

# President's Message

By Ken Cooley.

By now you will have received the recent letter outlining the difficulties BCLA is facing and the kinds of economies we have implemented to control spending. While circumstances are gloomy there are some consistent bright spots. One of the brightest is the annual conference to be held this year in Penticton. In addition to the sun, the conference program will brighten up your world with sessions and social events that inform and delight. Learning new skills and joining in discussion about our changing work are the best ways to proactively confront the difficult financial realities we are all coping with. I'm hoping everyone will plunge in, register for the Conference and take the opportunity to re-energize in the sun.

Meanwhile, the BCLA Executive continues to collaborate with other Library organizations to keep our issues in front of the provincial government and in the public eye. We are hoping there will be an enthusiastic response to the invitation to share personal stories of library experience. I would like to thank the various organizations involved: BCLTA, ABCPLD as well as the BCLA Office for their work in

this regard. This activity is currently focused at the next government budget and what it may or may not contain for libraries in the province.

The Board is also moving ahead with discussions regarding BCLA's organizational structure. As an organization we have "just grown" and the results are a bit lumpy and awkward. The Board has moved on directions originating from the retreat last spring and received varying reactions from the membership. There has been much lively discussion and, while at times the liveliness can be uncomfortable, it inevitably generates great ideas about how to address anomalies in the Association's organization. The Board remains committed to a consultative approach and to a model that respects the needs of members and strengthens BCLA as an organization.

I hope to see lots of you in Penticton!

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