



October 23, 2009

Attention Library Board Chairs/BCLTA Liaisons:

It is with regret that I must inform members of my decision to resign as Executive Director of BCLTA. In light of recent provincial funding cuts, the association is no longer able to support this position, leaving your board with little choice but to re-trench and re-prioritize until the funds to hire a lead staff person can be recovered. Had we lost only our Executive Director grant in the most recent provincial budget, we would have been able to continue largely as before due to the decision of the members to increase BCLTA dues at the 2009 Annual General Meeting. However, with the loss of this grant, the TOP grant and over two-thirds of our operating grant, maintaining this position is just not feasible.

I mentioned re-trenching and re-prioritizing and I want to assure members that the BCLTA board is committed to continuing its work on behalf of BC's library trustees. In particular, the recent focus on joint advocacy efforts with the BC Library Association and the Association of BC Public Library Directors will continue – the ultimate goal being the full reinstatement of provincial funding to public libraries. Your board will also continue to provide trustee training opportunities – including offering TOP and Chairing the Board sessions around the province on a cost-recovery basis. BCLTA will participate, as usual, in the BC Library Conference – offering sessions, events and networking opportunities of interest to trustees and holding an annual general meeting as in past years. And work on projects of direct benefit to members, such as the Public Library Infrastructure Study, will continue as before.

Although it will be difficult, BCLTA will endeavour to carry on and focus on activities and work that is likely to be of most benefit to trustees around the province. This will inevitably mean an additional workload for your elected BCLTA Board, and I would encourage you to offer your help and assistance where possible. If you have a particular skill or interest, and a willingness to get involved in your association, please look for opportunities – or suggest opportunities as the case may be.

It has been my sincere pleasure to work as BCLTA's Executive Director these past two years, and I hope to stay in touch and involved with the library community – albeit in a different capacity. I extend my best wishes to the association, which I am confident will weather the current storm and come out stronger on the other side.

Sincerely,

Errin Morrison  
Executive Director, BCLTA