

# President's AGM Report: 2010-2011

By Marjorie Mitchell.

This has been a very eventful year for BCLA. At last year's AGM, I said this was going to be a year of change for BCLA, and it certainly turned out that way.

If I had to quickly summarize the past year, I would characterize it as being the year of communication. We initiated a series of regular conference calls with Minister Abbott in conjunction with BCLTA and ABCPLD. These have been very valuable in strengthening the relationship between our associations, the libraries we represent and government. The Minister was both interested and gracious. I hope we can continue to positive dialogue into future years.

## Strategic Sustainability Taskforce

The President's Task Force on Strategic Sustainability accomplished much of the ambitious work that it was charged with doing. I would like to thank all the members who served on it: Rob O'Brennan (Fraser Valley Regional Library), Roën Janyk (Okanagan College), Johanne Blenkin (BC Courthouse Libraries), Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (UVic), Debbie Schachter (Vancouver Public Library), Christina de Castell (Vancouver Public Library), Chris Kevlahan (Vancouver Public Library), Errin Morrison and Allie Douglas. The Task Force will now be dissolved and further work arising from the Task Force will be undertaken by the new Board and any working groups it decides to create to help. One of the biggest accomplishments of the Task Force was the survey of members and non-members many of you completed. We were thrilled with the response rate – it shows many of you care very deeply about this Association. Chris Kevlahan will be speaking more about the survey in his remarks.

## Budget scenarios

The other major work of the Task Force was to draw up budgetary scenarios, based on the most current financial projections we have, for the Board. This was done in response to the upcoming move of the administration of the electronic resources and the SITKA contracts from the BCLA Office to the Library Cooperative and its impact on us – specifically a further loss in revenue. Chris Middlemass has discussed this in her Treasurers Report, so I won't cover that ground again.

Obviously, the finances of our Association were a primary focus of the Board, and will continue to be as we move forward to reposition ourselves. The Board has made some very difficult decisions to maintain the financial

stability of our Association. We have reduced our staffing levels, limited our in-person Board meetings to save on Board expenses and continue to be ever watchful for new ways to save money.

However, saving money is only part of the picture. Increasing our



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revenues is the other vital task with which the new Board is faced. I believe the outgoing Board have set in motion some positive means by which to increase the regular revenue of the Association over the long term, but there is much more to do on this front. Christina de Castell chaired the Fund Development Committee and explored many avenues for BCLA. I would like to thank her for her leadership of this group, and all the members who sat on the Committee. Christina will be stepping down as the Chair, but a new chair will be appointed and this important work will continue.

## BCLA Office

This year also saw a major change in the BCLA office. Alane Wilson left the Executive Director position in the fall, but stayed with the Association in the role of Conference Manager for the 2011 Conference. As her term in that position comes to an end, I want to say a most heartfelt Thank you, Alane, for all your hard work, vision, ideas, and dedication to the best interest of the Association.

With Alane's departure, we welcomed Errin Morrison to the role of Executive Director on an interim, contract basis while the Board worked in its budget plans. Errin has quickly become a valuable member of the BCLA team. Many of you will recognize her "voice" from the new Executive Director Missive's that are coming out on a monthly basis – yet another thread in the year of communication.

The Association has been very fortunate to have a constant in the office this year. Allie Douglas, who has

been with BCLA for 7 years, has provided us a continuity we deeply appreciated.

### Team effort

The Board are also working on updating the website, expanding the successful mentoring program started by LTAIG.

I've said to many people that being the President of BCLA is actually a team effort. At this time I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors: Anne Olsen, David Karppinen, Adrienne Wass, Nancy Black, Chris Middlemass, Debbie Schachter, Sarah Donald, Fiona Anderson, Sandra Wong, Amy Ashmore, Rebecca Dowson, Diane Nellis, Magda Skrypichayko, Chris Kevlahan, and Ken Cooley. It has been an honour to

serve with you. I appreciated all the hard work that each of you contributed at the Board meetings and between the Board meetings. I always appreciated your thoughtfulness and your candor. I would like to ask the membership to join me in thanking these dedicated people.

Finally, I would like to thank Melody Burton, Chief Library at UBC Okanagan, for her unflinching support of me as I carried out the duties as President of this Association, both institutional and intellectual.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce to you the incoming president of BCLA, Chris Kevlahan.

*Marjorie Mitchell is the President, BCLA 2010/2011.*