

# President's Report

By Christopher Kevlahan.

As I sit down to write this we have just finished our June board meeting, and I can't express enough how pleased and happy I am with how eager our board is this year. Many of this year's board members have volunteered to take on extra work and portfolios without any coaxing. In BCLA's time of tightened fiscal circumstances this is very reassuring! Over the next year I will endeavour to serve BCLA, its members and the BC library community to the best of my ability.

At the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting, the following priorities were passed for 2011/2012:

- 1) Improve communications,
- 2) Establish a mentorship programme,
- 3) Increase BCLA membership,
- 4) Revise the BCLA website,
- 5) Organise the 2012 BC Library Conference,
- 6) Advocate on behalf of the library community.

When looking ahead to 2011/2012, I wanted to identify priorities that addressed our members' concerns while, at the same time, ensuring we don't take on so many priorities that they prove unachievable. I was mindful that our hard working Executive Director's position has been cut to three days a week and that the board and other BCLA members working on our various working groups and committees have jobs and other commitments.

In order to achieve some of these priorities, the following working groups have been struck:

The **Communications Working Group** will be comprised of Gregg Currie, Vicki Donaghue, Leanna Jantzi, Anne Olsen, June Stockdale, and me. This group will be looking at various forms of communication with our members and considering ways and means of ensuring positive and transparent communications. One particular focus will be exploring the incorporation of social media into our web-based communications in conjunction with the upcoming re-development of the BCLA website.

A **Mentorship Working Group** will be comprised of: Amy Ashmore, Fiona Chiu, Patricia Cumming, Tamarack Hockin, Melanie Houlden, and Heather Morrison. This group has been tasked with adapting and expanding LTAIG's mentorship programme to the broader BCLA membership. BCLA members

identified networking and professional development as key benefits of association membership, and this is one way we hope to make BCLA more relevant and responsive to member needs.

In the **Website Working Group** are Todd Rowlatt, Helen Roytblat, and Debbie Schachter who have been tasked with providing feedback during development of a revised BCLA website this summer. The website is BCLA's main communication tool and a redesign is long overdue. Errin and Allie will be making the construction of the website their main priority this summer and will seek input and feedback from the Website Working Group as they proceed.

## President's Recent Activities

- I attended the **BC Book Prizes** and presented the Sheila Egoff Award to Maggie de Vries for *Hunger Journeys*. BCLA funds this award, and I extend an especially big thank you to Judith Saltman and YAACS for raising a large portion of the award money at this year's conference!
- I attended/represented BCLA at the **SLAIS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet** on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended a **meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education**, James Gorman, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, with Ivan Idzan (President of BCLTA), Paul Tutsch (Vice-President of BCLTA), Lynne Russell (Chair of ABCPLD), Paige McFarlane (Assistant Deputy Minister of Education), and Jaqueline van Dyk (Director, Libraries & Literacy). This was a very productive meeting in which BCLA, BCLTA and ABCPLD were able to communicate many of the concerns of BC's library community to the Deputy Minister. Please see a summary of the meeting proceedings on the homepage of the BCLA website ([www.bcla.bc.ca](http://www.bcla.bc.ca)) under "Latest News".
- I attended/spoke at the May 26<sup>th</sup> **SLAIS Graduation Awards Luncheon**, at which I was pleased to present the Enid Dearing/Alan Woodward prize to BCLA's own Francesca de Frietas, who has contributed much of her time to YAACS activities.
- The **BCLA Conference Working Group's Facilities Sub-Working Group** and I visited possible locations for BCLA's next two conferences. Errin, Allie and I (after examining contracts from the locations

under consideration) selected the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond as BCLA's conference venue for 2012 and 2013. The group will meet once more in order to develop recommendations for the Conference Planning Committee.

- I have appointed **Jamie Anderson**, from Vancouver Island Regional Library, to the one-year Director position on the BCLA Board. Jamie has agreed to undertake an in-depth review of the 2011 Member and Non-member Survey and look at possible initiatives to address and respond to member concerns and suggestions.
- I attended the recent **Library Celebration** at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library, which included the Vancouver launch of **The**

**Library Book** (co-published by BCLA); the official launch of this year's **Summer Reading Club – Savour Each Word**; the launch of **Express Yourself: The BC Kids Writing Contest**, for which I am on the panel of judges; and an interview of librarian and writer Sarah Ellis and me, by Sheryl McKay for CBC Radio's North by Northwest.

We are off to a great start! I hope all of you, and your friends and family have a wonderful summer...and you can rest assured that I will be hard at work on BCLA business in the weeks and months to come. It is an exciting time to be President and I look forward to an excellent year!

*Christopher Kevlahan is the BCLA President,  
2011/2012.*