

**November 20, 2008**

**November Update on BCLTA Board Activities**

A teleconference meeting of the BCLTA Executive was held on Monday, November 17. Highlights of this meeting and of recent BCLTA Board activities follow.

**BCLTA Board Meeting/Activity Highlights:**

The Fall 2008 edition of BCLTA's **Open Door newsletter** is in the mail and trustees should look for print copies at their upcoming board meetings. This edition features contributions from library boards around the province – from Vancouver to Vanderhoof – so be sure to set aside a few minutes to find out what your fellow trustees are up to.

Hot on the heels of the recent civic elections, BCLTA's Outreach Committee is preparing an information sheet on BC's public library sector for the local government audience. This "**library primer**" will be included in binders distributed at the Union of BC Municipalities' Newly Elected Official Seminars, and will also be made available to BCLTA members for use in communicating library issues to their local governments.

Following a less than enthusiastic response from the Minister of Transportation to BCLTA's campaign to have **library directional signs** installed along highways throughout the province, we will be asking BCLTA members to take a moment to contact the provincial government in support of this initiative. Please stay tuned for a future bulletin on this issue – to be accompanied by a template letter of support which your board will be welcome to use, modify, or draw from in crafting your own letter.

Members of the BCLTA Executive are developing terms of reference for a **library infrastructure study**, to be undertaken over the coming year thanks to funding received from the Public Library Services Branch. We will be approaching our sister library associations and BC's library federations to gauge interest in participating in the study, which we hope will enable us to present a clear case for senior government investment in bricks and mortar infrastructure in the coming years.

A full-day "**Chairing the Board**" **pilot session** was delivered by TOP trainer Lois Taylor in Squamish earlier this month. By all accounts the session was a great success, with participants expressing particular appreciation for the opportunity to connect with their peers and to learn from one another. Some adjustments to the course materials will be made prior to this training being offered on a regular basis, but we hope to begin holding sessions in the various regions of the province starting in the New Year.

Planning and organizing for the **2009 Conference** has begun in earnest. BCLTA sessions have been selected and conveners have been assigned. Tentative speakers and facilitators are being lined up and we are also working with BCLA to organize a few joint sessions that will be of interest to trustees, directors and librarians alike. Social planning is likewise underway, with an awards banquet, a trustee lounge, and coordinated trustee dinners in the works. Check out the conference website at [www.bcla.bc.ca/Conference2009/default.aspx](http://www.bcla.bc.ca/Conference2009/default.aspx) and stay tuned for further announcements in the coming months.

At the next meeting of the BCLTA Executive, a Sub-Committee of the BCLA Information Policy Committee will give a presentation on the library-related implications of the BC/Alberta Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (**TILMA**). Andre Isakov has been appointed as BCLTA liaison to the TILMA Sub-Committee; and BCLTA will be circulating a report commissioned by the Sub-Committee and prepared by Ellen Gould, entitled *TILMA – Key Implications for BC Libraries*. Look for this report in a forthcoming BCLTA bulletin; and stay tuned for a formal BCLTA policy position on TILMA once your Executive is fully informed on the issue.

Any questions or concerns about the foregoing can be directed to BCLTA's Executive Director, Errin Morrison, at [execdirector@bclta.org](mailto:execdirector@bclta.org).