

President's report

By June Stockdale.

Being President of the BCLA Board has been a great learning and growth opportunity and the time has gone by very quickly.

As we come up to the conference *Are we there yet?* and our Annual General Meeting I encourage you to consider running for one of the elected positions that will soon be advertised. The work of the BC Library Association is of profound importance to all library sectors and helps to ensure libraries remain strong and relevant. Alternately, if you're not yet a member, please consider joining so you can be part of the important work of the Association.

Strategic plan

We have largely completed our Strategic Plan and will be formally rolling it out for our members at the Conference. The main areas of focus are around advocacy, professional development, communication, and financial stability. Thank you to all of the survey respondents as well as the Sections, Committees and Interest Groups (SCIGs as I now know they are called) for providing valuable input.

We have a committee working to identify key messages for library advocacy in the upcoming provincial election. We intend to focus on areas of broad general importance to all types of libraries and will provide supporting documentation for library workers to modify and adapt for their communities. We are working collaboratively with BCLTA to ensure our messaging is mutually supportive. Our intent is to ensure that we have a strong unified voice across the province as we participate in the election process.

In support of our strategic goal of financial sustainability, Daphne Wood from Vancouver Public Library attended our last Board meeting and presented information on VPL's new "Areas of Interest" model of fund development. The model aligns fundraising efforts with areas of strategic importance and, organizational goals with potential donors. Each identified area includes tools to demonstrate the need, the impact of the investment, and opportunities to contribute. In this way we intend to streamline sustained fund development and minimize staff time on reporting requirements.

The Partnership: a national network

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Partnership meeting in Toronto in January. Libraries are well organized as we all know — a good thing, as this inter-provincial association is responsible for coordinating a number of national programs. BCLA takes the lead on the Job Board that provides a national forum for job seekers. The Education Institute offers a variety of online professional development opportunities featuring speakers from across the nation.



June Stockdale

The Partnership is working on a certification program for library and information specialists to document their professional development activities. And if you're not familiar with the [Partnership e-Journal](#), have a look at the peer-reviewed research articles that span the range from public to special to academic and school libraries. The trip also included the OLA SuperConference, which really is inspirational. Thanks to OLA for sponsoring Partner members to attend.

Mentorship

The Mentorship Working Group has officially become a BCLA Committee, and I'd like to thank them on behalf of us all for the excellent work they have done in getting this important program up and running. The committee has completed one session and is currently planning the next, which begins April 1. Visit <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/mentorship/> for more information.

Libraries & Literacy Branch

Thanks also to Libraries and Literacy Branch for continued financial support of BCLA. We receive an operational grant that helps us to carry out our work for the broader library community, as well as a grant



to oversee the Summer Reading Program. We appreciate the sustained support of our work through these annual grants.

Hope to see many of you at the Conference this year. And don't forget to watch for the election information. Be involved!

June Stockdale is BCLA President, 2012-2013.