'It takes a province to save a library system'

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May 2018

BREAKING:

SK government making $4.8M in cuts to libraries

"And it's simply, who cuts libraries? Really?"

Calling library cuts 'a mistake,' SK gov't restores $4.8M

"The people rose up; they stood up."

Photo credit: Timothy Hursley

How do public libraries balance ongoing tensions to fulfill their mission?

Authority – Autonomy – Populism
Tradition – Change

*Politics *Technologies *Practices *Value

First and foremost a political story. What happened?
Why did things go as they did? What made the difference in this crisis?

What data did I gather?

- In Saskatchewan – April, May, September 2017 (6 weeks)
- Embedded researcher – Regina based advocacy group April →May
- +25 interviews: current directors, current and former regional library staff, former provincial library administrators, current and former trustees, FB admin team, local librarians (regions), SLA, SLTA, SILS
- Field notes and memos
- Media stories ; blogs ; related websites
- Legislative debates March 23rd - April 24th
- Save Sask Libraries Facebook group

'CRISIS' STORY
DIMENSIONS OF INFLUENCE

POLITICAL SPHERE
POLITICAL PARTIES – MLAs - PARTISANSHIP
VOTING PATTERNS

LEADERSHIP PLLO	SK DEGREE OF SEPARATION	CoP LIBRARY EXPERTS	SYSTEM COMPLEXITY	LIBRARY LEGISLATION	FACTS Dis/Mis INFO
LEADERSHIP SLA / SLTA	LEADERSHIP LIBRARY SYSTEMS	GRASSROOTS PEOPLE + COMMUNITIES	PETITIONS	SAVE SASK LIBRARIES FACEBOOK	MEDIA

Saskatchewan public libraries → mission, history, services

Make the invisible, visible, then orient towards shared future

- Simplify key messages re funding and contributions by local, regional, provincial
- Establish coherent provincial library value framework
    - Rural, urban, northern differentiations
    - Comprehensive, though still simple framework
    - Push for timely, complete, transparent reporting on various library data sets

- Re-organize + re-structure for SK's future provincial public library system
    - Discussions about re-structuring provincial system
    - Boundaries and re-organizing regions
    - Transcend partisan boundaries in discussions around library mission and goals

- Cultivate and support ongoing community work with stakeholder networks
    - F2F talking, meeting, influencing
    - Identify and connect loosely organized nodes in the network
    - Consultation and engagement activities