

## BCLTA

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**From:** BCLTA [admin@bclta.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2008 10:57 AM  
**To:** BCLTA - Library Board Chairs (lib-bd-chairs@interchange.ubc.ca); BCLTA-Liaisons (bclta-liaisons@interchange.ubc.ca)  
**Subject:** Soliciting Input for BCLTA's Fall 2008 Meeting with Minister Bond and PLSB

The BCLTA Executive is soliciting input from member library boards in preparation for the President and Vice-President's Fall 2008 meeting with the Minister of Education and Public Library Services Branch. Last year, topics on the agenda included:

1. Appreciation for increased funding and support to libraries under the 2004 Strategic Plan.
2. Suggested new tools to help libraries meet funding challenges:
  - a. Allowing local governments and regional libraries to levy Development Cost Charges for library facilities;
  - b. Exempting all facilities used as public libraries from property taxes regardless of who owns them;
  - c. Providing regional libraries with long-term borrowing authority.
3. Funding for a review of library infrastructure and facilities throughout the province.
4. Participation in the upcoming review of the *Library Act*.
5. Participation in the upcoming review and update of the Strategic Plan for Public Libraries.

Since last year's meeting, we have made some progress on the above points. Regarding number two, Minister Bond encouraged us to meet with the Minister of Community Services to discuss these suggestions, as they fall within or overlap local government jurisdiction. Past President Peter Wainwright and Executive Director Errin Morrison met with Minister Chong in April 2008 and brought these suggestions to her attention. Minister Chong advised she would have her staff follow-up on these possible funding tools, and we now await further word from the Ministry.

Regarding point number three, Minister Bond was receptive to this idea and the BCLTA Executive has since formally approached PLSB with a request for funding to conduct a library infrastructure needs assessment. We are currently awaiting a response from PLSB.

With regard to points number four and five, the BCLTA Executive has been in touch with PLSB about participation in both the upcoming *Library Act* review and the update of the Strategic Plan for Public Libraries. We will be involved in both consultation processes and will convey trustee feedback to PLSB.

As this year's meeting with the Minister Responsible for Libraries nears, we are once again seeking input from our members as to what topics you would like to see us raise and pursue at the provincial level. Please take a moment to think about the issues, concerns and challenges your library is facing and communicate these to Errin Morrison, BCLTA Executive Director, at [execdirector@bclta.org](mailto:execdirector@bclta.org). This is an important opportunity to advocate on behalf of our members, and trustee input is crucial to a successful process.