

Librarians initiate creation of Readers' Advisory Interest Group

By Robbie Burma.

A keen group of librarians who want to further readers' advisory in B.C. have gathered together to form a new BCLA Interest Group.

The BCLA Readers' Advisory Interest Group received approval in principle to become an interest group at the September BCLA Board meeting. The Board plans to formally approve the group at its November meeting.

BCLA President Christopher Kevlahan says the group is a welcome addition to BCLA - Reader's Advisory being a fundamental service provided by today's libraries, and a key interest of many BCLA members.

Led by Fraser Valley Regional Library's Teresa MacLeod, a group of librarians met after the last Spring BCLA conference to further the idea of creating an interest group. The group will provide a vehicle for exchange of ideas in Readers' Advisory and encourage continual innovation and dynamic Readers' Advisory service for the 21st century.

The group is planning and setting a number of initiatives and goals which include building a knowledge base for Readers' Advisory service, raising standards for Readers' Advisory in libraries and

creating a culture of excellence, and facilitating professional development opportunities in Readers' Advisory services.

The group also plans to develop Readers' Advisory tool kits for library staff, promote Readers' Advisory services to the public, promote awareness, use and development of virtual, digital and on-line Readers' Advisory tools, share Readers' Advisory tools and expertise with all BC libraries, foster a community of readers, and encourage alternatives to traditional Readers' Advisory service.

All ideas are welcome and we will be distributing an online survey on Readers' Advisory services in B.C. in the near future.

For more information, contact the co-convenors Robbie Burma, Vancouver Public Library (robbie.burma@vpl.ca) and Jenny Fry, Surrey Libraries (jifry@surrey.ca).

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