

On Allison Taylor McBryde's Retirement

By Alison Campbell.

Allison Taylor McBryde retired on May 31, 2011. She was the Coordinator of Children's and Young Adult Services at the North Vancouver District Public library for the past 25 years; but her influence and impact on the library community extends around the province and across the country.

Besides working full time at a busy suburban three-branch library system, Allison was (and will continue to be) an adjunct professor at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at UBC. Chances are, if you are a children's librarian and graduated from SLAIS in the past 20 years, you have benefitted from Allison's knowledge and experience of children's literature (especially Canadian!), services for children and teens, early literacy and infant brain development. And as soon as you hear her name, you probably have a mental picture of Allison with one of her puppets – maybe Amos the Sheep or Tacky the Penguin.

As if working and teaching were not enough, Allison somehow managed to compress time (or perhaps clone herself?) and was a driving force behind such initiatives (and these are only a few!) as:

- Young Readers Choice Award Society of B.C.
- (Red Cedar and Stellar Book Awards)
- Province-wide Summer Reading Club
- Books for BC Babies
- CLA Awards committees
- Growing a Reader and Toddle to the Library
- Partnering with school districts to create literacy
- Programs for new Canadians

- Author tours
- YAACS and InterLINK workshops

Those of us who have had the opportunity to work with Allison are especially sad to say goodbye; but we're happy that she is moving on to another chapter in her life, with the chance to do some hands-on research in infant development and early literacy (she's going to be caring for her 1 year old granddaughter!).



A rare photo of Allison seen here at her retirement party. Photo by Madeline Kozak.

You can also read a more personal tribute to Allison in the Summer 2011 edition of YAACING:
http://www.bcla.bc.ca/YAACS/YAACING/documents/2011_Summer_YAACING.pdf

Allison Campbell is the Children's Librarian/Assistant Branch Manager at the Lynn Valley Branch of North Vancouver District Public Library.