

Bakan and Geist keynotes at conference

By David Alexander.

Featuring keynote presenters Joel Bakan and Michael Geist, this year's BC Library Conference continues the strong conference tradition of exciting, thought provoking, and informative sessions and speakers.

The theme the BC Library Conference 2012 is Licence to Read. The theme refers to the role libraries play in providing access to electronic materials, both by paying for that privilege and by advocating for open access. It also refers to the important role libraries play in supporting the learning of reading, in both print and electronic environments – and in acting as a force for change in ensuring that information is not hidden from public view. It encompasses the provision of the technology and tools needed for access to information. The 2012 theme encourages engagement with communities and commitment to better the world through librarianship.

Keynotes

This year's conference includes speakers and programs guaranteed to get your brain cells moving.

Canadian writer, jazz musician, filmmaker, and associate professor at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, Joel Bakan will deliver the opening keynote address. His books include *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power* and *Childhood Under Siege: How Big Business Targets Children*.

International privacy expert Dr. Michael Geist will deliver the closing keynote address. Geist is a Canadian academic, and the Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-Commerce Law at the University of Ottawa. His weekly columns on new technology and its legal ramifications appear in the Vancouver Sun, Toronto Star and the Ottawa Citizen. He served on Canada's National Task Force on Spam and is the founder of the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic.

Conference Sessions

This year's conference has social events designed to reacquaint you with old friends and give you an opportunity to make some new ones. Conference sessions will focus on current and future trends and include topics such as:



- library digital collections
- strategic planning
- staff mentoring
- library mobile apps
- e-book support.

Conference Timelines

- January 31st– registration opens
- March 30th – early bird registration closes
- April 30th – last chance to register
- May 10th, 11th and 12th – BC Library Conference

Location

This year's conference takes place in Richmond at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, located in the heart of Richmond, close to shopping and attractions such as the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Steveston Fishing Village, and the Richmond Olympic Oval. For group rates and bookings, visit the BC Library Conference website: www.bclibraryconference.ca.

Updates

Visit the BC Library Conference website at www.bclibraryconference.ca for regular updates, schedule information, and how to follow conference information on Facebook and Twitter.

David Alexander is the Conference Publicity Chair and Greater Victoria Public Library Trustee.