

# Word on the Street

By Beth Davies, Devon Greyson, and Tara Robertson.

No rain, little wind, lots of traffic and good conversations characterized this year's BCLA Information Policy & Intellectual Freedom table at Vancouver's Word on the Street (WoTS) festival! We had a great location, the roulette wheel of information issues was again a big hit, and the buttons were a hot commodity.

It was a great day, and a fun and interactive way to talk to people about serious issues like net neutrality, right to know, censorship and internet filtering, and to evangelize on libraries and the folks who work in them. Old, tired stereotypes of uptight, insular ladies with buns who sssssh were exploded. A few people said, "you all seem too noisy and fun to be librarians."



*Beth Davies.*

Sylvia Roberts wore out her voice drawing in the crowds with her "Spin the Wheel, Win a Prize!" pitch. Deb Thomas said, "One woman wasn't going to take a "I read banned books" button because she "never read banned books" until I gave her some examples like Huckleberry Finn and Thomas's Snowsuit by Robert Munsch. She walked away with a button."

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered at the event, particularly Devon Greyson, who co-ordinated the table!



*Spin the Wheel!*

*Beth Davies is the Branch Head of the Carnegie Branch of the Vancouver Public Library. She is co-chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee.*

*Devon Greyson is the Information Specialist at the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research.*

*Tara Robertson is a freelance librarian who is enchanted with open source-ry.*