

BCLTA

From: BCLTA [admin@bclta.org]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 3:14 PM
To: BCLTA-Liaisons (bclta-liaisons@interchange.ubc.ca); BCLTA - Library Board Chairs (lib-bd-chairs@interchange.ubc.ca)
Subject: Registrar Approves New BCLTA Voting Protocol

To BCLTA Chairs and Liaisons
June 30, 2008

As reported in the Spring 2008 edition of BCLTA's Open Door newsletter, a new voting protocol for the Association was endorsed at the 2008 AGM in Richmond and subsequently sent to the provincial Registrar for approval. We have now received notice from the Registrar that the following change is approved:

There are four classes of membership in the Association, namely: Institutional, Individual, Honourary/Life, and Associate. The only members entitled to vote at the AGM are the Individual Members, who are appointed by their Institutions to exercise the vote. Institutional Members serving a population of less than 50,000 will appoint one Individual Member. Institutional Members serving a population of greater than or equal to 50,000 will appoint a number of Individual Members as determined by the following formula:

Number of Individual Members = (Number of Public Libraries serving populations of less than 50,000) divided by (Number of Public Libraries serving populations greater than or equal to 50,000) rounded to the nearest integer number, but not less than one (1) Individual Member – according to population statistics taken from the most recent edition of British Columbia Public Libraries Statistics.

Under the new formula, and according to the 2006 edition of *British Columbia Public Libraries Statistics*, the 14 libraries in BC that are currently serving populations of more than 50,000 will have four votes each. This gives them the same voting power as the 56 institutions serving populations of less than 50,000, thus ensuring that neither the smaller libraries nor the larger libraries can, as a group, unduly influence the will of the Association. The number of votes per large library will change according to the number of libraries that have paid their membership dues to BCLTA each year, but taking the 2007 membership and population numbers as a general example, the Alert Bay Public Library (representing a population of approximately 1,300) would have one vote, the Burnaby Public Library (representing a population of approximately 200,000) would have four votes and the Okanagan Regional Library (representing a population of approximately 350,000) would also have four votes.

This represents a significant change, in that individual trustees are no longer entitled to vote at the AGM unless they have been appointed to carry the vote for their institution. Board Chairs should be aware that they must submit one or more Institutional Voting Forms (available at www.bclta.org under About/Constitution & Bylaws) at least two weeks prior to the AGM in order to register their appointed voter (s). BCLTA staff will use these forms to prepare a voters list for the 2009 AGM.

Members should also be advised that proxy voting is not currently permitted under the BCLTA bylaws, meaning that your appointees must actually attend the AGM in order to vote. (Please note: a constitutional review is now underway and it is expected that a proposal to institute a proxy voting provision will be presented to the membership in 2009.)

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