

President's Report

By Gwen Bird.

With the coming of fall our Board year is now in full swing. We have so far had two meetings with excellent engagement and participation. We have a capable and enthusiastic group working on behalf of the Association this year, which happily makes my job very easy. I want to let you know about some of the work we've carved out for the year.



You'll recall that last year we developed a strategic plan for BCLA for the period 2013-2015, which was approved by members at the AGM in May. What follows from that is work to develop Mission, Vision and Values statements for BCLA. The Board had a productive discussion about this at our September meeting—we considered the wide-ranging member input collected from whiteboards at the Annual Conference in May. We talked about the need for a renewed mission statement that distills BCLA's *raison d'être* into a single catchy phrase, and for a future-oriented vision statement that will help move us toward the organization we aspire to be as we develop and respond to the changing library environment. A board committee was struck to work on this, and we have met and begun crafting some statements. With great enthusiasm for BCLA and its future, and several mission-crafting veterans on the job, our work flowed well and there were even a few moments of raising goose bumps around the table. We'll be hosting a consultation at the BCLA office about drafts and progress so far on November 21st, 6-8pm at the BCLA office. This will be our main

opportunity to get feedback from the Sections, Committees and Interest Groups in-person, and invitations to those groups will go out closer to the date and once we have draft statements for consideration. Of course, written input will also be welcome and will be solicited via the BCLA email lists.

Another task for the year is to define roles for board members. While we have officers with specific duties such as Treasurer and President, and section representatives from YAACS, LTAS and ALPS, we also have a number of board members without specific portfolios. Those of you involved in other organizations or with past experience at BCLA will know that board members are often assigned areas of interest, such as liaison with committees or interest groups, membership, continuing education, and the like. We will be doing some work on this in the coming months with the goal of having job descriptions for each board role, to assist with recruitment and clarity of expectations for next year's board. If you have ideas about this, please share your thoughts and experience to inform the process.

Other activities have included my participation in a meeting of the Partnership, the federation of Provincial and Territorial library Associations in Canada. This group coordinates the cross-Canada library job board (administered by BCLA), runs Education Institute webinars, and publishes the open access journal *The Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*. I also met with representatives of the BC Library Trustees Association, along with BCLA Executive Director Annette DeFaveri, for a discussion of mutual goals, joint activities and shared interests. Finally, thanks to all of you in the Sections, Committees and Interest Groups who help to keep up BCLA's profile on important library-related issues such as privacy, internet neutrality and freedom of expression. It has been my honor to send several letters on behalf of the Association, with the conceptual and editing work done by dedicated volunteers from the related BCLA groups. In all cases it has been my privilege and pleasure to represent BCLA.

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the Council of Prairie and Pacific University
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