

Chair Report May 2018

I apologize for not having this report done and sent out with the rest of the meeting package. I wanted to incorporate my thoughts about the Jasper conference in the report. However, this has been one of my busiest weeks for me personally. I started work on Monday, at my summer job with the Ukrainian Village. For the first two weeks of May, as part of my training, I am taking a university course (with the mid-term exam taking place on day 3 of the course; the final will be next Friday!) As well, just before we left for Jasper, one of my wife's aunts passed away, with the funeral tomorrow.

Jasper Conference:

-this was one of the strangest conferences I have attended, all for personal reasons: On Thursday night, I ate something which did not agree with me – I did not fully recover from this until Sunday morning. On Saturday morning, my wife broke her glasses cleaning them. This took all morning to be able to jury-rig something so she could still see. Then on Saturday, my youngest granddaughter was affected by the sun!

-I was able to attend the Systems Directors, and Chairs meeting with the Libraries Branch on Friday. The Minister was supposed to be there, but chose to send the Deputy Minister instead. The DM chose to host a networking event instead of the “traditional” round table discussions. I had a very good discussion with the DM (whom I have worked for about 3 years before he started working with the Provincial government). I also had a very good discussion with the Assistant Deputy Minister. It was quite clear, this government is in the “red zone” already. While advocacy at the provincial level might be beneficial for the long term, it is very unlikely there would be any short term benefits. We do have a couple of issues to resolve, but I believe we can solve this at the Libraries Branch level instead.

-I was also able to meet with the director, the past-chair, and the incoming chair for ALTA. They all made the same comment: ALTA is responsible for advocacy for all library trustees in Alberta. Advocacy for local issues, be it for the local library, or system, remain the responsibility of the local level. This was also stated at the beginning of the past-chair's remarks at the ALTA AGM.

-I was able to meet with several of the directors and chairs to discuss several topics of interest, including: building upgrades; the van run; broadband; indigenous rights; as well as other issues.

-I had several discussions with trustees from other areas, at the conference and at my hotel off-site.

-I stayed off-site for the conference, getting one of the last rooms available. While this does work, it definitely is not the best alternative.