

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD AGM
Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association (SLTA)
REPORT

Community Hall Foam Lake SK
Saturday, May 7th, 2022

The SLTA was organized to advocate for Public Libraries with the general public and with the Provincial Government.

The seven Regional Systems and the two Municipal Systems each appointed one representative, to an executive.

Their major project was to prepare and present a Brief to the Minister of whichever government department the SLTA was in. During the 1970's SLTA was in the Department of Recreation, Culture, and Youth. Recently it was under the Department of Education.

Other initiatives include:

- Composing a history of the 9 regions
- Sponsoring literacy competitions among school children
- Publishing a newsletter called The Trustee
- Developing a Module on Governance

Originally the work was done by volunteers. A secretary was paid an honorarium. When the membership fee was changed from \$5 per trustee to \$10 per trustee, the new funds were used to hire a part time Executive Director.

When the fee increased, one region left. Later another region left for political reasons. The decrease in income seriously hampered the organization's ability to advocate.

The SLTA received serious criticism for not being proactive enough during the 2017 crisis, when the Government reduced funding by 58%. In fact, the Directors probably saved the day by stopping inter-library loans.

Other reasons for leaving the SLTA included but were not exclusive to:

- Another trustee and I were outspoken at the meeting of Presidents, Directors, and the Ministry. We apparently offended some Directors.
- Some Regions felt the Executive Director did not give their input sufficient attention in the Minister's brief.

- Some Regions felt the Executive did not do enough advocacy.
- Some Regions felt that the Executive should terminate the Executive Director's position and return to volunteer work. Unfortunately, three regions since January 2022 held meetings without the SLTA representative at which it was determined that the Region would leave the SLTA. Another region had a surprise move and unexpectedly replaced the representative to the SLTA.

A special meeting was held on April 19th, 2022, via Zoom and conference call. Two proposes were

- To go back to a strictly volunteer executive and;
- To go on hold for one or two years before deciding.

Neither proposal was accepted.

The following motions were carried:

- That the SLTA be dissolved,
- That the 2022 memberships fees be returned
- That assets be distributed to Regions based on their percentage of 2021 membership dues paid.

Hopefully, some good trustees or another organization will come forward to carry on the work of advocating for Public Libraries.

The Provincial Library and Literacy Office never wavered in it's support and continued to provide a yearly grant to the SLTA until its dissolution.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the trustees who worked so hard in the SLTA over the years.

Respectfully submitted by
SHARON ARMSTRONG
Parkland Representative to the SLTA