

DEPARTMENTS / DÉPARTEMENTS

A word from the President

When I decided to accept the nomination for CHLA / ABSC president, little did I know that one of the new skills I would learn was the art of giving comments to the media. Just as I was preparing to leave the country for 10 days, I returned a call from a CBC radio reporter in Ottawa who wanted CHLA / ABSC's comments on Health Canada's Science Libraries Network funding cuts. We spoke, and I left. The news story played 3 days later. Upon receiving two more requests for comments, I got nervous! I took the advice of a colleague and contacted the public affairs department of my organization for some words of wisdom on handling interviews. Their comments were invaluable.

While I was away, the other Board members, led by incoming Vice-President Linda Slater, took on the task of creat-

ing the "CHLA / ABSC Response to Budget Cuts to Health Canada's Science Library Network". This response was posted on the CHLA / ABSC Web site and distributed to various people in Health Canada, in an attempt to persuade them to rethink the budget cuts. The outcome of our efforts remains to be seen.

Lessons learned from this experience? You cannot predict what you will be asked to do. Take the new challenge in stride, call on the expertise of others, and realize that your work on the Board is part of a team effort.

These are my "Pearls of Wisdom". See you at the 2006 Conference, 12–16 May, in Vancouver.

Tamsin Adams-Webber

CHLA / ABSC President, 2005–2006