The Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board met June 7–8, 2001 in Regina.

In order to develop a better understanding of library service development for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples, the Board received a full day Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training workshop entitled "Historical and Contemporary Issues," Module 1 of the ACAP Series. Facilitators were Gene Ouellette and Marjorie Lavallee with an introductory prayer by Elder Beatrice Lavallee.

Members of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Library Services to Aboriginal People, as well as several staff of the Provincial Library, also took part in the workshop. The session was well received. The Board expressed interest in taking additional ACAP Modules.

The Board prepared for a joint Ministers' meeting it hopes to arrange for the fall. The purpose of the meeting will be to share information about the work of the Board and the work of libraries in the province, and to raise the Ministers' awareness of several issues concerning libraries.

The Board will be working on a brief for the meeting throughout the summer and welcomes input from interested stakeholders in all library sectors.

Some key issues addressed in the brief are:

- **Recruiting professional librarians to Saskatchewan**
  
The Board is hearing that there is an urgent need in the library sector for workers qualified with Masters Degrees in Library Science. Saskatchewan libraries will experience a significant number of retirements in the next several years, so succession planning is imperative. The Board will be recommending the establishment of a bursary program for library science training.

- **The importance of teacher-librarians for resource-based learning in education**
  
Saskatchewan schools and pupils need to have teacher-librarians to deliver the resource-based learning principles of the core curriculum.

However, the Board is hearing that many school boards no longer fund teacher-librarian positions. A re-commitment to teacher-librarians and resource-based learning standards is needed.

- **Financial support for Database Licensing**
  
Database Licensing is a province-wide program in which all types of libraries pool funds to purchase bulk access to electronic information databases. Pooling funds has given many more libraries access to these resources than was possible before. The Board urges continued financial support for the program from all sectors involved.

- **Library eligibility for CommunityNet**
  
Saskatchewan's CommunityNet program has the potential to facilitate high-speed Internet access in many libraries in Saskatchewan. Currently, health, school, post-secondary education, and government libraries are included in CommunityNet. The Board urges that public libraries also be included.

- **Investing in libraries develops Saskatchewan's competitive advantage**
  
Libraries add viability and attractiveness to Saskatchewan communities. They offer information access, cultural enrichment, and educational opportunities to potential and existing residents. Libraries also contribute to economic development by giving residents access to information for educational and business purposes. The value of libraries needs to be promoted more widely.

The next meeting of the Multitype Board will be held on September 27 & 28, 2001.

For more information, check our web site at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype/
Or contact the Board’s Secretariat at: Provincial Library, 1352 Winnipeg Street Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7, 306-787-3005, jenkins@prov.lib.sk.ca