

# Executive Director's Report

By Alane Wilson.

As I end my second full year as BCLA's Executive Director, I realize I can no longer claim "newbie" status. I've experienced two conferences, two AGMS, and two Boards. Thankfully, for the most part the experience has been interesting and rewarding, despite the challenges, in large part due to the wonderful people who volunteer for BCLA work.

This past year, the Board and BCLA staff have had to focus on financial matters more than in the recent past due to internal and external factors we have reported on previously, and here in the annual report.

However, the Board has also paid a great deal of attention to governance. A working definition of governance is the processes, structures and organizational traditions that determine how stakeholders have their say, how decisions are taken and how decision-makers are held to account. And even if good governance is practiced, it is important to review periodically and modify, if necessary, the governance structure in keeping with the changing nature of the needs of an organization.

Governance and Finances form two of the three major areas of responsibility for non-profit Boards. The third is Human Resources and at the moment, BCLA needs to do little in this area, which is good considering the amount of effort and time devoted to the other two in this past year.

The BCLA membership was fortunate to have an engaged and dedicated Board this past year. Everyone worked hard, and took seriously the matters placed before them. I have worked particularly closely with 2009-2010 President Ken Cooley, Vice-President Marjorie Mitchell, and Director-at-Large and Conference Chair Heather Compeau, and am

deeply grateful for their collegiality, good humour and wise counsel.

I am grateful too, to the active Convenors and Chairs of BCLA's Sections, Committees, and Interest Groups who keep their members informed and monitor issues in their selected areas of interest. It is the case that the ongoing review of BCLA's structure includes the relationship of these groups to the Board but this does not mean, at all, that the efforts of the participating individuals are unappreciated.

And "grateful" barely describes my debt to the BCLA Office Manager Allie Douglas and Accounting Clerk Rita Avigdor. Without them, there is no BCLA office, and they put up with me with grace and forbearance.

With regard to my own activities in the past year, I reduced the number of meetings and conferences I could attend, outside the province, due to the association's financial status. This did not mean, however, that BCLA was not represented at the CLA conference or the Partnership meetings, for example, as the President or Vice-President attend such events.

Aside from the matters relating to the internal workings of BCLA, a lot of my time was spent on liaising with other organizations on various aspects of advocacy efforts aimed at the provincial government. I expect this will continue in the coming year.

I look forward to working with the 2010-2011 Board and all the volunteers, as I have no doubt it will be an interesting year.

*Alane is the Executive Director, BCLA.*