



## CONFERENCE 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

From Canada's National Library to British Columbia's smallest. From surviving a grizzly bear attack to forging an effective partnership with your chief librarian. That's how far the discussions ranged for the over 80 trustees from around the province who gathered in Nelson for the 2002 BC Library Trustees Association conference from May 31 to June 2, 2002.

- **Roch Carrier, the National Librarian of Canada**, battled his way through a bout of laryngitis to open the conference with an eloquent keynote address that set out the vital social and cultural roles that libraries play across the country. He ended by urging libraries in this province to make fuller use of the National Library's services, particularly interlibrary loan and the Canadian Book Exchange Centre, which libraries can use as an inexpensive way to build their collections.
- **Patricia Van Tighem, author of The Bear's Embrace**, told the plenary session how she has dealt with the effects of a grizzly bear mauling that has left her with life-long challenges. Her courage and emotional honesty propelled conference delegates into two days of intensive sessions and workshops.
- Marianne Hall and Joan Jarman facilitated a successful **Trustees Orientation Program** on Friday and presented two sessions on **library leadership** that outlined the one-day BCLTA leadership workshop. They suggested that local library boards consider hosting the full workshop in their community, inviting other community organizations to join them as a way to defray costs and build community partnerships.
- Ernest Neumann, BCLTA's vice-president human resources, took delegates through an interactive session on the **do's and don'ts of the relationship between boards, trustees and chief librarians**.
- The **problems of small libraries** – getting adequate funding from sometimes-unsupportive regional districts – were explored in panel discussions at two sessions. Panellists were Chris Pepler, director of public library services for the B.C. government, Cranbrook chief librarian Pat Adams and Nelson chief librarian Deb Thomas.
- A freewheeling **open space session on library interests and issues** gave all delegates a chance to have their say on a favourite topic. The results are summarized on the BCLTA web site at [www.bclta.org/openspace.html](http://www.bclta.org/openspace.html).

Other sessions dealt with teamwork, executive recruitment for senior library staff, and the qualities and environments that produce outstanding public library branch managers. An evening awards dinner, the BCLTA general meeting, and heartfelt thanks to BCLTA conference director Lynn Adams and Administrative Assistant Mandy Davies rounded off a very successful three-day event.

Visit the BCLTA website for photos and other conference highlights: [www.bclta.org/highlights.html](http://www.bclta.org/highlights.html)

**Blair Qualey**  
President