

DEPARTMENTS / DÉPARTEMENTS

A word from the President

CHLA / ABSC has had a busy summer and fall. A call for members to work on a Task Force to revise the *Standards for library and information services in Canadian healthcare facilities* had a very enthusiastic response. At the fall Board meeting, still to come as I write this, we will finalize the Terms of Reference, and the group will move ahead. The current standards date from 1995, so it is time to revisit and revamp the document.

We have also had volunteers come forward to work on a National Health Libraries Month program. Over the years there has been interest in CHLA / ABSC supporting a special one-month-a-year effort to recognize the role and accomplishments in the health libraries community. The Board has great hopes that this will be a sustainable effort where everyone in the health library community can celebrate and spread the word about the importance of what we do every day in Canadian health libraries.

The National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (NNLH / RNBS) Task Force has been very busy with excellent results. A meeting was held on October 5 in Ottawa, in conjunction with the Cochrane Collaboration Conference. The NNLH / RNBS Task Force invited members of the Cochrane Affiliate Organizations to come together to gather input and to solicit ideas for future directions. Here is part of what the invitation said:

CHLA / ABSC has proposed the development of a National Network of Libraries for Health / Réseau national des bibliothèques pour la santé (NNLH / RNBS) to provide the missing infrastructure and content both through partnerships and its own initiatives. The content will ensure that Canadian health literature is collected, preserved and made available and Canadian health care providers will have access to the most appropriate regional, national and international databases, journals, books, reports, and web resources.

The infrastructure will bring together the many initiatives of provincial health departments, universities, associations, and regional partners delivering information to health care professionals. It will provide personnel who can (i) train end users to find the best information, (ii) coordinate partnerships, (iii) build infrastructure and organize content, and (iv) plan for the future.

Patrick Ellis, Jessie McGowan, and Jim Henderson led the group who resoundly supported the idea and provided ideas and suggestions for a stakeholder's meeting to be held in the spring of 2005. The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information has confirmed that they are willing to host the event. This is a great step forward and the Task Force is to be commended for their dedication and commitment. The Task Force will report at the CHLA / ABSC Conference in Toronto, so plan to attend to hear the results of the stakeholder's meeting. This is an exciting time to be involved in health librarianship in Canada!

Also in NNLH / RNBS Task Force news, Hélène Valin, who has served on the Task Force as a liaison with Health Canada, advised that with the reorganization within the Health Canada division of Information and Knowledge Management, she will no longer be able to work as a Task Force member. Hélène has been invaluable in her help with navigating through government and has been an extremely willing worker. The Task Force sincerely regrets that she will no longer be a part of the group. For her part, Hélène has urged that the Task Force continue. CHLA / ABSC wishes to thank Hélène for her excellent help, and we wish her continued success with Health Canada.

As you read this, the holiday season will be fast approaching, and I offer you all my good wishes for a warm and cheery holiday season and my hopes for even greater successes in the New Year.

Penny Logan