

BCLTA Update

By Errin Morrison.

Trustee Orientation Program (TOP)

2009 is off to a roaring start for the BC Library Trustees' Association. We've been particularly busy with our Trustee Orientation Program (TOP), with six sessions scheduled throughout the province in March alone! By the end of the month, our TOP Trainers will have held workshops in Vancouver, Victoria, Kimberley, Fort Nelson, Pemberton and Tumbler Ridge. We are also offering full-day TOP and Chairing the Board pre-conference sessions on April 16th at the 2009 BC Library Conference in Burnaby. We encourage BC trustees and others to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with peers and improve their library leadership and governance capabilities. And if you can't make it to Burnaby, don't hesitate to contact us and schedule a session in your community in the coming months.

BC Library Conference

Speaking of the BC Library Conference, BCLTA board members have been busy organizing six regular conference sessions, which should be of interest to trustees and library staff alike. These include:

Friday

F9: What's That Doing in My Library? Intellectual Freedom Stories and Advice
F18: Trustee Fundraising Dialogue
F27: Library Performance Measurements: From Terms of Confusion to Terms of Enjoyment...

Saturday

S9: Strategic Planning – Charting the Future of Your Library
S18: Marketing Your Library
S27: Trustee Roundtable

We are also working hard on our conference social calendar, organizing a Friday evening BCLTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony, a Saturday morning Trustee Breakfast, and a Trustee Lounge in a special suite at the Hilton, which will be available to all trustees for the duration of the conference. We hope this last initiative will provide our members with a relaxing space to escape the conference fray, enjoy

a snack and a drink, and connect with their peers from around the province.

Outreach

Aside from training and conference planning, we have also been busy with outreach activities of late. BCLTA had a presence at four of the six Elected Official Training Seminars held by the Local Government Leadership Academy and the Union of BC Municipalities for newly elected and returning elected officials this past January and February. We set up a table and handed out brochures and other information on public libraries to councilors and regional district directors from all around the province. We were also able to have a public library information sheet included in the binders distributed to all session attendees, which we hope will result in our local elected officials knowing a little more about the public libraries which are such a vital part of their communities.

Upcoming outreach activities include staff attendance at meetings of the Vancouver Public Library Board, the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board, and Public Library InterLINK. As well, BCLTA President Andy Ackerman has recently communicated with all six of BC's Library Federations, inviting them to become Associate Members of BCLTA and to take advantage of BCLTA training opportunities and other member benefits.

Library Act Review

On the topic of the Library Act Review, BCLTA surveyed the membership on several key areas of concern in February and prepared a brief for the Public Library Services Branch based on this member feedback. The full BCLTA Brief and anonymized survey responses are available on the BCLTA website at www.bclta.org.

Errin Morrison is the Executive Director of the BC Library Trustees' Association.