

# President's Report

Alix-Rae Stefanko

I am honoured to report on my 2016 term as MLA President. The opportunities and services that a library association can provide for its members are plentiful and this has been an exciting and eventful year for the Association.

Notable MLA projects and initiatives in 2016 include:

- MLA Scholarships Committee awarded 3 scholarships to Manitoban MLIS candidates
- MLA MLC Planning Committee executed a highly successful Manitoba Libraries Conference, May 4-6 2016 at the Delta Winnipeg – at the opening Keynote from Fred Penner, MLA was thrilled to invite Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage to bring greetings on behalf of the Province.
- MLA advocacy work included presentations and talks about the work of the association to RRC library tech students as well as rural libraries and staff. Advocacy campaigns such as Freedom to Read Week were facilitated and letters to Provincial Governments and University Administration were sent.
- MLA demonstrated substantial efforts towards continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders provincially and nationally. MLA has provided leadership and contributed significant effort towards the Manitoba Libraries Working Group. Two Town Hall Meetings were facilitated; a project website was created; the Working Group released its Final Proposal on November 16, 2016.
- Nationally, in 2016, MLA President assumed the seat designated for the Prairie Provinces representative on the new CFLA-FCAB Board. The Prairie Provinces (Manitoba and Saskatchewan) are well represented on the CFLA-FCAB Board and the committees initiated to date.
- MLA continued its active participation at the two annual meetings and committee work of the Partnership: Canada's National Network of Provincial and Territorial Library Associations.

The Manitoba Library Association celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year in 2016. The anniversary was commemorated at the All Delegates Social on May 5 at the Manitoba Libraries Conference. 2016 has been a transformative year for library association both nationally and provincially in Manitoba. On January 27, 2016 the members of the Canadian Library Association voted to dissolve the Association and soon thereafter the Canadian Federation of Library Associations was formed and incorporated. MLA is proud to be one of the founding members of the CFLA and will participate on its Board of Directors along with the Saskatchewan Library Association as the Prairie Provinces representative. The new national structure increases the opportunity for MLA to participate at the national level.

Within the province, the work of the Manitoba Libraries Working Group in 2016 which resulted in the release of the Final Proposal – November 16 2016 has initiated a movement towards a reformed and restructured Manitoba Library Association with the ultimate goal of realizing the new association for January 1, 2018.

Despite a significant structural change on the horizon for our provincial library association, the values of the Association: to promote awareness of library services and issues in Manitoba, to advocate for Manitoba libraries and workers and to ensure the development of diverse networks, rich learning opportunities and fluid communication remain the pillars of the Association. As a proud MLA member and someone who is dedicated to sustainable growth, development and prosperity of library services in Manitoba I heartily anticipate the future of our Association and look forward to what 2017 will offer.

### **CFLA-FCAB**

Alix-Rae Stefanko is currently serving as Prairie Provinces (MB,SK) Board member for the Canadian Federation of Library Associations. Alix-Rae is also serving as Secretary to the Executive of the CFLA-FCAB. Represented MLA and SLA as the Prairie Provinces Board member at the CLA National Forum 2016 in Ottawa, June 1-3. CFLA-FCAB will hold its first AGM on February 1, 2017 in Toronto, Ontario. The first elected Board will form on February 1. MLA and SLA have endorsed the nomination of Alix-Rae Stefanko as the Prairie Provinces Board member for a 1 year term beginning February 1, 2017.

Throughout 2016, MLA has worked closely with SLA Executive to develop a foundational policy and procedures for nominating and endorsing a Prairie Provinces board member as required. In addition, drafting terms of reference for the Prairie Provinces Board member.

CFLA-FCAB struck two committees in 2016: the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and a Copyright Committee. The Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee is Camille Callison, MLA Past President and Indigenous Member at Large to the CFLA-FCAB Board. MLA Nominated 3 members to each committee.

MLA members serving the CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Committee:

- Dr. Stan Gardner
- Monique Woroniak
- Michael Dudley

MLA members nominated to the CFLA-FCAB Copyright Committee:

- Dr. John Tooth
- Ebony Novakowski
- Camille Callison

CFLA-FCAB is the national voice of Canada's library associations. Our purpose is to:

- advance library excellence in Canada;
- champion library values and the value of libraries; and
- influence national and international public policy impacting libraries and their communities.

Notable CFLA-FCAB projects and initiatives in 2016 include:

- Proclamation of October 21, 2016 as Canadian Library Workers Day
- Participation in the Canadian Library Month October 2016 Campaign
- IFLA membership and WIPO accreditation
- Consulting with Canadians on Planned Accessibility Legislation
- Canadian Content in a Digital World Submission
- Adoption of numerous CLA Guidelines and Position Papers for the Federation

- 2017 Pre-Budget Submission advocating for: the improvement of rural broadband Internet access, Invest in library services and infrastructure and Indigenous education in library services.

Read more on the CFLA-FCAB website: <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/home-page/>

### **The Partnership: Canada's Network of Provincial and Territorial Library Associations**

Represented MLA at the Partnership Winter Retreat, January 26, 2016 and the Summer Retreat, August 15-17, 2016. The Partnership services include the creation, development and dissemination of the following services: Education Institute, Continuing Education Certificate, Job Board and Journal. MLA members are entitled to national benefits such as discounts with the Library Marketplace and Perkopolis. In addition, MLA participates on the Partnership's Communications Committee. Recently, the Communications Committee distributed a poster highlighting the Institutional Subscriptions available for the Education Institute and the Continuing Education Certificate (see below).

### **The Manitoba Libraries Working Group**

MLA President chaired 17 meetings of the Manitoba Libraries Working Group. Organized and facilitated two Town Hall meetings (May 5, 2016 and September 20, 2016). Ruby Warren developed a website for the Working Group. The Working Group released its Final Proposal - November 16, 2016. The Working Group is collecting letters of support for the project and will continue its work in 2017.

Read more and find the reports, presentations and letters of support on the Working Group's website: <http://mblibraries.mla.mb.ca/>

## MLA Scholarships and Awards

The Manitoba Library Association holds two funds in trust with The Winnipeg Foundation.

Summary Fund Information for *Jean Thoninn Law Scholarship Fund*:

as at December 31, 2015 the market value was \$73,437.97

Total capital received into the fund since inception is \$23,272.04

The 2016 recommended amount to be awarded is \$3,000.00

Summary Fund Information for *John Edwin Birgit Memorial Fund*

as at December 31, 2015 the market value was \$654,491.67

Total capital received into the fund since inception is \$296,128.55

The 2016 recommended amount to be awarded is \$13,000.00

On July 14, 2016 the Scholarships Committee of the Manitoba Library Association met to select the recipients of the annually awarded Jean Thorunn Law and John Edwin Bissett Scholarships.

The Committee selected the following recipients:

Rémi Fontaine	Jean Thorunn Law Scholarship	\$3 000
Allison Kvern	John Edwin Bissett Scholarship	\$8 000
Stephanie George	John Edwin Bissett Scholarship	\$5 000

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Mary-Rose O'Connor (moconnor@accessola.com)

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For more information contact:  
Christine Sheppard (christine.sheppard@shaw.ca)

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