

Director's Report

9th September 2017

Investments

Three certificates were renewed into 18 month GIC investments, and a new investment of \$500,000 in a variety of terms was taken from the chequing account September, 2017.

Hoopla

Due to the increase in patrons using Hoopla, and that the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) will no longer invest money into this resource, has made it very difficult to manage the budget. At the last Library Manager's Council Meeting the number of checkouts were reduced from 10 to 8 with insignificant impact. At the Executive Meeting in August, it was decided that the checkout be reduced again from 8 to 5. A letter was sent out to the libraries from the Executive Director and the Library Manager's Council Chair, explaining the dilemma. The checkouts will be monitored for two months (Sept/Oct) and an assessment will be made on this resource. Calgary Public Library has dropped this resource and 3 of the 7 systems are contemplating doing the same.

The Alberta Library

TAL were audited by the CRA and fined \$374,000 for not remitting GST on membership fees; they claimed that TAL was not a public service body and could not claim rebate. TAL took CRA to court claiming that they were a public service body and it was ruled in favour of TAL. However, TAL charged their members GST on their e-resource subscriptions and the CRA therefore reassessed TAL; now TAL owes CRA \$1.1 million for the years 2010-2013. Due to the CRA only being able to go back 2 years means that there was no Director currently in the position at NLLS and the potential of the CRA claiming Director liability at the time would be difficult. The future of TAL is undetermined until the reassessment is received, otherwise, it is business as usual.

New Position

We are short one MLIS for our region, currently we have 5, but PLSB have specified that we need 6. We have room in the budget to accommodate another MLIS and the timing is perfect as the Plan of Service has indicated that one of the areas we need to work on is Marketing our libraries. This new position will be advertised later in the fall.

Conference

Conference is coming up on the 14th and 15th September. If you haven't already registered please do so. This year, with the changes in the fall, we are focusing on advocacy and collaboration with John Chrastka from Everylibrary as Keynote speaker and workshop instructor.