

Incoming President's Address: 2010-2011

By Christopher Kevlahan.

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being here today – and thank you for being part of what has been an absolutely wonderful BC Library Conference and Centennial Celebration. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our conference organizers – from Alane Wilson, Conference Manager and Sybil Harrison, Conference Chair, to all of the members of the Conference Planning and Program Committees, to all of the many, many volunteers who have worked so hard to make this such a great experience for everyone.

The success of this conference is entirely due to the many months of dedication and effort invested by this group of tireless BCLA, BCLTA and HLABC members on behalf of their colleagues around the province. Please join me in a round of applause for these folks.

Some retrospective

As incoming BCLA President, it is my sincere pleasure to speak to you about my past year with the Association and about some of my priorities moving forward. I'll start with a bit of a retrospective...

Last August and this past February I attended meetings of The Partnership, which is a collective revenue-generating program and service delivery arm for the provincial and territorial library associations. Both meetings were in Toronto; August was a retreat of sorts and February was a follow-up business meeting held in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association's annual conference. This was my first time at OLA and it was a truly unique experience to gather in one place to learn and network with thousands of library workers from around the province and the country.

Activities

Some of my other major BCLA activities over the past year included:

- Conducting a survey of BCLA members and non-members to determine priorities for moving the Association forward in reduced financial circumstances;
- Working with the Budget Working Group of the President's Task Force on Strategic Sustainability to determine realistic BCLA budget scenarios for 2012 and beyond;

- Striking and working with a preliminary 2012 Conference Working Group (including Facilities and Communications Sub-groups) to decide where and when to hold the BC Library Conference in 2012 and 2013.



Christopher Kevlahan

Looking ahead to the coming year, I

see many challenges on the horizon – financial and otherwise. It is my intention to further explore the results of the 2011 survey of members and non-members to ensure we are addressing the key concerns of the BCLA membership. I want to make sure that your feedback informs Board priorities and activities over the coming months.

Priorities

Some of my own priorities include:

- Working to improve communication with the BCLA membership;
- Continuing to build and strengthen partnerships in the provincial and national library community;
- Keeping a close watch on our budget and finances as we gauge the real impact of transitioning PLSB-related administrative tasks to the BC Libraries Cooperative;
- Working to boost membership and examine other potential sources of revenue for BCLA;
- Continuing to advocate for libraries and for the library ideals that BCLA members feel passionate about.

Thanks and gratitude

In closing, I'd like to extend my thanks to outgoing Board members as well as to our continuing and new Board members. This Association depends on your willingness to volunteer and to serve your fellow members at the Board table. I applaud your

commitment and I thank you for dedicating your personal time to furthering the work of BCLA. I'd especially like to thank Marjorie Mitchell and Ken Cooley for all their hard work over the past couple of years. This has been an interesting and transitional time for BCLA and your leadership and dedication are much appreciated.

And last, but definitely not least, I'd like to thank Allie Douglas, Alane Wilson and Errin Morrison for all their hard work in the BCLA Office and beyond. Alane is off to new challenges now that her term as BCLA's Executive Director and Conference Manager has

come to a close. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. And as for Allie and Errin, they will no doubt continue to go beyond the call of duty in their work for BCLA, and I am truly grateful for their contributions.

And one more thank you to all of the volunteers involved in organizing this year's Conference and Centennial Celebration. This has been a truly remarkable celebration of BCLA's 100th Anniversary!

Christopher Kevlahan is the incoming BCLA president.