

President's AGM Report: 2011-2012

By Christopher Kevlahan.

What a great conference this year! Of course we couldn't have done it without our volunteers. I would like to thank all the members the 2012 Conference Planning Committee and Programme Committee as well as all the other volunteers without whose help BCLA/BCTLA and HLABC wouldn't have an annual conference. I'd also like to thank Shannon Stumpf and Dragonfly Consulting for all their great work this year for our conference.

The last year has been a very challenging year for BCLA. Immediately after last year's conference Errin Morrison and I began to look for a site for the 2012 conference with the Conference Working Group Facilities Sub-Committee. After looking at a variety of venues, and types of contracts, we decided on the Richmond Sheraton for both the 2012 and 2013 conferences. We decided to have a much tighter conference without the pre-conference and without a post conference meeting of the board at the hotel to increase cost efficiency. I'd like to thank the members of the Conference Working Group Facilities Sub-Committee: Michael Burris, Stephen Carr, Mari Martin, Todd Rowlett and Errin Morrison. Errin and I also made the decision to hire Dragonfly Consulting to manage this year's BCLA Conference.

At this point I like to thank Errin Morrison for her time as BCLA's Executive Director. Working with Errin, as vice-president and later as president, was always a pleasure. I always appreciated Errin's dedication, professionalism, ideas, capacity for work and her good humour. Please join me in publically thanking Errin for her many contributions to BCLA.

I formed an internal BCLA Human Resources Committee to search for a new executive director in September 2011. The Committee looked at best practices, job descriptions, finances and the needs of the Association and the Board. Throughout its work the HR Committee endeavoured to be as transparent as possible about its process. I'd like to thank the BCLA HR Committee's members: Debbie Schachter, June Stockdale, Deb Thomas and Errin Morrison for contributing a significant amount of time to this work.

A number of months ago I struck a working group to look at the results of last year's BCLA Membership Survey, and make recommendations to improve the benefits for BCLA members. This working group has

finished its work and has produced a document which will be used when going forward with membership initiatives. I'd like to thank Survey Working Group members Jamie Anderson and Chris Middlemass for their work on this project.



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The results of last year's BCLA Member Survey indicated that members see opportunities for networking and mentorship as some of the chief benefits of having BCLA membership. I'm pleased to say the Mentorship Working Group has been working hard to create a mentorship programme which will benefit future, and current, library technicians and librarians. Members of the working group have already carried out a number of successful programmes to date. Thank you: Amy Ashmore, Patricia Cumming, Tamarack Hockin and Heather Morrison for all your work on this project!

The Communications Committee, established last year, has met several times to discuss a wide variety of issues revolving around BCLA'S communications, both internally and externally. We have broken the committee into two sub-committees, one to look at communication policies with BCLA members, sections, committees and interest groups, and with external organisations. The other sub-committee is looking at BCLA's communication mechanisms such as The Browser and our website and list serves. All of these findings will be used to inform our new BCLA webpage, on which work has already begun. I'd like to thank the Communication Committee's members for their ongoing work and commitment to this project: Greg Currie, Vicki Donoghue, Leanna Jantzi, Anne Olsen, June Stockdale, Errin Morrison, Annette DeFaveri and Allie Douglas. I anticipate that the work of these sub-committees will be finished by the end of this June.

Earlier this year BCLA Executive Director Annette DeFaveri and I initiated an Interim Strategic Plan. There have been a number of strategic planning efforts on behalf of the Association in the past, but many objectives remain outstanding, and recent financial and staffing changes for BCLA have absorbed much of the Board's efforts. However, we decided it was critical to set a direction for the association in order to successfully fundraise. It was decided this exercise would be cost neutral due to BCLA's current budgetary situation (as previously highlighted by our Treasurer in her report). At an extraordinary meeting of the Board we focused on financial sustainability and responsibility, professional development including education and training, advocacy and communications, as well as next steps. It is important to stress that this in an interim strategic plan. Its purpose is to give the Board and the executive director a rough direction in which to steer the Association and start to fundraise. The results of this meeting will have to be refined and expanded at future strategic planning meetings in order to develop a more in-depth long-term strategic plan.

I've attended, and spoke at, a number of events this year on BCLA's behalf during the last year. Here is a sample of some events I was at:

- The ALPS general meeting
- The LTAIG Winter Social
- The 2011 BC Book Prizes
- The 2011 Union of BC Municipalities Convention Meetings with the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Education (with representatives from
 - ABCPLD and BCLTA)
 - A YAACS board meeting
 - The 2012 Langara Alumni Homecoming
 - The Express Yourself Library Contest launch, and Library Book celebration
 - Two SLAIS graduations
 - A Mentorship Working Group session with student at SLAIS

It is clear to me that the role of BCLA as an advocate for libraries and library ideals is more critical than ever. These engagements gave me a chance to see what a difference BCLA makes in the lives of library workers, to the province wide library community and to library users.

In closing I would like to thank your outgoing and continuing BCLA board members:

Jamie Anderson, Fiona Anderson, Beverly Braaten, Fiona Chiu, Heather Compeau, Patricia Cumming, Melanie Houlden, Leanna Jantzi, David Karppinen, Jeffrey Libby, Darby Love, Marjorie Mitchell, Heather Morrison, Todd Rowlatt, Debbie Schachter, June Stockdale and Tara Williston.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thanks to BCLA's staff. I'd like to applaud Allie Douglas, BCLA's Office Manager, for her expertise and dedication to her job over the years. Allie has had to manage the 'lion's share' of the transition between executive directors (including managing the office for a month by herself last winter) this year. I would also like to thank and express my gratitude to Annette DeFaveri, BCLA's current Executive Director, who has had to cope with a steep learning curve since starting her position with us in the middle of January. Annette has done an excellent job with our Association and has brought an impressive work ethic, and a unique skill set to the executive director's position. Like her predecessor Errin Morrison, Annette has coped well with the challenge of fulfilling, what was previously a fulltime executive director position, into a reduced work week of three days. Also, I would like to thank Rita Avigdor for her continuing good work as BCLA's accounting clerk.

I'd like to thank the Vancouver Public Library for its continued support of my work with BCLA.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to LTAIG in their new role as a section of the association!

I'd like to thank BCLA's incoming president, June Stockdale, for all her support, good advice and her tireless work on many of BCLA's committees during my administration.

As outgoing president I will take away with me a great network of new friends and colleagues. I have enjoyed meeting and working with members of the library community from across British Columbia. It has been an honour to serve you as president of BCLA. I firmly believe that by working together the library community can make a significant and positive difference to libraries across the province.

Please join me in welcoming June the new President of the British Columbia Library Association!

*Christopher Kevlahan is the President,
BCLA 2010/2011.*