

September Update on BCLTA Board Activities

Your BCLTA Board was in Penticton at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention last week, hosting the annual **BC Library Reception** with the BC Library Association and the Association of BC Public Library Directors. This is a key event for the library community – providing a time and place to recognize local governments for their very important contribution to BC's public library sector. This year's reception was a great success, with upwards of 350 UBCM delegates, library representatives, provincial Ministers, and others in attendance. The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education and Deputy Premier, addressed the crowd, stressing the central role that libraries play in BC communities and honouring the important work done by library trustees and staff throughout the province. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend, and we look forward to seeing you at next year's reception in Vancouver.

The day after the BC Library Reception was a busy one for BCLTA, beginning with the **annual meeting with the Minister of Education** and concluding with the quarterly board meeting. Highlights from the board meeting are noted below, and please stay tuned for an upcoming bulletin summarizing the meeting with the Minister.

September Board Meeting Highlights:

BCLTA's Outreach Committee will work to secure a **meeting with the new Minister of Community Development** in order to pursue library/local government issues raised this past Spring with the former Minister of Community Services. The Committee will also be developing a **survey for regional library boards** – assessing their satisfaction with BCLTA and seeking to better understand their long-term needs.

2009 conference planning is well underway, and members have been asked to provide feedback on a shortlist of proposed BCLTA sessions communicated to boards in a September 30 bulletin. The Conference Committee will be investigating sponsorship opportunities and working to organize trustee social events, as well as conference and pre-conference sessions, in the months to come.

Preliminary **revisions to the BCLTA Constitution & Bylaws** are now complete, and will be conveyed to the membership for feedback prior to the 2009 AGM, where they will be put to a general vote. Key changes include the addition of **proxy voting**, adjustments to general meeting **quorum** requirements, and a revision of the **membership dues** schedule. Please stay tuned for a subsequent bulletin detailing the proposed revisions.

BCLTA will be contacting Library Federations to gauge interest in offering **Board Chair training** sessions on a cost-recovery basis in the various regions of the province. A pilot session is scheduled for November 8 in Squamish and a pre-conference session is also planned for Spring 2009.

In an effort to connect with local elected officials and to keep libraries on the local government radar, BCLTA will be developing a **library information sheet to be distributed to local governments** following

the upcoming civic elections. Content will include, among other items, an overview of public library operations and funding, as well as points to consider when appointing library boards and assigning councillors to sit on boards.

The Board approved an outline for the **Fall 2008 edition of *The Open Door***, and directed staff to solicit articles, photos and story ideas from the membership. All contributions should be sent to the Executive Director at the email address noted below by October 17.

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