

### 1.0 Board Chair's Resignation

As circulated on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Board Chair Darlene Hincks Joehnck has resigned from the RPL Board. At least until Tuesday's Board meeting, Elaine Kivisto is Acting Board Chair. Provision has been made in the agenda for the meeting to accept nominations for a new Board Chair and, if needed, hold an election and change signing authorities.

### 2.0 Library Book Rate

In an earlier report, I noted that the Library Book Rate was again before Parliament as Bill C-321 with an outcome pending. The Bill has passed both houses and received Royal Assent this week. A media release from the Canadian Library Association provides a good outline of the issue:

“Introduced by Conservative Member of Parliament Merv Tweed (Brandon—Souris, MB), Bill C-321 helps protect the existing reduced rate for postage on library materials between libraries and between libraries and their users within Canada. This reduced rate, known as the Library Book Rate, has been offered as a service by Canada Post since 1939.

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In addition to enshrining the Library Book Rate in the *Canada Post Corporation Act*, Bill C-321 also expands the definition of library materials to include new media such as CDs, DVDs and other audio-visual materials.

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The Library Book Rate is about more than a reduced rate for libraries to send and receive books. With over 2200 libraries actively using the Library Book Rate and over one million Canadians benefiting from it annually, it is an indispensable part of the service delivered by libraries across the country. Bill C-321 guarantees long-term sustainability for the Rate, which makes vital contributions to the national public policy goals of literacy and lifelong learning, and supports inclusive, vibrant communities.”

Within the Saskatchewan context, the extension of the rate to audio visual materials has a significant impact on province-wide resource sharing. Currently, many types of special format materials are not available for sending to/from most of northern Saskatchewan because without the Library Book Rate, shipping costs are prohibitive. Interlibrary loans to and from these communities are now feasible. In addition, the permanence of the Library Book Rate as part of the Canada Post Corporation Act provides libraries and library patrons with the assurance that this will be an on-going commitment to support library services in Canada.

### **3.0 Aboriginal Library Services Report, 2012**

Each year, as part of the Province's resource sharing grant to public library systems, RPL receives about \$28,000 to support library programs and services to aboriginal peoples and/or about aboriginal culture. RPL initiatives in this area are coordinated with the Manager, Collections & Programming, André Gagnon, and very ably led by Albert Branch Head, Wendy Sinclair.

Activities and programs at RPL in 2012 included:

- Traditional First Nations Feast (Prince of Wales & Albert);
- Bannock Bake-Off (Albert);
- Tipi Construction & Values program (Sherwood Village, Regent Place, Central Children's);
- Traditional Teachings Workshops (many locations); and
- Making moccasins, starblankets, and beading programs (many locations).

A summary of all programs carried out in 2012 and those planned for 2013 is included in the Board report for information.

### **4.0 Financial Statements – Verbal Report (see attached)**