



THE ALBERTA LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

ALTA Announces

June 2008

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Welcome to ALTA's new President and Area Directors!

Natalia Toroshenko has been elected ALTA's President for 2008-2009. Natalia is a former trustee on the Vegreville Public Library Board and currently serves on the Northern Lights Library System Board.

Donna Campbell will now serve as Past President for 2008-2009.

The following individuals have been elected Area Directors for ALTA for 2008 – 2010:

Area 2 – Yellowhead: Honey Pell, Whitecourt

Area 4 – Marigold: Ian Morgan, Okotoks

Area 6 – Shortgrass: Martin Shields, Brooks

Area 8 – Northern Lights: Carole Carpenter, Smoky Lake

Highlights from Punch Jackson's remarks to the ALTA Board

ALTA welcomed the Punch Jackson, Executive Director for the Libraries Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs to our June 25th Board Meeting to provide an update from the Libraries Branch. Here are some highlights from his remarks:

- The Minister was disappointed that he could not get more funding for the library community, but felt that it was impossible due to lack of communication and support from the library community. He suggested that we learn to tell our story better, focus on talking to MLA's and discussing things that we had accomplished – driving home the point that libraries have changed. It is clear that the library community needs a plan, not more input.
- There will be a new committee of 3 MLA's that will decide where the plan will head. Discussions will take place in August/early Sept. Issues fall into a number of categories:
 - Governance' program and services/access and delivery- (In 16 years there has been an increase from just over 100,000 to 1.2 million users. There are over 50,000 programs run in Alberta libraries each year – how much is community outreach?)
 - Program and services/ research and development (Where are key areas we should be focusing our resources?)
 - technology (Equipment replacement, what is coming in the future, challenges, utilization of new ideas to attract new users, staff needs, research and development)
 - Awareness (strategy and theme areas – How have libraries changed? What do they have to offer? How many people use them? Share information, facts and ideas – talk about successes and challenges. There are 17.5 million visits to libraries every year – put information flyer with each book)
 - Planning a sustainable funding strategy (talk about why it is important – roles of government)
 - Workforce strategy (pay, recruitment and retention, succession plan and training– do we have enough librarians?). Not connected through schools – do we connect schools? Or do we skip over schools and provide stronger support for students? (Give every student in Alberta a library card). Negotiate with department of education to open up access that is currently available to schools to users that have public library cards.
- Challenges that are facing libraries: Governance – people don't understand what their roles are, no clarity. Important to work at – why is role clarity important? Everything we do in library community is done on a voluntary basis. Everyone talks to one another – fine tune the system of what roles are and what each group is going to do. Other issue of governance – provincial funding gives varied amounts to each libraries (9% to 75% of budget) – concerns that municipality is funding the majority – how much control can government implement when they don't fund the majority. What is the role of the Provincial Government? Challenge is to look

beyond self to how fit within all library sectors of the Province. Recognizing our own capacities. Minister wants to hear where we are going, not requests for more funding. Do we want format to change to municipal service with or without library boards? What role does the government have?

Advocacy Kit – Joint Initiative between ALTA and LAA

The Alberta Library Trustees Association and the Library Association of Alberta have joined forces to revitalize our previous joint initiative “The Advocacy Kit”. This document will be essential for Library Trustees, Staff and Supporters in the province to provide key steps and strategies for presenting the issues and concerns surrounding libraries to the Provincial Government. The Advocacy Kit is now available from both ALTA and LAA – in electronic and printed format. Please contact the ALTA office for more details.

New Format for the Trustee Voice

Our Fall edition of The Trustee Voice newsletter will be presented with a new look and a new format. It will now be available electronically to all of our members via email and ALTA’s website www.librarytrustees.ab.ca. If you still wish to receive a printed copy, you will need to request one from the office by phone or email. We are committed to doing our part to preserve the environment and eliminate the unnecessary printing of the newsletter for those who are able to read it on their home or library computer.

Update on ALTA’s new Online Trustee Education Modules

ALTA received special funding through the PLDI initiative to create two new Online Trustee Education Modules in 2008. These modules are currently under production and will be unveiled at the 2008 Netspeed Conference in October. Look for these modules on our website starting in November 2008!

Session Proposals for ALC 2009

Alberta Library Conference 2009 Call for Proposals

The Alberta Library Conference (ALC) 2009 Planning Committee invites proposals for sessions or next year's conference in Jasper, Alberta, on April 23-26, 2009.

The theme for ALC 2009 is:

Cultivating our Future: Seeds for Success

Libraries and Library Boards are looking to the future and developing innovative services so that we can continue to be responsive to our communities. Libraries thrive when we plan well, imagine the harvest of our hard work and carefully tend the progress we make. Our theme this year plays with the ideas of growth and ways of making libraries flourish, and celebrates Spring in Jasper. Sessions may be of general interest to the library community in Alberta or directed towards the membership of the co-sponsoring organizations: the Alberta Library Trustees Association or the Library Association of Alberta. The committee aims to provide a range of sessions. Proposals of interest to staff and trustees from libraries of all types and sizes are welcome, as well as proposals that are not specific to a particular library type or size.

Please include with your proposal:

- * the session title/proposed topic
- * a brief abstract
- * the target audience
- * a brief summary of the speaker's experience with the topic
- * expected remuneration

Proposals for pre-conference full or half day sessions are also welcome.

We are interested in receiving proposals from trustees for sessions that would provide education and training for Library Board members. We would very much appreciate it if librarians would share this call for sessions with their Boards.

In addition, if trustees have suggestions for speakers or topics of interest to trustees, they are invited to send them to Ann Craig at the email address below, so that she can see if a session can be developed.

Please share this call with colleagues in your organizations.

Please email session proposals by August 15th, 2008 to:

Anne Carr-Wiggin - anne.carr-wiggin@ualberta.ca

This year's ALC co-chairs are:

Ann Craig, Co-Chair for ALTA

ancraig@shaw.ca

Anne Carr-Wiggin, Co-Chair for LAA

anne.carr-wiggin@ualberta.ca

For more information on the conference, please visit last year's conference website at

www.albertalibraryconference.com

Upcoming Trustee Education Workshops for the Fall 2008 Semester

The following workshops will be held in Fall 2008. All dates are tentative – please check the ALTA website at www.librarytrustees.ab.ca for the most up to date list and information.

October 18 – Sheep River

October 25 – Morinville

November 1 – Grande Prairie

November 15 – Devon