

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### ***Anniversary Library Card***

The Anniversary Library Card program has been developed into a program that will provide a library card to every kindergarten child in Regina schools (and hopes to include home-schooled children as well). The card has been specially designed for the Anniversary and we've used child and staff input to select a 'bug' design. The sign-up and distribution process is scheduled to take place in early 2009. If the program is successful, the Library would continue to work with schools each year to get a library card to all children as they start school.

Of course, some children will already have a library card and some may even have charges attached to them. Children with cards will be able to replace their existing card with a new one and, to fulfill the objective of the program to get a library card to every child, it is proposed that children who have charges attached to their cards be forgiven the charges and start with a clean slate. Children of this age are not typically the responsible party in terms of incurring charges on a library card but the charges would be an immediate obstacle to their use of the Library at a time when the Library is trying to encourage reading and the wonder of the public library. A snapshot of data was taken to determine the value of charges currently attached to children's cards. For children under six years old and owing more than \$10 (they are not blocked from use if charges are less than \$10), there are currently about \$40,000 in charges. The five and six year olds receiving a new card would be a subset of this group and amount.

I request a Board motion to waive the charges currently on the cards of children who receive a new Anniversary card. Understood as a part of this process, is an evaluation in the summer of 2009 to determine a rate of recurring charges among the group.

### ***North Central Shared Facility***

A part of the process for the North Central Shared Facility is the development of outcomes that can be used by the project to find fit among the objectives of the various partners. The outcomes will give the partners a picture of where they have common objectives to begin the conversations around how we can reinforce each other's work to improve the overall impact for the community.

Included in your package is a draft of outcomes for library services through the Albert Branch. To some degree, the outcomes are highly speculative in that they exceed the timeline of the Board's Strategic Plan and are far enough in advance (starting in 2011 or 2012) that a number of factors could change by that time. That being said, it is unlikely

that the Library's approach will change drastically from the general direction that the *Service Plan* has just set. I would appreciate any comments Board members have and an approval in principle as these are the starting point of discussion with the other partners.

The Design Fair for the North Central Shared Facility took place on October 4, 2008. Somewhat different groups of people were in attendance for the presentation portion than was the case for the feast and round dance but, in all, about 200-250 people were at the event. Feedback on the design options was provided that day and some was provided as follow-up to the event through e-mail. There has also been a discussion online through the *Leader-Post* website as an adjunct to the editorial in the newspaper lobbying to keep the original Scott Collegiate building as part of the new facility. Of the feedback received to date, about half is supportive of keeping the original school building while the other half is opposed or non-committal on that issue. Fielding Nair continues to develop design options, some of which include the original school while others do not.

### ***Library Services Agreement***

The Province of Saskatchewan funds public libraries for resource sharing activities in the context of *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*. Each year, the Province sends to each library a *Library Services Agreement* that outlines the library's resource sharing responsibilities in exchange for the Provincial allocation of funds which, for 2008-09, is just over \$539,000 for Regina Public Library. A copy of the *Agreement* is included in your package. The *Agreement* has arrived and a motion from the Board to accept the agreement, if it so chooses, is needed. Once approved, the Board Chair and Library Director sign the *Agreement*, return it to the Provincial Library, and the Library's Provincial funding is released.

### ***Copyright Update***

When Parliament was dissolved in advance of the Federal election, the government's proposed copyright legislation died. Given that a similar government has been returned to power, it is quite possible that the previously proposed copyright legislation will resurface. I have included in the Board package, for information, an outline of the Canadian Library Association's views on the last proposed legislation and its affect on users and libraries.

### ***Library Round Dance***

Board members may recall that the Saskatoon Public Library hosted a Round Dance last winter. The library-hosted Round Dance was the first in a series of four to be held in libraries around the province. The Round Dance is a way to strengthen ties between public libraries and the aboriginal community in the Province.

In the spring of this year, at the Public Library Directors' Retreat, the Lakeland Library Region volunteered to host the 2009 Round Dance. I volunteered Regina Public Library to host the 2009 Round Dance as a back-up location. It has turned out that the Lakeland

Library Region cannot host the 2009 Round Dance so it has come to RPL to lead. Work has begun, thanks to Wendy Sinclair-Sparvier at the Albert Branch. The Round Dance is set for Saturday, February 27, 2009. As hosts, the Regina Public Library plays a prominent role. I have included information in your package that was used for the Saskatoon Round Dance last year but it gives a good overview of what the Round Dance is, how it works, and how the day's agenda might unfold.

### ***Ministerial Announcement***

An invitation was received today to a Ministerial Announcement at St. Pius X School on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. There have been no details released other than a mention of "technological infrastructure". I will be at the announcement on Monday and will participate in a Library Directors' follow-up conference call on Tuesday morning to get further details. I will be able to report more fully at the Board meeting.