

Larry Tiedemann

December 2018 Chair Report

As you have heard, Julie and I were to attend a Nodes meeting (Dec 6th) and a Systems meeting (Dec 7). The Nodes meeting was all about feedback to PLSB, about what was working, and some of the issues out there. While this was interesting, it was more in Julie's area than mine. In the evening, the System directors had a retirement supper for the Director for Yellowhead. The Chairs were able to have supper together, to get to know each other, so we can work together better. There are only 3 chairs who have been chair before.

On Dec 7, the meeting was with the Systems alone. We spent a lot of time going through the Libraries Act, and the Regulations. First, the MLIS requirement. A system must have a MLIS for each 25,000 people; a Library must have 1 MLIS for each 10,000 people. When a Library has an MLIS, the System can subtract their population from our population, before we make the calculation. With the Lac La Biche Library, and the Bonnyville Library, they serve more than 10,000 people, but NLLS can't subtract their population because neither one has to have a MLIS. For example, when the Bonnyville Library files their report, it is for the people who live in the town, the rural population is filed under a separate report (by NLLS). Bottom line, we have to have 6 MLIS, or PLSB can withhold the operations grant.

Secondly, the board appointments. PLSB is aware the System does not have any say in who is appointed to our Board. PLSB is making it a requirement for the Systems to monitor the appointments for them; it is our responsibility to ensure the 3 year term, and the max of 9 years is followed. Getting the terms changed to the 4 year term will require opening the Library Act, and there is no desire to do this.

Third, the System Boards are unusual, in that alternates are allowed. However, the alternate may only come to 2 consecutive meetings. As well, the meetings the regular member misses count toward the 3 missed total, regardless if the alternate attends instead.

Basically, the PLSP was serving notice, the Government of Alberta will be following the Acts exactly.

Larry