

President's report

By Gwen Bird.

What a wonderful time we had in Richmond! Thanks to so many members of BCLA for coming together at the BC Library Conference to share ideas, meet new colleagues, make community, and address the question, "Are we there yet?"

As always, I loved connecting with old friends and mentors, meeting lots of new folks, and conducting some business as well. The opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas from different sectors is one of the things I really value in this conference, and again I benefitted — hearing about exciting work underway in BC public libraries, chatting with trustees, and connecting with students and new library workers informally at the fabulous social events. Thanks again to our hardworking staff and to the many volunteers who assisted with planning and executing such a successful event.

One of the comments I heard afterwards particularly warmed my heart: "As a newcomer to BC, I'm so glad I went. It felt like my official welcoming as a BC librarian."

It was my absolute delight to begin a year as President of BCLA at the Annual General Meeting, and to welcome new members to the Board. I have been a longstanding member of the association and am so pleased to be in a position to serve the organization in the coming year. BCLA has been foundational to my working life in BC libraries. My involvement has been varied, including membership in the First Nations Interest Group, chairing ALPS, and previous service on the Board. Through BCLA I have presented conference papers, established business relationships with vendors, made friends ... even (somewhat indirectly) landed a job! It's my hope

that BCLA will offer this kind of networking and professional growth platform for each of its members.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we have a new strategic plan to steer our course, soon to be published on the revamped website. We'll focus on core areas of

advocacy, professional development, communication, and financial sustainability. These areas are not a surprise to anyone familiar with the organization. We appreciated the endorsement of the new plan by membership at the AGM, although we were confident we would get that — running the draft plan by membership through the Sections, Committees & Interest Groups at an in-person meeting as well as virtually added to our confidence that we had captured the will of the membership for our high-level directions.

I look forward to connecting with members throughout the year. Finally, my thanks again to Past President June Stockdale for her thoughtful leadership over the past year.



Gwen Bird

Gwen Bird is BCLA President, 2013-14.