

President's Report

By June Stockdale.

It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at the conference and I enjoyed chatting with many of you. I hope your conference experience was rich and rewarding!

I've had a year of experience as Vice President of the BC Library Association to learn and become aware of our varied membership, activities, and the challenges we face. It's been an interesting journey and I absolutely love working with such a diverse group of people from a variety of library fields and backgrounds. I have great respect for the previous Board and Staff who have helped to build this wonderful association in support of BC libraries and look forward to building on this tradition of excellence during my term as president.

Libraries are an important key component of a healthy community, and we're all being challenged to evolve our services to our communities in innovative ways. It is an interesting time to be involved in the library world as we work towards removing constraints from the way we think about our traditional roles and creatively seek new ways to move forward. The Board will be leading this innovation process for BCLA as we seek to support our library communities in this new era.

Our constitution states that the purpose of the organization is to promote and foster the role of libraries and library workers through advocacy, education and leadership; provide opportunities to expand skills and knowledge through conferences, continuing education, publications and association work; participate in formal liaisons with provincial, national and international organizations; encourage membership in the association; and ensure that stable, long-term funding is in place.

I begin my term as president with this in mind, and will focus our priorities on achieving these organizational objectives. I will also continue to support the important initiatives already underway, including the

communications strategy and the financial sustainability planning.

The Board's interim strategic planning process is underway and will help to ensure we look to our future financial viability while maintaining and growing the value of the organization to our members. We'll be reviewing all aspects of our operations, looking for new approaches to ensure we sustain the important aspects of our association while seeking new opportunities and ideas. Of course we'll put our new communications strategies to work and ensure we keep you well informed of our progress as we further the development of the plan.

I am excited by an upcoming meeting BCLA is hosting for ABCPLD, BCLTA, BC Library Cooperative, and Interlink to discuss a provincial advocacy campaign for public libraries. Ken Haycock has generously volunteered his time to lead the process and I'm looking forward to the positive impact we'll be able to achieve working collaboratively in support of our common need for advocacy. Building strategic partnerships with other associations and service providers in the BC library landscape is of key importance to our collective future.

We are a member driven organization and welcome your comments and feedback so we can continue to evolve our services and programs. Please contact myself, Annette or another Board member if you have suggestions or comments so we can continue to be responsive to our member needs. Here's looking forward to a great year ahead.



June Stockdale

June Stockdale is BCLA President, 2012-2013.