

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Provincial Budget

The Provincial Budget was presented on Wednesday and included:

- a 2.3% increase to the resource sharing grant for public libraries;
- an increased allocation to the CommunityNet program to support existing sites on the CN network;
- a reduction to the Provincial Library's operating grant of about \$50,000; and,
- no provision for the Single Integrated Library System (SILS).

The Provincial Budget also includes capital funds to undertake the Scott Collegiate school building project.

SLA Conference

The *Prairie Partnerships Conference* is the joint conference of SLA and MLA (the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Library Associations) and it also includes trustee sessions co-ordinated by SLTA. The Conference takes place from May 1st to 3rd in Regina with most activities being at the Queensbury. Unlike the last Conference in Regina, the Thursday evening (May 1st) receptions have been combined and will show up in the program as the President's Reception sponsored by Regina Public Library. The reception takes place following the Mary Donaldson Lecture in the Wascana Room of the Regina Inn. Board members, whether officially attending the conference or not, are encouraged to attend as co-hosts. The Mary Donaldson Lecturer is Fred Kent from the Project for Public Spaces in New York. Mr. Kent and his organization are "dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build communities" and libraries figure prominently in their perspective about public space. The Lecture starts at 7:30 p.m. and the reception follows at 8:30 p.m.