

# Incoming President's Address: 2012-2013

By June Stockdale.

## Biography

June Stockdale is the Chief Librarian at the Nelson Public Library, having taken up the post in 2008 after 5 years as Chief Librarian in Castlegar. June has a diploma in Computer Science and a diploma in Library and Information Technology, as well as over 20 years of experience working in BC Public Libraries. She is an active member of several provincial library organizations.

June is passionate about the importance of delivering quality library services to communities. She holds a fundamental belief in public libraries as an important component of an educated, culturally diverse, and informed society. Since coming to the helm of the Nelson Library she has undertaken substantial logistical systems reorganization, initiated a rural library service outreach program, and a \$550,000 library expansion project, and led the community in a successful referendum on rural library service.

## Address

Thank you to the conference planning team for another fantastic Library conference. From the theme of License to Read to the quality of the presentations and guest speakers, this has truly been an exceptional conference. Congratulations on a job well done.

I'd like to thank the membership for the honor of serving as President of the Association for 2012-2013. I look forward to playing a role in the continued growth of this critically important organization in support of advocacy, leadership and education for BC libraries.

2011 was a year marked by significant change which resulted in the Board having to be both active and proactive in a number of areas, as covered by Chris Kevlahan in his address. The challenges bring opportunity for us to review our operations and practices to ensure we are as efficient and effective as possible. In addition, the shifting perception of libraries in today's society gives us the opportunity to redefine and promote ourselves in new and innovative ways.

Priorities for the coming year continue to be driven by our fiscal realities. We are working on the development of a broad high level interim strategic plan to determine future directions. The cost-neutral plan will address financial sustainability, professional development, advocacy and communications.

Member input will be included from our recent member survey as well as through two-way communication with Sections, Committees and Interest Groups.

We will continue the excellent work of the Communications Committee with a focus on improving internal communication to ensure our membership is well informed about our activities. The new Browser format and the regular Executive Director updates are great steps in the right direction. We will move forward on updating the website to ensure we can be relevant and responsive to members.

Relationships with partner organizations – one of the Association's purposes – and cross-sector cooperation remain strong priorities. It is increasingly important for us to collaborate in new and innovative ways to maximize our programs and services within the realities of static or shrinking resources. BC is very well positioned with BCLA, ABCPLD, BCLTA, CPSLD, BCLC, BCLTA and others for continued collaboration and the best use of our resources.

We will seek opportunities to provide the leadership on advocacy and ensure that we have an active public voice in all of our library communities. Our mandate includes promoting libraries to stakeholders and funders, as well as engaging our supporters to act on our behalf. We will take a strategic look at our external communication to ensure we take full advantage of all potential opportunities for our libraries.



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I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest section, the Library Technology and Information Group. This is a very active, forward thinking group and a great addition to the diversity of representation at the BCLA table.

In closing, I'd like to formally acknowledge and thank the outgoing Board for volunteering their expertise and knowledge in support of BC libraries. I am always amazed at the exceptional number of highly skilled people who volunteer for the Association. We are very fortunate in this regard and I extend my thanks to all of you. At this time I especially want to thank the conference organizers who have been hard at work for months.

Thanks also to our Association staff Allie Douglas and Annette DeFaveri for their dedication and

commitment. It has been a very busy time leading up to the conference and they've both done an outstanding job!

And finally, I'd like to thank Christopher Kevlahan for his exceptional dedication, hard work and visionary leadership during this time of change and growth in our organization. Chris has worked tirelessly to ensure the organization remains strong through all the upheaval.

Welcome to the new BCLA 2012-2013 Board members. I look forward to a great year ahead working with all of our members to ensure libraries continue to play a strong and vital role in our communities.

*June Stockdale is BCLA President, 2012-2013.*