,012
Indigenous Reads Program	12,071	-
	\$ 99,581	\$ 82,693

Public Relations and Communications

Year Ended January 31, 2025

(Schedule 5)

	2025	2024
Advertising and promotion	\$ 223	\$ 51
Membership expenses	1,144	264
Newsletter	777	696
	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,011

Travel and Meetings

Year Ended January 31, 2025

(Schedule 6)

	2025	2024
Annual general meeting	\$ 2,460	\$ 2,333
Board	7,296	6,292
Professional development and leadership training	2,982	300
Staff	1,057	2,120
	\$ 13,795	\$ 11,045

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Saskatchewan Library Association

Schedule of Restricted Funds

Year Ended January 31, 2025

(Schedule 7)

	Mary Donaldson Award Fund	Francis Morrison Trust	Maureen Woods Education Bursary	Continuing Education Grant Fund	Indigenous MLIS Bursary	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 9,278	\$ 4,611	\$ 30,922	\$ 8,081	\$ 3,577	56,469	\$ 69,351
REVENUES							
Donations	-	-	400	-	-	400	1,135
Sponsorships/Fundraising	-	-	-	50	-	50	-
Interest Earned	30	30	-	-	-	60	-
	30	30	400	50	-	510	1,135
EXPENSES							
Bursary award	1,200	118	5,000	-	5,000	11,318	11,200
Grants	-	-	-	1,567	-	1,567	2,500
Other	11	-	-	-	-	11	317
	1,211	118	5,000	1,567	5,000	12,896	14,017
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	(1,181)	(88)	(4,600)	(1,517)	(5,000)	(12,386)	(12,882)
Interfund transfers (Note 5)	-	-	-	-	16,000	16,000	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 8,097	\$ 4,523	\$ 26,322	\$ 6,564	\$ 14,577	60,083	\$ 56,469

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDER,
DONORS & SPONSORS!

SLA gratefully acknowledges the generous funding received through Sask Lotteries and the support of Sask Culture 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.



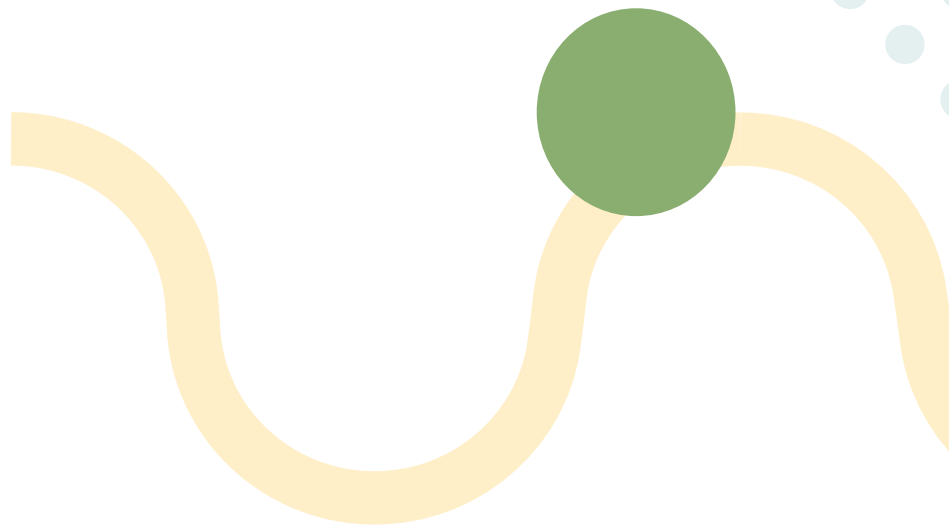
Every donation and sponsorship contributes to professional development opportunities, awards and bursaries, programs, and services for libraries and library staff. Your generosity benefits libraries throughout our beautiful and diverse province. Thank you!

Donors:

- Bradley Doerksen
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- Allison Marcil
Helen Molloy
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Saskatchewan Library Association



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