

The Work of the Association...

By Lynne Jordan.

I am pleased to report that over the past 2 months, your Association has been involved in a number of activities:

- Legislation Reviews
- Constitution and By-Law Revisions
- Library Leadership

Legislation Reviews

Libraries Act – BCLA board members assisted in providing a submission to the BC Library Act Legislative Review Portal in March. The Association indicated its support for maintaining and strengthening the role public libraries play in a democratic society - providing free and open access to resources and services. BCLA also supports continued provincial responsibility to facilitate equal access to library resources across BC and to assist public libraries in their role in support of literacy, early childhood education, life long learning and the place to go to access government information online. BCLA also supports public libraries' role in reflecting the diversity of the people of BC. Provincial legislation needs to consider ways to support the establishment of First Nations library system(s). BCLA considers guidelines for base funding and provision of resources and services to be helpful in ensuring a more equitable access to resources in all areas of the province.

Other Legislation– BCLA continues to monitor development in the Copyright Act and received numerous comments and letters of support for its position statement provided by Mary Ann Epp and members of the Copyright Committee.

Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) has been the subject of a Task Force spearheaded by Past President, Deb Thomas and Information Policy Committee members as a follow up to the resolution passed at the 2008 AGM. <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/IPC/page/resolutions.aspx>

BC Election Act provisions regarding election advertising were considered by BCLA and BCLTA regarding our respective need to register under the Act in the event that we may directly or indirectly communicate a message to the public that takes a

position on an issue with which a registered political party or candidate is associated.

Constitution and By-Law Revisions

The BCLA Constitution and By-Laws have been significantly updated and numerous amendments are coming forward to the Annual General meeting on April 18th. Many of the amendments simply update language to coincide with our current practices and to reflect the role of the Executive Director, the Directors as well as that of Board members. I hope you will consider the changes when they are circulated to you in advance of the AGM.

Library Leadership

The 2nd President's Program in Victoria in February was a huge success, as the topic of Leadership so often is, but it was Ken Roberts and Daphne Woods presentation of fact and fact-finding that ensured those of us present would take away some tips to apply in our own libraries and life.

The brief from the Human Resources Summit has been released and in it are tasks to be considered by our Association. I look forward to involving members in a future discussion of this library leadership issue.

In February, the BC Library 2020 Interim Steering Committee was hosted by BCLA and along with receiving feedback from the Library 2020 Feasibility Study and Business Plan: Stakeholder Consultation completed by Marlene Morris and Associates, members were able to consider Library 2020's preferred futures. BCLA Executive Director, Alane Wilson conducted this facilitated session. More information on Library 2020 will be available at the upcoming BC Library Conference.

And speaking of the upcoming conference, in this time of economic difficulty, we know libraries become more significant to our communities. All of us in libraries and related fields need to consider ways to prompt and promote continuous library leadership. What is a better way to show leadership than to attend the BC Library Conference April 16 – 18 in Burnaby! Consider ways to make this a significant event in your career development this year – share a

hotel room with a friend or group of friends to cut accommodation costs, apply for an Alice Bacon Continuing Education Scholarship Fund, convince your union, association or board that funding to attend this conference is not a frill, but a way to contribute more to your organization and the clients it serves.

On a side note: On International Women's Day, March 8th, an editorial column by Susan Riley in the Times Colonist decried the quiet death of federal pay

equity. As she noted, pay equity legislation is "an attempt to eliminate 'pink ghettos' or obvious inequities – female librarians, for instance being paid less than mostly-male archivists, notwithstanding similar education levels and responsibilities." In the stimulus package the federal government proposed "reforms" to speed up the backlog by eliminating appeals to the human rights commission and leaving pay equity to the collective bargaining process. One might ask: Is this progress?

Lynne Jordon, BCLA President, 2008-09.