

## DEPARTMENTS / DÉPARTEMENTS

### A word from the President

Welcome to 2006. I hope everyone had a good holiday season. One of my resolutions for the new year is to pay more attention to the details. I got off to a slow start in my year as president; I missed the deadline for my first "A word from the President" in the previous issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association / Journal de l'Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada* (JCHLA / JABSC). My excuse is conference "planning'itis", and a summer focused on the installation of a new, replacement library system. Now the conference is a distant memory, and the new system is up and humming.

Congratulations to the organizing committee of the Toronto 2005 Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (CHLA / ABSC) Conference. I think I speak for all of us on the Planning Committee when I say that, after 2 years of planning, the days of the conference just seemed to fly by. I look forward to being an attendee at the 30th Annual Conference being hosted in Vancouver, 12–16 May 2006. The theme, befitting our 30th anniversary, is "Pearls of Wisdom". Have you added your thoughts yet to the "Memories of CHLA / ABSC 1976–2006 Blog"?

For all of those chapters who have been involved in planning a CHLA / ABSC conference, you will be pleased to hear that CHLA / ABSC Board Member Linda Slater has completed the herculean task of converting the paper-based Conference Planning Manual into a Word document. Past and future planners also will be pleased to hear that in the process of converting the manual, Linda managed to incorporate the recommendations from past planning committees. The old manual served us well, but its existence as a paper-based manual meant there could be no updates of the timelines, procedures, and sample documents. Planning committees recorded their recommendations in reports that were passed on to the next group. As plans for the next conference were already well under way by the time the report for the most recent conference was completed, the report was really of more use to the group planning the conference to be held in 2 years time! We hope that having the manual in an electronic format will encourage each conference planning committee to add its own recommendations based on their planning ex-

perience to help guide the next set of intrepid conference planners.

The Task Force on Hospital Library Standards has been working hard at reviewing and revising the CHLA / ABSC Standards for library and information services in Canadian health care facilities. A draft of the newly revised standards was presented to the Board for comment at the Fall meeting. A copy also was posted on the CHLA / ABSC Web site to elicit feedback from members.

The National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (NNLH / RNBS) Task Force continues to work toward realizing a vision of a nationwide network of health libraries that will ensure all health care providers in Canada will have equal access to the best information for patient care. Based on feedback from a very successful Stakeholder meeting in June 2005, and from attendees at the 2005 Conference, the Task Force has been focused on the creation of a business plan for the development of a National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé. A commitment of funding from participants of the Stakeholder meeting meant that a request for proposal could be issued to engage the services of a consultant to draft the business plan. For an update on the status of the business plan, please be sure to view the NNLH / RNBS Web site.

At the request of members, CHLA / ABSC has written a letter to advocate in favour of continuing the special Library Book Rate (LBR) agreement between Canada Post and the Department of Canadian Heritage. The LBR is a discount postal rate that was introduced in 1939 to facilitate interlibrary loans. It provides all Canadians with equal access to literature regardless of where they live.

To conclude, I would like to say thank you to Rebecca Zakoor who has, with this issue of JCHLA / JABSC, completed her term as Editor. It has been a year of working through the last kinks in the change from a print to an electronic journal. Rebecca has weathered it well. Sandra Halliday has now taken over the reins of Editor. Gillian Griffith has stepped into the position of Assistant Editor.

**Tamsin Adams-Webber**

CHLA / ABSC President, 2005–2006