

BCLA President's Report

By Christopher Kevlahan.

Human Resources

The BCLA Human Resources Committee has met several times over the past few weeks and is working hard to find a new Executive Director to have in place when Erin Morrison leaves us in December. The posting for the position has gone out, and applications have begun to arrive. Erin has done outstanding work for BCLA and it is with great sorrow that I anticipate her departure. It will be very difficult to find a replacement of Erin's calibre and with her deep commitment to BCLA. The HR Committee was also involved with the hiring of Event Specialist Shannon Stumph, of Dragonfly Consulting, as Conference Coordinator for the 2012 BC Library Conference.

Communications

The inaugural meeting of the Communications Committee was very successful. Many good ideas were shared amongst the group, and I'm confident that a number of concrete ideas to improve BCLA's communication with our members, and our partners in BC's library community, will be developed and implemented by this Committee and the BCLA Board in the near future.

Meeting with Minister of Education

I met with George Abbott, British Columbia's Minister of Education, on September 29th, along with representatives from the Association of BC Public Library Directors and the BC Library Trustees Association. Minister Abbott seemed receptive to the information we presented regarding the contribution of libraries to the community on a wide variety of levels. While we receive no guarantees from the Minister regarding funding, etc., at these meetings, they allow BCLA, and other library advocacy groups, to highlight the importance of libraries, and explain what we do and why consistent funding is so important, and why this is also a good investment in the social capital of B.C.'s community as a whole. Minister Abbott did state that he hopes the worst of the recent financial challenges are behind us and that his Ministry can at least offer stability of funding to public libraries in the future. (For further details on the meeting with Minister Abbott, see *Associations Meet with Minister Abbott* in this issue of the BCLA Browser.)

Express Yourself Writing Contest

I worked with Judi Walker, Judith Saltman, Dave Obee and Sarah Ellis judging Express Yourself: the BC Kids' Writing Contest for children ages 8-12. The contest was sponsored by BCLA in collaboration with Libraries and Literacy. Children were asked to

submit stories and poems containing the words: zest, key, dark, chair, book, or library. The judges then selected 25-30 works which will be published as a book for the winners. This contest is being held to celebrate BCLA's 100th anniversary in conjunction with the BCLA publication *The Library Book*.



Christopher Kevlahan

Happy Holidays!

Looking ahead to the coming months, I wish you all a very happy holiday season and I look forward to connecting with you again in the New Year!

Recent Activities

- July 26th: Mentorship Working Group meeting
- July 27th: Conference planning meeting with Lynn Copeland (BCLA Conference Planning Committee Chair) and Erin Morrison (BCLA Executive Director)
- July 27th: Meeting with Annette DeFaveri (Libraries and Literacy) and Erin Morrison (BCLA Executive Director)
- August 2th: Meeting with June Stockdale (BCLA Vice-President/ President Elect)
- August 30th: Meeting with Allie Douglas (BCLA Office Manager)
- August 30th: Meeting with Erin Morrison (BCLA Executive Director)
- September 6th: Meeting with Erin Morrison (BCLA Executive Director)
- September 9th: Teleconference meeting with June Stockdale (BCLA Vice President/ President Elect)

- September 15th: Meeting with Errin Morrison (BCLA Executive Director)
- September 19th: Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- September 20th: BCLA Board Meeting
- September 23rd: Meeting with June Stockdale (BCLA Vice-President/ President Elect)
- September 26th: Planning meeting with representatives of BCLTA and ABCPLD for meeting with British Columbia's Minister of Education
- September 24th: BCLA Human Resources Committee Meeting
- September 26th: BCLA Communications Committee Meeting
- September 27th: Attended joint BCLA, BCLTA and ABCPLD presentation at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention
- September 29th: BCLA, BCLTA, ABCPLD meeting with the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Education

- September 30th: Meeting with June Stockdale (BCLA Vice President/ President Elect)
- September 30th: Attended ABCPLD dinner
- October 4th: BCLA Budget Meeting
- October 7th: BCLA Human Resources Committee Meeting
- October 11th: Meeting with Errin Morrison (BCLA Executive Director)
- October 13th: Meeting with June Stockdale (BCLA Vice President/ President Elect)
- October 24th: Judging for BCLA and Libraries and Literacy Express Yourself Writing Contest
- October 31st: BCLA Human Resources Committee Meeting
- Plus assorted phone calls, emails and signatures

Christopher Kevlahan is BCLA's President.