

President's Report

By Marjorie Mitchell, BCLA President.

As I assume the responsibility to serve as BCLA President this year, I'm struck by a number of thoughts. First, BCLA is a very diverse organization. We serve public and academic library communities; and special librarians and school librarians also find a place within our Association. Second, our membership comes from all over the province, from our largest communities to our smallest and all sizes in between. Third, librarians, library workers and even library organizations have broad and varied interests ranging from the local issues to the global issues facing us and our communities. Fourth, and finally, BCLA is a vibrant organization, as evidenced by the recent election held for the Vice-President/President Elect. I find it encouraging that members are engaged and care about their Association enough to find people who are willing, not only to serve, but to face an election to do so. Thank you both, Chris Kevlahan (our new Vice President/President-Elect) and Rob O'Brennan.

I believe this is going to be an exciting year for BCLA. We have challenges we are facing and some amazing opportunities, including celebrating 100 years of BCLA as an Association. Serving an organization comprised of so many different people with differing points of view is a humbling responsibility.

President's Task Force on Strategic Sustainability

As I announced at the AGM in Penticton, I have convened a Task Force to review and recommend revisions to the overall organizational model of the association, in consultation with BCLA members and non-members. Why a Task Force and why now? The now question is easy to answer - BCLA cannot financially sustain its operations in its current structure and form. We must act soon. Next year, 2011, will be the Association's 100th anniversary. We are a much different Association than we were when we were first formed. It is now time to re-visualize and re-energize our Association so we can continue to serve our members and our communities. A Task Force can undertake this work and complete it within a relatively short time-frame. The members of the Task

Force bring expertise and a variety of backgrounds to this job. The Task Force will be consulting widely with people from our library community and I hope you take the opportunity to participate in shaping our Association. I encourage everyone to provide positive input to the Task Force and to assist them with their work.

I recently sent a message out to all the members, and to all BCLA's listservs announcing the membership of the Task Force and its Terms of Reference. If you did not receive this email, please contact either the BCLA Office or me and we will be happy to send it to you.

Fund Development Committee

The outgoing Board identified the need to rejuvenate the Fund Development Committee to look at ways to increase revenues for BCLA. We are fortunate that Christina de Castell agreed to chair this Committee. Christina's experience as Treasurer has provided her with the insight into BCLA's financial position that allows her to lead this group effectively and efficiently. The Committee started its work at the end of June and you will be hearing more about them in the near future.

Member Engagement

How does an organization such as BCLA engage its members? I don't know that I have the answer to this question. However, I am willing to listen to your ideas. If you have a great suggestion, or any suggestion, about how you would like us to engage, involve, enlist you, please, let me know. I've even included my email address. I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, have a great summer.

*Marjorie Mitchell is the Learning Services Librarian
(Collections) at the University of British Columbia
Okanagan Library
marjorie.mitchell@ubc.ca*