The Multitype Library Board held its fourth meeting on November 29 and 30, 1999 at the Provincial Library in Regina.

Brij Mathur, Associate Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing and Russ Krywulak, Executive Director of Grants Administration & Provincial-Municipal Relations, Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing visited the Board. Mathur and Krywulak expressed interest in the evolving role and tasks of the Board and commended the Board for its role in coordinating cooperative activities among Saskatchewan libraries.

Board members again discussed pressures, including the need to handle funds, which have led the Board to explore other structural options. Keith Comstock, Policy Manager, Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing, provided information on structural options available. The Board requested that the Provincial Library staff continue to research options available.

There was a discussion of the new National Librarian’s visit to Saskatchewan. The Chair of the Multitype Library Board attended a panel meeting with Mr. Carrier in which she emphasized that it is imperative to ensure free access to information, particularly electronic information, in our democratic society. Mr. Carrier encouraged libraries in Saskatchewan to send him letters articulating this issue. He indicated that letter writing would help him to effect change at his level. The Multitype Library Board will be sending a formal response and encourages other libraries and library staff in the province to do so as well.

Final results of the Multitype Library Board’s electronic document delivery survey were shared. Data was reported from the post-secondary library sector and an update was provided by the school library sector. The Board requested that the Provincial Library create an analysis of the results and post it on the PLEIS web site.

Appointments were made to the Database Licensing Committee. Charlene Kramer and Angela Battiste will represent the special library sector. Elizabeth Magee and Bev Brooks will represent the post-secondary library sector. Representatives from the school and public library sectors will be made soon. The Committee is tasked with recommending databases for province-wide purchase, coordinating participation of their sectors, and recommending future developments.

The Board has created a communications strategy and a formal logo. The logo will be available soon for use on promotional materials. The Board is also planning promotional events including sessions at the May 2000 SLA/SLTA Conference in Moose Jaw. The Board will participate in other conferences either through trade show booths or conference sessions. Through
these activities the Board hopes to reach governments, other decision-makers, the library community, as well as business, rural, and educational audiences. The purpose of the communications will be to foster understanding of the benefits of greater cooperation among libraries and what a multitype library system could mean to Saskatchewan people.

The next meeting of the Multitype Library Board is scheduled for February 7-8, 2000.