

March 27, 2009

March Update on BCLTA Board Activities

A teleconference meeting of the BCLTA Executive was held on Monday, March 16. Highlights of this meeting and of recent BCLTA Board activities follow.

BCLTA Board Meeting/Activity Highlights:

So far the 2009/10 year has been a busy one for your BCLTA Board. At the top of the agenda is the upcoming **BC Library Conference** – to be held April 16-18 in Burnaby. Board members and staff have been busy planning and organizing conference sessions and social events for trustees, as well as preparing for the Annual General Meeting. We have an excellent conference agenda this year and we encourage library boards from around the province to send at least one representative to join us in Burnaby. Registration and session/event details are available online at www.bclibraryconference.com. We particularly hope you will join us at our Annual Banquet and Awards Dinner, where awards will be presented to deserving trustees and library advocates, and several guest speakers will bring greetings to our delegates. Be sure and check off the Friday evening banquet option when you register for the conference.

On the topic of awards, the BCLTA Board will be exploring the possibility of introducing a **“Library Board of the Year”** award in 2010. This idea came about as a result of a conversation with one of our members, and we think it would be an excellent way to recognize outstanding teamwork and group achievement. We will be developing potential criteria for the award in the months to come – and we welcome input from the membership.

Another upcoming activity is our **Library Infrastructure Needs Study**, which we hope to begin within the next few weeks. Terms of reference have been developed and we will be approaching the Union of BC Municipalities to invite local government support for the project. Please stay tuned – we will be contacting the membership with further details as the study is launched.

Our investigation into the **Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement** between BC and Alberta continues. The Board is currently reviewing a legal opinion on the potential implications of the legislation for BC public libraries, and will be deciding on next steps within the coming days.

By now you should have received two **special resolutions** to be considered at the 2009 AGM – to be held Saturday, April 18 from 8:00-10:15 am at the Holiday Inn Express. The first resolution asks the members to approve various changes to the BCLTA Constitution and Bylaws and the second proposes an increase in BCLTA membership fees. Copies of both resolutions and supporting documents are available on the home page of the BCLTA website (www.bclta.org) under the “Latest News” column at the right. We invite you to contact us with your comments and concerns prior to the AGM, and we encourage you to attend the AGM and exercise your right to debate and vote on the proposals. *Please note: you are welcome to attend the AGM even if you are not registered for the full BC Library Conference – simply go to the conference website and register for only the BCLTA AGM on Saturday morning.*

One final note in this activity update...the Board asks that you stay tuned for the launch of **WebJunction BC**. This is an online gathering place for everyone connected with BC libraries – developed

collaboratively by the BC Library Association, the BC Teacher Librarians' Association and BCLTA, with generous support from PLSB. Through WJBC, trustees will have access to free courses on a variety of topics, a wealth of library-related information and resources, online meeting capabilities, discussion forums, blogs, wikis, etc. You set up an online profile, make friends and get involved as you would through a regular social networking site, but this one is specifically tailored to the needs and interests of people involved in BC's library community – and indeed in the wider library community beyond our borders. WJBC is being officially launched in conjunction with the 2009 BC Library Conference, but further details will be communicated to the full BCLTA membership in the coming weeks.

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