



From the President's Desk

Suzanne van den Hoogen



If I have learned anything this past year, it is the importance of advocating for libraries. As stated in our May 3, 2016 open letter to the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, “the importance of public libraries cannot be overstated. They promote literacy by introducing young minds to the joys of reading, and the acquisition of knowledge; they are an entry point into the world of lifelong learning; they are safe places for vulnerable members of the community to engage in wholesome and fulfilling activities; they are meeting places where ideas are shared and plans that further individual and community goals are hatched, and they are unique in their mission, providing irreplaceable services to their communities.” So, whether you belong to a public, academic, school, or special library, APLA’s regional voice will endure on your behalf.



As I have previously stated, APLA could not exist were it not for the dedicated volunteers who contribute their time, expertise and devotion to this association. This past year has been productive. We have drafted an Event Code of Conduct, joined CFLA-FCAB, and taken an active role in advocating on behalf of our regional libraries. We have also updated our website, reinstated Games @ The Library, moved the APLA Bulletin to an OJS platform, and continue to update our Executive Handbooks. My sincerest thanks to the members of our APLA Executive, our Committee Chairpersons, and our Interest Group Conveners. It has been a privilege to work with you.



I look forward to seeing all of you in Charlottetown, PE for our 2017 APLA Conference. Until then, wishing you all a safe and happy spring!

Suzanne