

# President's Report

By June Stockdale.

We have been working on a number of initiatives over the past few months and making good progress overall. It's been extremely busy as we try to understand and move forward on the priorities identified in our interim strategic plan.

To give us an overall perspective of the needs and priorities of the Association, we solidified the goals and action items for each of the four strategic areas identified in the interim plan. We included feedback from the most recent survey and will also solicit further input through the SCIGs to ensure we are responding to member needs. Once that is completed, we'll consider the plan as official and focus on the four main directions of advocacy, professional development, financial sustainability, and communication for the next two to three years.

The Board is also working on the development of a new Mission and Vision statement as part of a rebranding process. This will help to define our evolving role in the library world, brand our website and publicity materials, as well as assist with aligning funding opportunities which meet BCLAs goals and objectives.

In order to make effective decisions and keep the organization strong and vibrant, it's essential to ensure we have a clear understanding of our financial situation. We are progressing well in this area and now have a better understanding of how to move forward most effectively in both staff time and financial resource allocation when we prepare next year's budget. The success of this year's conference, as well as financial prudence on the part of the Board for the past two years have left us in a reasonably good financial situation overall.

Advocacy initiatives undertaken include a letter of concern regarding the cuts to Library and Archives Canada, a letter of concern to College and University Presidents about the Access Copyright agreement, and a letter of support for a national accreditation program for Library and Information Technology programs.

Our interagency advocacy committee initiative comprised of members from BCLA, BCLTA, ABCPLD, BCLC and Interlink with assistance from Ken Haycock

is progressing well. We continue to work on the development of a formal provincial advocacy strategy to ensure we have consistent messaging and delivery mechanisms in all BC communities.

Our newly formed interagency Advocacy Committee hosted a reception for delegates at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference in Victoria in September. Victoria Times editor David Obee interviewed Minister of Education Don McRae, with over two hundred municipal, regional and provincial government delegates in attendance. This was followed by an opportunity for representatives from our four partner groups to meet with Minister McRae to discuss library issues and opportunities. The new Minister was very interested and engaged and is clearly a strong supporter of libraries.

With a provincial election coming up, we also had a meeting with NDP Education Critic and Chair of the Social Policy Committee Robin Austin to talk about the broad role libraries play in our communities, the opportunities that exist, as well as highlight some of the challenges.

We are making significant progress on the critical work of ensuring our financial stability and future viability, while keeping up with the business of the Association. Thanks to our hardworking Executive Director Annette DeFaveri for making excellent progress on so many fronts, and to Allie Douglas for her dedication and commitment throughout all of the turmoil of the last few years. And thanks to all of our members who volunteer on behalf of the Association to help keep us vibrant and relevant in a changing landscape.



June Stockdale

June Stockdale is BCLA President, 2012-2013.