

## DEPARTMENTS / DÉPARTEMENTS

### A word from the President

The gavel has been passed! Please join me in welcoming Linda Slater as the Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (CHLA / ABSC) president for 2006–2007.

How often do we see the phrase “It is hard to believe it has been a year already!” at the end of someone’s term? I must concur. Last June, as Penny Logan handed me the gavel, I thought, “A year — we will be able to accomplish so much.” We have. And yet there are projects that remain ongoing. The year was not quite as long as I thought!

At the fall and winter CHLA / ABSC Board meetings, the board worked hard at developing a communications strategy to inform all aspects of our work. Wayne Glover, of Associations First, facilitated a morning discussion at the fall meeting and led us through a full day of discussions at the winter meeting. An example of the impact of our discussions is the redesign of the CHLA / ABSC pamphlet by Sue Fahey, public relations director.

The introduction of online membership renewal and payment has proved to be very popular; 79% of our members used the credit card option for membership renewal or purchase. At the time of writing, about 100 members have not so far rejoined the association. The board is developing a survey to be sent to lapsed members in an effort to determine why they may have elected not to rejoin.

On the National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (NNLH / RNBS) Task Force front, in January a contract to create a business plan was awarded to TDV Global. The project will be done in two stages: a concept of operations and a business plan. The concept of operations phase will be completed in time for the 2006 conference and will be used to obtain endorsements from CHLA / ABSC members and stakeholders for the second stage. CHLA / ABSC and the Task Force gratefully acknowledge the significant donations received from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information.

The Task Force on Hospital Library Standards presented a draft of the *Standards for Library and Information Services*

in *Canadian Healthcare Facilities* at the fall board meeting. A copy of the draft was also posted on the association Web site in January for member feedback. A final version of the standards will be presented at the CHLA / ABSC Conference in May 2006.

In January 2006, CHLA / ABSC responded to three media requests for comments about budget cuts to Health Canada’s Science Library Network. A formal CHLA / ABSC response was posted in January on the association Web site and also was sent to various people in Health Canada.

CHLA / ABSC offered a scholarship to support chapter members in attending “Discover the leader in you! Developing and realizing your leadership potential” — a continuing education course offered at the 2006 conference. This course represented the final stage of a process that began with the Chapter Presidents’ Lunch at the 2005 conference. The first stage was the creation of a report listing issues, successes, challenges, and difficulties identified by chapters during a facilitated discussion at the lunch. The second stage was the creation of a PowerPoint presentation based on these discussions that could be used by chapters at their own meetings or could be viewed by members from a link on the association Web site. The final stage was the development of a continuing education course to be held as part of the 2006 CHLA / ABSC Conference. The hope is that members taking the course will become actively involved in the chapter and the association and will take on leadership roles within their organizations. A total of eight people from five different CHLA / ABSC chapters were awarded scholarships.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the board for their work, their insights, and their collegiality. I also would like to thank members of the association who called and e-mailed their comments, corrections, criticisms, and kudos. As I begin my term as past-president, I look forward to passing along to new members the pearls of wisdom I have gleaned this past year and recruiting new board members later this fall.

**Tamsin Adams-Webber**  
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