

Manitoba Association for Distributed Learning and Training (MADLaT)

Conference 2016

President's Report

May 11, 2016

The 2015-16 year has been a successful one for MADLaT, although not without its challenges. We started this year off with a relatively new board due to the departure of previous members. I was new to the board, even though I have supported MADLaT throughout the years, often assisting in various capacities during previous functions held by the organization. Now as President, the board of directors and I have worked tirelessly to craft and implement a vision with this year's conference that we hope will help shape the future direction of distributed learning and training in Manitoba.

Last year the decision was unanimously made to not hold MADLaT's annual conference as there were a number of competing educational conferences being held in Winnipeg at the same time. This year one of the first tasks undertaken by the new board was to plan and organize a conference for 2016.

Securing a venue was challenging, however we forged ahead and were able to eventually settle on venue and a conference theme, *Open Resources, Open Learning and Open Minds, What do these mean in 2016?*. The theme of this year's conference acknowledges the global movement away from traditional educational experiences and resources toward open access to education and learning materials designed to facilitate development for all people. Discussion on how open education has or will transform the work we do is key to this year's conference.

MADLaT has continued to engage leaders at various institutions with respect to how we can help meet their professional development goals. Details on upcoming initiatives are yet to be determined, but we will continue to work with our contacts to make MADLaT more responsive and relevant to their needs.

Of course, without a Board, a President is just a figure head so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of this year's board and conference committee:

Board: Lynette Phyfe (Vice-President), Melissa Goulbourne (Treasurer), Jim Hounslow (Member-at-large, Web/Communications), David Larocque (Member-at-large) and Claudius Soodeen (Past-President)

Conference Committee: Kathy Joss (Conference Manager), David Larocque, Frederic Jubinville

It has been my pleasure to serve as President this year, and I look forward to the year to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo-Anne Spencer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jo-Anne Spencer