

## The Alberta Library elects new Board Chair

May 6, 2009 ... Maggie Macdonald, CEO of Chinook Arch Regional Library System, is the new Chair of The Alberta Library (TAL) Board of Directors. Macdonald was elected Chair at TAL's spring board meeting in Calgary.

As Chair, Macdonald's responsibilities include setting the agenda for board meetings, working closely with TAL's CEO, representing the organization at official functions, serving as an official spokesperson and chairing the personnel committee.

Macdonald has been a member of TAL's Board of Directors since the organization was created in 1997. As Chair of the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network from 1999 to 2003, Macdonald spearheaded development of the first strategic plan for a province-wide network linking Alberta's public libraries, and obtained support from the public library community.

"The ideas that led to the creation of The Alberta Library in 1997 are more relevant today than ever," says Macdonald. "We believe that libraries must cooperate, collaborate and innovate to meet the information needs of all Albertans. By working together, we will continue to find creative solutions and seize new opportunities."

Macdonald notes that the recent report from Alberta Municipal Affairs, *Framework for the Future: Positioning Alberta Libraries for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, calls for an enhanced role for The Alberta Library. The report also calls for a standardized, seamless network of library services, including a single card available to all Albertans.

"We're pleased with the scope of the report, and we look forward to working with our partners to help implement the relevant recommendations," says Macdonald.

Macdonald has worked in corporate, special, academic and public libraries in three provinces for more than thirty years. Currently, she is leading a collaborative project with Chinook Arch, Marigold and Shortgrass Library Systems to build on the potential of Alberta's SuperNet by developing an enhanced rural information service in 79 rural libraries.

The Alberta Library is an internationally-recognized organization working with over 290 member libraries to promote access to information, ideas and culture.

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**For information:**

Janis Galloway, Communications, The Alberta Library  
780.414.0805 ext.233  
jgalloway@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca