LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ACLC Presentation

Further to the Board's request at the last Board Meeting, the Albert Community Library Committee has been invited to provide their annual update to the Board at the up-coming meeting. Committee representative, Lisa Workman, will also be available to address any concerns the Board may have about the Committee's recently proposed revisions to their Agreement with the Board (attached).

Library Board Chairs & Directors Meeting

The day before the beginning of the SLA/MLA Conference, Prairie Partnerships, the annual meeting of the Board Chairs and Directors of Saskatchewan public libraries took place in Regina. The two main agenda items were the Single Integrated Library System (SILS) project and the Provincial Public Libraries Strategic Plan.

The SILS project continues, in principle, through a newly formed consortium of public library systems. The initial consortium includes Regina Public Library, Saskatoon Public Library, Southeast Regional Library (Weyburn), Lakeland Library Region (North Battleford), and Palliser Regional Library (Moose Jaw). While not all library systems were able to participate at this time, all library systems expressed support for the consortium. An RFP will be issued within the next week to find a suitable successor to the three different Integrated Library Systems (ILS) used by the five partners. The Saskatchewan Provincial Library will join the process as an observer and all library systems will be invited to be present for vendor demonstrations during the selection process.

The Provincial Public Libraries Strategic Plan was adopted by the group of Directors and Board Chairs at the meeting. The Plan, included in your package, was originally presented to the RPL Board a few months ago but has had no significant revisions. The Library Directors will begin working through prioritization of the items in the Plan at their June meeting. The Plan generally addresses those areas in which Saskatchewan public libraries co-operate under the legislation.

Programs & Services Review Update

The Programs & Services Review continues on schedule. The project consultant, Jeanne Goodrich was recently in Regina to conduct the follow-up session with the Community Planning Committee and provide a goal-setting workshop for a number of supervisors and managers. Both sessions went very well. The Community Planning Committee

reviewed feedback from the staff on the service responses that were discussed and prioritized in the Committee's first meeting. The Community Planning Committee's top five responses, after considering staff input, were:

- **Create Young Readers**: Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.

- **Stimulate Imagination**: Residents who want materials to enhance their leisure time will find what they want when and where they want them and will have the help they need to make choices from among the options.

- **Visit a Comfortable Space**: Residents will have safe and welcoming physical places to meet and interact with others or to sit quietly and read and will have open and accessible virtual spaces that support social networking.

- **Satisfy Curiosity**: Residents will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.

- **Connect to the Online World**: Residents will have high-speed access to the digital work with no unnecessary restrictions or fees to ensure that everyone can take advantage of the ever-growing resources and services available through the Internet.

A team of Managers and Supervisors will take the service responses and work them into concrete goals and objectives – the sum of this work is the Service Plan. In the meantime, six focus groups and a city-wide survey are being conducted and will add content and confidence to guide the Service Plan. Normally, the top four service responses are developed into the Service Plan. The fifth is included here because it references automation and information technologies. While not one of the top four priorities, Ms Goodrich has noted in our discussions that IT is often de-prioritized simply because it is taken for granted as an integral part of contemporary library services.