

Public Librarians Interest Group Annual Report for 2009/10

By Deb Thomas.

Membership

The Public Librarians Interest Group has grown to a healthy membership of 73 members since its founding in 2007. BCLA is composed of librarians, library personnel, library trustees and other interested individuals; corporate, government, school and academic libraries; publishers and library supply companies.

The principle activity of the interest group in the past year has been advocacy

We have:

- Assisted BCLA Executive Director Alane Wilson, BCLA President Ken Cooley, and BCLTA President Andy Ackerman in responding to the proposed cuts in provincial grants for public libraries in 2009.
- Significantly contributed to the budget submission for the 2010 provincial budget – see http://www.bcla.bc.ca/News/2010_Budget_Consultation_Submission-final.pdf. The "good news" is that we have not been cut further this year though we had

hoped for a restoration of some of the reduced funding.

- Crafted a letter to be sent to the Premier requesting that the province wait until the IELA (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/iela/index-e.html>) process has concluded and made its recommendations regarding services to the print disabled before it responds to a request for 3-year bridge funding from CNIB.
- Continued to be involved in ongoing discussions with CNIB in regard to the provincial funding for services to the print disabled

Keeping informed

As well, Anita Galanopoulos, one of the group's founding members, has continued to provide the PLIG listserv with links to articles and news of interest to public librarians. PLIG will begin its next year with a survey of its members to inform future directions for the group.

Deb Thomas is the Convenor of the Public Librarians Interest Group of BCLA.