

# BC Libraries Reception at UBCM

By Errin Morrison

On September 30, the BC Libraries Reception was held at the Whistler Public Library in conjunction with the Union of BC Municipalities Convention. This is an annual event hosted jointly by the BC Library Trustees Association, the Association of BC Public Library Directors and the BC Library Association. The intent is to thank local elected officials for their support of public libraries, which amounts to over 80% of public library funding in BC.

This year the Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, then Minister of Education, gave a special address to the crowd and was able to stay for much of the reception. Other highlights of the event included ABCPLD's presentation of the BC Library Directors' Award of Excellence to Vancouver Public Library's City Librarian, Paul Whitney, and tours of the beautiful new LEED Gold certified Whistler Public Library by library staff and trustees.

This year's reception was an exclusive event, with tickets distributed to 60 special invitees from large and small communities around the province. The smaller size was a deliberate change from 2009, where attendance was open and far surpassed expectations (and the event budget), resulting in food and refreshment shortages as well as creating a very challenging atmosphere for speakers and presenters.

All three host associations welcome feedback from their respective members on the 2010 reception format – please feel free to contact BCLA Executive Director Errin Morrison with your comments, concerns, and/or other ideas for communicating to our elected officials the importance of investing in public libraries.

## Also of Note...UBCM Passes Resolution in Support of Library Funding

UBCM members passed resolution B46 (submitted by the City of Nelson) at this year's conference, calling on the Province to maintain existing public library funding levels in 2010 and advocating for a return to pre-2009 funding levels.



The Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Early Learning and Literacy addresses attendees at the 2010 BC Libraries Reception at UBCM.



Heather Scouler, ABCPLD President and the Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid present Paul Whitney, VPL's City Librarian, with the BC Library Directors' Award of Excellence.

*Errin Morrison is BCLA's Executive Director.*