



ALBERTA LIBRARY TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

September 7, 2011

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President's Notes

Leadership is a significant responsibility of Library Trustees. Demonstrating it through advocacy is a strategic focus of library governors necessary to reflect changing realities in library services throughout Alberta.

It would be hard to miss the current provincial party leadership votes scheduled for Saturday, September 10 for the Alberta Liberal Party and Saturday, September 17 for the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta (first ballot vote)!

Leadership candidates for both parties were invited to share their perspective with ALTA's members by responding to three questions:

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?

Do you have a library card?

What book are you reading?



Upcoming Events

- [NLLS Conference Sep 15 to 17 \(Elk Point\)](#)
- [PLS Conference Sep 22 to 23 \(Grande Prairie\)](#)
- [YRL Conference Sep 23 \(Edmonton\)](#)
- [PRL Conference Oct 3 \(Lacombe\)](#)
- [Library Snapshot Day Oct 3 to 9 \(Alberta\)#LibSnap](#)
- [Netspeed Oct 19 to 21 \(Calgary\)](#)

Did we miss anything? If you'd like to add an event to this list, emailadmin@librarytrustees.ab.ca.

ALC 2012

Apr 26 to 29 2012 (Jasper)

Call for Session Proposals –
Deadline Sep 15 2011

[Check here for details.](#)

Library Systems - News and Newsletters

Check out these links for the latest library news around Alberta:

Most candidates took up ALTA's offer to broadcast their views on libraries. Acknowledge their time and effort by reading, reflecting, pondering and responding.

If you would like to post your thoughts on the ALTA website, please use the 'submit a comment' link below each response.

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Alison Redford - PC

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?

I value not just books but the extended research resources that Libraries provide, and the love of reading and researching is a value Glen and I are passing along to our daughter Sarah. The creative inspiration, the learning, the exploration that is contained in libraries is truly wonderful and needs to be accessible to all Albertans. I put a high priority on ensuring Alberta children are well educated and curious about the world, and having access to properly supplied Libraries contributes to that goal.



Libraries are a vital part of our communities and I will always support them and the priceless services they provide to Albertans. To support Libraries, as Premier, I will increase the share of revenues from the Alberta Lottery Fund that go to culture and the arts generally. Libraries will definitely receive a share of this enhanced funding.

Do you have a library card?

I do, but your question prompted me to check it and be reminded that it has expired, so renewing it is on my To Do list once this campaign is over.

What book are you reading?

The Making of Julia Gillard: Prime Minister by Jacqueline Kent.

Alison Redford is a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

- [Parkland Regional Library](#)
- [Marigold Library System](#)
- [Chinook Arch Regional Library System](#)
- [Shortgrass Regional Library](#)
- [Peace Library System](#)
- [Northern Lights Library System](#)
- [Yellowhead Regional Library](#)

Anything to add? [Email us.](#)

Contributions

Contributions are welcome – feel free to send articles, photos, and stories
toadmin@librarytrustees.ab.ca.

Thanks to Strathcona Country Library for sending us their story about the Bookmobile.

Twitter

[@librarytrustees](#)

If you're on Twitter and [@librarytrustees](#) is not following *you*, [send us a message!](#)

For more information please visit her website www.alisonredford.ca

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Doug Griffiths - PC

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?



I have always been very supportive of libraries across Alberta. When I wrote the rural community development report we consulted extensively with libraries and made recommendations about libraries. In particular we cited the lack of funding to libraries to address their new role in information services to members of their communities and to adapt to new technology demands and requirements.

Libraries are critical in developing strong communities. This has been evidenced to me by the number of requests for information on my book, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, that come in from all over North America from librarians who also serve on community development councils.

Libraries are increasingly becoming not just a hub of information for a community, but a focal point for greater community cohesion and instrument in community building.

Do you have a library card? What book are you reading?

I do have a library card, and currently I am reading Peter Tertzakian's book, *A Thousand Barrels a Second*.

Doug Griffiths is a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

For more information please visit his website www.betteralberta.ca.

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Doug Horner - PC

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?

I believe libraries are at the core of our communities. My belief is that we need to increase the per capita grants, which will, in turn, enable trustees to better plan and provide for their programs and services. As well, I want to look at ways to assist libraries in weaving, ever so tightly, the fabric of each community by connecting literally and figuratively with schools, community centres, and seniors organizations.



Do you have a library card?

I do not have an up-to-date library card; however, that is more because I love books and collect them for use on my own, often extended time. I travel so much that I am not really able to frequent the library as much as I would like and as much as I want others in our communities to avail themselves of their riches.

What book are you reading?

Tales of the Knights Templar by Katherine Kurtz. It has been difficult to find time to get to it on the campaign trail.

Doug Horner is a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.
For more information please visit his website <http://homerforalberta.ca>.

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Gary Mar - PC

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?

I love to read, and want to encourage our children and all



generations to turn to reading to feed their curiosity, learn, imagine and take adventures. To do that, libraries have to be accessible to everyone, regardless of culture, economic status, or age.

Over the past two decades, libraries have been on their own adventure through the world of information technology. My approach to government is to listen. I will seek ideas from members of your organization for new ways government can support libraries as they embrace the opportunities and overcome the challenges. That includes the challenges of infrastructure.

You do not need to wait; I encourage you to share your ideas with me now, through my campaign. Together, we can ensure libraries remain relevant with the services and programs that Alberta communities need, and remain accessible to new and seasoned readers alike.

Do you have a library membership?

I have had a membership in the past, but it expired while I was serving in Washington. As soon as the campaign schedule allows me some time for recreational reading, I'll be looking for a local library as I want to check out the Mango Language Learning Program. Growing up, I would look forward to Saturday mornings at the Chinook Public library while my parents went about the weekly grocery shopping. Libraries have been part of my life ever since.

What book are you reading?

There are so many authors I enjoy that I often read multiple books at once. My first pick is usually from the non-fiction bestsellers list or something written by my favourite fiction author Patricia Cornwell.

Gary Mar is a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

For more information please visit his website www.garymar.ca

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Ted Morton - PC

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my position on libraries and their role in Alberta's communities. It is well known that libraries are centers of learning and reference, places where people can go to find books and expand their understanding of almost any



subject. However libraries are much more than just a collection of books.

What is often overlooked is the role libraries play in strengthening their community. Libraries are hubs not only for learning but for social support programs and community groups. Further as the world increasingly becomes more depended on the internet, libraries serve as a way for all people to access this important resource.

Libraries are centers that nurture, be it for a child reading for the first time, a student preparing for a test, or a person looking for a hand up. I believe that it is imperative that we continue to support libraries and all the important work that they do.

Do you have a library card?

I have a library card from the University of Calgary.

What book are you reading?

I am currently reading *Churchill: A Life* by Martin Gilbert.

*Ted Morton is a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.
For more information please visit his website www.tedmorton.ca.*

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Laurie Blakeman - ALP

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?

I grew up in Edmonton and well remember my local library, Strathcona Branch, holding summer reading programs with little caterpillars climbing a reading tree. As a high school student my Sundays were spent studying at the Centennial (now Stanley Milner) library. I still have a library card and borrow music CDs, DVDs and occasionally the newest murder mystery paperback.



As you well know libraries are no longer places of 'Be Quiet' signs and bespectacled librarians named Marion. They are hives of activity

directed to their local communities, often providing specialized services for immigrants, urban aboriginal peoples, and other groups who may not have been traditional library users.

I believe that libraries along with schools, are keystones of communities. We are moving toward a creative and knowledge-based economy, thus literacy, and access to information, is key to a successful future for Alberta. As portholes to knowledge and learning, libraries need to be funded in a predictable, stable, long term manner through public dollars out of general revenue. New technology, maintenance and upgrades must be part of this funding package.

I do not believe that costs should be cut. Libraries and librarians have been remarkably adaptive over the last two decades in embracing computers and adapting service delivery to encompass new users, new software, SuperNet/broadband technology, and changing needs for reference materials. I fail to see where services could be further cut.

So funding is key. As is venue. Given that many users are lower income or require specialized services for ESL, aboriginal people, single parents etc., its is important that the physical location is barrier-free, safe and centrally located in the community (eg. on public transit routes). Libraries are an amazing, cost effective resource. A smart government, my government, would seize the opportunity to partner with and to support libraries with funding, linkages, collaboration, and incorporation in to long range planning.

Laurie Blakeman is a candidate for the leadership of the Alberta Liberal Party.

For more information please visit her website www.laurie4leader.com.

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Raj Sherman - ALP

How do you support access to libraries and their services to communities?



I graduated from high school and became a doctor because of access to public libraries. Libraries and their services play a fundamental role in the education and well-being of our individual communities and our society as a whole. Every person should be encouraged to get a library card in order to take advantage of the wide selection of materials available.

Because of the fast-paced changes of modern life, I am pleased to see that libraries have become community hubs where you can read, access technology, take classes, and be entertained, educated, and

inspired at one of the many events. I've participate in a few of them, and the experience was very rewarding.

Like so many other agencies and organizations, libraries require stable and predictable funding in order to plan complex and important programs, acquire the necessary resources, and to attract the best and brightest talent. Government support of libraries, and the kinds of public services they provide, is essential to the creation and maintenance of an educated and informed citizenry. Rather than being forced to take corrective measures after the fact, I would like to see more time and money spent of programs and services like yours that will prevent and enhance our lives. Literacy, health, and democracy all go hand-in-hand.

I am grateful to have met with many of you from the Alberta Libraries Trustees' Association and I'm honoured to have participated in a number of events over the last couple of years. Thank you for all that you do and best wished for many more successful years ahead.

I look forward to being able to support you in a greater capacity and together we will help build a better Alberta.

Do you have a library card?

Yes I do. Unfortunately, I haven't spent much time checking out books myself as, due to my position as an elected representative, many people send me copies of their favourite works on topical issues requesting that I read them, which I try to do as much as possible.

What book are you reading?

I am currently reading *The Soul of Leadership* by Deepak Chopra and also working my way through *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman.

Raj Sherman is a candidate for the leadership of the Alberta Liberal Party.

For more information please visit his website www.electraj.ca.

>> [Click here to submit a comment](#)

Voting

If you're interested in voting in either leadership race, voting instructions are available on the Alberta Liberal Party website here www.albertaliberal.com, and on the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta here www.albertapc.ab.ca.

Voting is already underway for the Alberta Liberal Party, and closes on September 10th.

Voting for the PC Leader begins with advance polls on September 13th; the primary election is on September 17th.

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