



# OPEN DOOR

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

## BCLTA

FALL/WINTER 2009

## A Newsletter for BC Library Trustees

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to our newsletter. You will notice that we are using a new electronic format to save us some dollars so your feedback on this new format would be welcome.

Well the last few months have, to say the least, been an interesting experience. This newsletter is full of updates so I won't review them in my message. What I really want to focus on is teamwork and building partnerships.

These past few months have shown us all the power of partnerships and teamwork. I can't imagine how we would have fared without the considerable dedication of a number of organizations and individuals including BCLA, ABCPLD, Maureen Woods (now departed for Alberta), Peter Fassbender (Mayor of Langley), UBCM and all of the libraries, trustees, staff and patrons throughout BC who pulled together to send the government a strong message about the importance of libraries. We created an alliance that built on each other's strengths and, although the results were not as good as expected, they were much better than originally anticipated. We created some excellent relationships with media as well and were able to get our messages out on a constant basis. I have a friend who has a saying "the world is run by those who show up" and this certainly happened.

I would also be remiss to say that your Board proved once again what a tremendous group of individuals they are. And of course Errin and Mandy who worked extremely hard to help us. Because of the budget cuts, we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Errin and we wish her well in her new adventures with a brand new baby boy. We will greatly miss Errin and once again want to thank her for all of her tremendous work she did for us during the past couple of years.

So where do we go from here? The Board is committed to working together with the support Mandy to continue to build our organization. We have a plan that will see some changes to our operations but nothing so great that our service to you will dwindle. We will continue to be your strong advocate and representative.

It is now up to all of us to work together to advance our library system forward. I had a great opportunity to listen to Scott Kress from the Summit Group. Scott is one of the few Canadians who have conquered Mount Everest. His message is very pertinent to us at this moment in time:

*"When climbing Mount Everest, the teams that do not work together have a 9% chance of reaching the summit. Those teams that do work together have an 87% chance of achieving the summit. Those teams who are more focused on negative elements tend to lose heart and give up."*

So don't lose heart and if we all work together, we will get to the summit.



Andy Ackerman, President

### We Say Goodbye to Errin



As many of you are aware, October 31st was Errin Morrison last day as our Executive Director. It is hard to believe that Errin had only been with us 2 years. She has been a strong advocate for BCLTA and used her tremendous skills and abilities to move BCLTA forward. Errin was a tremendous asset to our organization and she will be missed.

Errin's new adventures include the recent arrival of a new son (Wesley William) on November 1st. We wish her and her family well. Errin has indicated that she may stay on the library scene in a new capacity so we look forward to that in the future.

**All our best Errin and thank you from all of us.**

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## The 2010-2011 BCLTA Budget

It comes as no surprise to any of us that the 2010 budget projections from the provincial government are, to say the least, not optimistic. Some sources are telling us that there may be further cuts for all sectors in the budget that is to be released on March 2, 2010.

So where are we at with the BCLTA budget for 2010-2011?

1. Prior to the cuts, we received a total of \$75,000 in provincial funding for various activities including the grant for TOP training.
2. After the budget cuts, we currently only receive \$10,000 from PLSB.
3. The dues increases, which were approved last April, will make up \$20,000 of those cuts but we will still remain \$15,000 short of our original spending budget. If we had not had the membership fee increases, this would have put the organization in a much worse position.
4. The primary reason for the dues increase was to put BCLTA on a more sustainable financial basis by diversifying our funding source. We were expecting some cuts but not as deep as occurred. The subsidy for the ED position was one of those items that we were worried about. The ED position was funded 50% by PLSB and 50% by BCLTA so the membership increases would not have covered off the entire cost of this position.

5. TOP is now offered on a cost recovery basis. Previously the PLSB subsidy helped to cover venue costs if not held at a local library. As the cuts occurred so late in the financial year, BCLTA has gone into a deficit of \$9,000 for TOP training due to the lack of PLSB subsidy. It is also important to keep in mind that it is only in the last three or four years that TOP has been offered free to libraries. Prior to receiving the grants from PLSB (thanks to the lobbying from BCLTA), TOP training was offered on a cost recovery basis.

One of the serious consequences of the budget cuts was the loss of Errin Morrison as our ED. As there were fewer funds available to pay Errin it was impossible for the position to be effective. The Board is attempting to pick up some of Errin's previous workload and it is proving difficult. Believe me, you never truly appreciate anyone until they leave you. Errin's dedication and professionalism is greatly missed.

As for what the Board is planning to do within the constraints of the 2010 budget:

1. We will continue to publish a newsletter but it will be electronic format only to reduce costs. This keeps our membership informed of what is taking place with BCLTA initiatives.
2. We will continue with our advocacy program for the 2010 budget. It is important to remind you that without BCLTA's involvement in the 2009 advocacy program, the cuts to libraries would have been much deeper. We are very concerned that the 2010 budget may contain more cuts so we are once again advocating for libraries in BC.
3. Travel has been reduced to a bare minimum. The Board's only face to face meeting will be at the annual conference. Otherwise, we will meet by conference call.
4. We will still retain Mandy Davies as our Administrative Assistant and will have some funds to pay a contractor to help with special projects that take considerable effort.
5. We will finish the infrastructure study that was started last year.

As we indicated last April, BCLTA's fees had not increased for over 20 years and the membership recognized that if BCLTA is to get to a financially sustainable position, we have to work together. These are challenging times and our strength is in our numbers.



I thank you for your continued support of BCLTA. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Board representative at any time.



## 2009 BC LIBRARIES RECEPTION

### "BC Libraries: Champions of Literacy and Learning"

The 2009 BC Libraries Reception was jointly hosted by the BC Library Trustees Association, the BC Library Association and the Association of BC Public Library Directors and held in conjunction with the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Vancouver on the evening of Wednesday, September 30th. The reception was a great success, with approximately 450 people in attendance – this was a good 150 more than in previous years, which was a pleasant surprise for the event organizers! Among the attendees were many, many local government elected officials, as well as a solid provincial contingent of MLAs and staff. Also of note were the many library sector representatives – both trustees and staff – who made the trip downtown to mingle and connect with our local and provincial politicians.

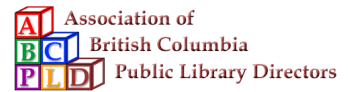
Reception highlights included a wonderful library slideshow prepared by Mandy Davies of BCLTA, a mini-keynote address by Dr. Ike Barber of UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC), an address by the Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, and presentation of the 2009 Library Director of the Year Award.

Dr. Barber spoke about the key role that libraries played in his entering into a highly successful career in forestry and went on to stress that libraries help individuals and communities to grow – thereby providing economic benefits to all of us. He concluded by encouraging the establishment of library partnerships such as the one that helped build the IKBLC – a joint venture of Dr. Barber, UBC and the provincial government.

Dr. Barber's speech was followed by an address by the Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid. She brought greetings from the provincial government and spoke about her lifelong love of libraries – beginning when she was a little girl and continuing into her medical practice, when she would often refer her patients to the library for information on their ailments. Minister MacDiarmid concluded by stressing the provincial government's strong support of libraries and advising that her Ministry is doing what it can to provide this support in these difficult economic times.

Both Dr. Barber and Minister MacDiarmid received a gift of two books generously donated by the Association of Book Publishers of BC – one to keep and one gifted to the Vancouver Public Library on each speaker's behalf.

Following the Minister's address, and as a final highlight to the evening, Burnaby Public Library's Chief Librarian, Edel Toner-Rogala, was presented with the ABCPLD's 2009 Library Director of the Year Award.



The reception concluded with a door prize draw, with prizes generously donated by the Vancouver Public Library. Salt Spring Island Trustee Christine Torgrimson and Mayor Andy Anderson of Aschcroft were the lucky winners.

Thank you to all those who helped to organize the event and who took time out of their schedules to attend on behalf of the library community.



*Dr. Ike Barber*



*The Honourable  
Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid*



*Alane Wilson and Ken Cooley of BCLA; Errin Morrison of BCLTA*



*Library Director of the Year – BPL Chief Librarian,  
Edel Toner-Rogala (at right)*

### BCLTA THANKS THE FOLLOWING 2009 LIBRARY RECEPTION SPONSORS



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## Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

### IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE

Community engagement, lifelong learning, innovative spaces and programs – these are some of the characteristics of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia.

Phase one of the Learning Centre opened in October 2005, and the second and final phase was completed in early 2008. This milestone was the realization of a dream for Dr. Barber, whose exceptional generosity laid the foundation for the Centre's future. The provincial government and UBC also provided invaluable support.

Since opening, the Learning Centre has been busy offering and developing programs and services for its broad range of users. When the concept of the facility began forming, Dr. Barber stressed that the Learning Centre should serve not only users at UBC (who have enthusiastically embraced the facility since its opening day), but also those throughout British Columbia and beyond. Indeed, this spirit of community engagement is enshrined in the Statement of Purpose and Charter of Principles, the Learning Centre's guiding document.

As the following two examples illustrate, we have taken this spirit to heart. A few years ago, the Learning Centre launched the B.C. History Digitization Program. Briefly, this program involves providing matching funds for projects involving the digitization of unique historical material – thereby making the province's fascinating stories available and accessible to audiences throughout B.C. and around the world.

Since 2006, the Learning Centre has provided more than \$450,000 in total funding for 52 projects around the province. These have included many photographic digitization projects, along with a wealth of other initiatives, such as the digitization of community newspapers and publications, oral histories, early British Columbia documents and graphic materials, and much more. The program has been a huge success, and applications for the next round of funding are being accepted until December 18, 2009. For more information, please see [www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/ps/BCDigitInfo.html](http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/ps/BCDigitInfo.html)

Another innovative program is the Small Business Accelerator Program, developed in partnership with the David Lam Library at UBC's Sauder School of Business and supported by the Sutherland Foundation. The program, which is under development, aims to assist public libraries and small business agencies in B.C. that support their communities' small businesses and entrepreneurs by providing market research and business planning resources. Given that the vast majority of businesses within the province are small businesses, the accelerator should be a valuable resource.

Sector-specific guides, focusing on industries such as manufacturing, retail and professional services, will be offered, and the Small Business Accelerator website is set to launch in early 2010. Another program highlight is the provision of electronic access to the online version of The Gale Business Plans

Handbook, a respected resource that provides excellent examples of sector-specific business plans. Librarians at the Sauder School of Business find that the handbook is one of the most useful resources for business plan development. The Learning Centre has licensed perpetual access to the handbook for most B.C. public libraries, as well as some located in urban centres.

These are just two projects that highlight the Learning Centre's commitment to community engagement. We are also planning to explore ways to support the K-12 sector in rural and remote communities, discover ways that research can be applied to support local community priorities, and use Internet-based technology to share UBC lectures and events with a broad audience.

To aid our outreach efforts, we have formed an advisory committee that includes 25 UBC and community members from across the province. The UBC contingent features representatives from various faculties, the First Nations House of Learning, UBC Okanagan, the Alumni Association and more. Those from the broader community include organizations such as the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C., British Columbia Library Trustees Association, the First Nations Technology Council, secondary and post-secondary schools, public libraries and others.

The advisory committee is set to meet twice a year, and its inaugural get-together was hosted in June 2009. As the Learning Centre moves ahead, we look forward to the advisory committee's input, and we will make sure to keep you updated on developments.



For more information on the advisory committee, please see [www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/about/advisory.html](http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/about/advisory.html)



## { ADVOCACY }



### Advocacy Pays Off

As many of you are aware, one of the key things that any Board should be doing for their library is advocacy. This is stressed in TOP training and is the responsibility of all Board members.

This past summer, BCLTA, BCLA and ABCPLD along with some key members of a few large libraries joined together to develop an advocacy program around the provincial government's revised 2009/2010 budget. Of particular concern was the funding for libraries. Various sources had indicated that libraries may be receiving major cuts so this plan was put in place to arouse the awareness of libraries across the province and specifically target the Premier and the Minister of Education.

- The program consisted of many facets:
- A write in campaign using postcards
- An online website petition
- Receptions held at the local library level with invites to local and provincial politicians
- Media coverage (local and provincial newspapers, TV, radio, etc.)

This plan was intended to raise the awareness and appreciation of our patrons at all levels. And that it did. The Premier's office received approximately 30,000 postcards. The online petition had thousands of signatures. We received extensive media coverage. The receptions that were held were very successful. These were held at such places as Terrace, Houston, Castlegar, and Salmo and included representation by many of the libraries in those areas. We were pleased to see many MLA's attending these receptions.

This initiative also increased the appreciation of what our libraries do across this province. As one reporter asked Andy Ackerman, the President of BCLTA, "Why are libraries being so outspoken on this issue? I always thought that library boards were relatively quiet". Andy's response was "Why not? We are after all one of the most used facilities in the province and our boards have members that represent a large spectrum of the provincial population".

The results of the program were that the provincial budget was cut by 22%. Could the cuts have been worse? YES! We know that the advocacy program paid off.

We must not let our guard down! I would encourage all libraries at all levels to continue to keep the advocacy going as future budgets are not always guaranteed. And most importantly, we need to get those budgets and programs that we lost back as soon as possible. This depends on all of us taking an active role.

### Summer Advocacy Activities



*From left to right: Karen Filipkowski (NCLF Coordinator), MLA Robin Austin (Skeena Riding), MLA Gary Coons (North Coast) and MLA Doug Donaldson (Stikine)*

**THE NORTH COAST LIBRARY FEDERATION**, which includes the Terrace Public Library, held a thank you reception the afternoon of June 23 to thank the area's MLAs for the support shown by the provincial government. Three MLAs from the region were able to attend: MLA Gary Coons – North Coast, MLA Robin Austin – Skeena, and Doug Donaldson – Stikine. Each MLA was presented with a North Coast Library Federation book bag and book.



*From left to right: Dennis Rorick; Rose Merell; Hans Cunningham, RDCK Representative; Amy Veysey, Salmo Public Library Director; Jess Clark, Salmo Public Library Board of Directors; Janine Haughton, Village of Salmo Council; Michelle Mungall, MLA Nelson-Creston; Bailey Peters, Summer Reading Club Coordinator*

On August 7th **SALMO PUBLIC LIBRARY** welcomed Michelle Mungall, MLA for Nelson-Creston to a cowboy performance by singer Dennis Rorick and his daughter Rose Merell, as part of the Library's Summer Reading Club.



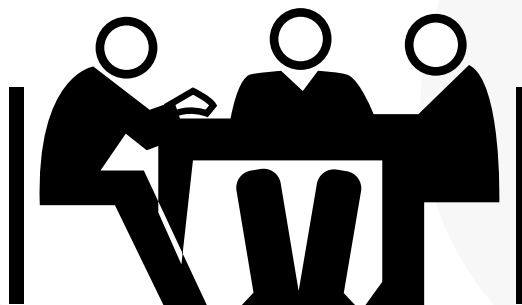


*From left to right: Gord DeRosa, Councillor, City of Trail; Katrine Conroy, MLA, Kootenay West; and Mayor Lawrence Chernoff, City of Castlegar.*

On July 10th **CASTLEGAR PUBLIC LIBRARY** hosted a meeting with Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West. Representatives from libraries in Trail, Beaver Valley, Rossland, Castlegar and the Kootenay Library Federation met with Ms. Conroy in her office to explain to her the impact that provincial grants and funding have on library service. Conroy said one of the concerns the representatives have is that the support they receive from the government may decrease as it is expected the provincial government will put forth a deficit budget. "They just want to make sure that MLAs understand the beneficial services that libraries provide to the communities," said Conroy. The libraries have promised to forward some statistics to her on how the services benefit her constituents.

**THE CRANBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY** held a reception for MLA Bill Bennett on Tuesday August 13th to show the provincial government what their funding is doing for the community. The event began with a brief overview of each of the four public libraries in the East Kootenay Service Area: Cranbrook, Elkford, Fernie and Sparwood. A presentation on the benefits of provincial funding followed, with an emphasis on how provincial dollars enable libraries across BC to cooperate, collaborate, and work together to better serve their own residents and all British Columbians. Bennett thanked the library for holding the informational meeting, and lauded the library and others around the province for the great idea to show MLAs just what the money they contribute is going to. The attendees, including Minister of Advanced Education Moira Stilwell, joked that the library's attendance beats out the Kootenay Ice Hockey games.

## Summary of Joint Library Association Meeting with Minister of Education September 29, 2009



On Tuesday, September 29th BCLTA President Andy Ackerman, BCLA President Ken Cooley and VPL Director Paul Whitney (standing in for ABCPLD President Ursula Brigl) met with the Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Early Learning. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate the essential nature of library service and the need to reinstate and increase library funding at the earliest opportunity. The crucial role the provincial government plays in leading and fostering cooperative initiatives among public libraries and between the public library sector and complementary sectors was stressed, as was the role that libraries play in assisting government to achieve its core priorities. Also discussed were recent cuts to association funding and related impacts, including fewer training and professional development opportunities for library trustees and staff. As well, the Presidents requested that the associations be kept apprised of developments around Neighbourhood Learning Centres, the pending Library Act Review, and renewal of the 2003 Strategic Plan for Public Libraries.

The Minister was receptive to feedback from the associations, but advised that she was not yet able to provide any information on 2010 funding levels for libraries. She did encourage the library sector to get involved in the Budget 2010 Consultation process – by participating in 2010 Budget discussions or by submitting letters to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. (See [www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations](http://www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations) for further information.)

In closing, BCLTA, BCLA and ABCPLD communicated their joint commitment to work with the Public Library Services Branch and the Ministry of Education to preserve vital library services across the province; and they also reiterated their request that the provincial government reinstate full funding to libraries as soon as possible.

Visit



[http://www.bclta.org/pdfs/2009\\_Association\\_Brief\\_to\\_Minister\\_MacDiarmid\\_Final.pdf](http://www.bclta.org/pdfs/2009_Association_Brief_to_Minister_MacDiarmid_Final.pdf) to access the joint BCLTA/BCLA/ABCPLD Brief to Minister MacDiarmid.

## BCLTA and BCLA Meet with BC Library Cooperative

On September 29th, 2009 BCLTA and BCLA representatives met with PLSB and Edel Toner-Rogala (Executive Director of the Burnaby Library and President of the BC Library Cooperative BCLC) to learn more about the BCLC. Some of the important points of this meeting were:

- PLSB is not associated with BCLC
- The executive are elected by the members
- Membership consists of individual libraries, both public and academic
- The primary mandate is to work collectively on special projects such as Evergreen. Other future projects may be such things as digitization
- The Evergreen project team reports to the BCLC
- They are only interested in tasks and not in governance or advocacy.
- Their funding comes from PLSB and some of the implementation fees from Evergreen.

We also discussed some possibilities for forging new alliances between the three organizations for the benefit of all three memberships.



More information can be found at

<http://cooperative.bclibraries.ca/membership/Coop%20membership%20faq.pdf>

## Budget 2010 Consultation



BCLA and BCLTA believe that it is in the public interest for the provincial government to support and fund libraries as providers of public information - both directly through provincial funding for capital, operating and one-time projects and indirectly through funding to municipalities. The people of British Columbia look to the Province to uphold their democratic right to equitable access to information regardless of where they live and to support the key democratic value of free access to information in our society and for our economy.

An investment in public libraries is an investment in BC's future; provincial re-investment must occur sooner rather than later in order to protect the many gains achieved under the Ministry of Education's 2003 Strategic Plan for Public Libraries. Public libraries and their supporters were willing to accept a temporary cut in funding in light of the provincial economic situation, but British Columbians will accept nothing short of a 100% reinstatement of the operating and targeted funds previously supporting BC's library system – as evidenced by the over thirty thousand postcards sent to Premier Campbell in support of libraries and the many thousands of signatures collected in a summer petition to protect library funding in the most recent provincial budget.

If the Province stands behind its stated commitment to literacy, it must find the resources to support BC's public libraries... institutions which are indeed on "the front lines" in providing literacy services and support to British Columbians. If Premier Campbell truly believes that libraries are a great investment then BCLA and BCLTA call on this government to increase per capita library funding so that British Columbia ranks among the highest provinces in this measure, not among the lowest, as it currently does.

## Greater Victoria Public Library 2010 Provisional Operating Budget Approved

On October 27, the Library Board approved the 2010 Provisional Operating Budget. Due to a decrease in provincial funding and fine revenue, the Library has had to make a number of reductions across our system.

This includes:

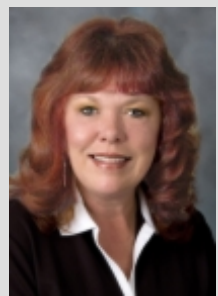
- Closing all branches on Sundays, effective January 2010, with the exception of the Central and Goudy Branches (for an expected savings of \$173,160)
- Reducing the library materials budget by \$225,000
- Reducing Staff and Board conferences and travel budget by \$20,550

- Reducing database subscriptions, food costs, office and general supplies for an additional savings of \$206,143.

In total, we have reduced our costs by \$624,853. These savings mean that Greater Victoria Public Library will require no more than a 6.5% increase in funding from our municipal partners in 2010, the majority of which will be applied towards meeting our collective bargaining commitments.



## CLTA UPDATE



### Jan Harder, CLTA President

#### OPL – New Technology

The Ottawa Public Library (OPL) has just launched a new catalogue and account management site powered by BiblioCommons.

Some of the new features of the catalogue include:

- User names: Users can create a shorter, memorable, anonymous user name.
- Search relevancy: Search results are now sorted by relevance and there are many limits available.
- Social networking: Users can share opinions, lists and thoughts with other users and find others with similar interests and tastes.
- Explore with ease: Users can browse bestsellers, new additions to the collection, award winners or materials that are generating a lot of interest.
- Virtual browsing: Library users are not limited to just what is shelved at their local branch, now they can view all the contents of all OPL locations.
- Create lists: Users can keep track of what they want to read, listen to and watch. Then they can share their lists, keep them to themselves or follow others.
- Activity history: Users are able to keep track of all their activity at a single location that is searchable and can be sorted.



Currently users can access both catalogues, but with the upcoming re-launch of the OPL website, the old catalogue will be phased out. You can have a look at the new catalogue at:

<http://bibliocommons.biblioottawalibrary.ca>

This is just the first of many technology upgrades planned for the Ottawa library in the near future.

#### OPL – Teen Strategy

The Ottawa Public Library (OPL) has approved a new teen strategy. The Teen Services Strategy will serve as a blueprint for the libraries planning of services to teens from 2009-2013.

The Ottawa library has already had early success attracting and involving teens through focused elements like their strong teen collection and following the input of teen advisory groups to create inviting teen spaces.



The new strategy will integrate all the existing elements with new and exciting ones like a new teen website and electronic collections and then promote these as a whole, to teens.

In taking on this proactive and holistic approach to services to teens through the Teen Services Strategy, the OPL will build on the foundation of children's services to continue strong academic and recreational support to teens.



You can watch as the library launches its new teen programs and outreach at <http://teens.biblioottawalibrary.ca>

#### CLA/CLTA

Canadian Library Trustee Association (CLTA) President, Jan Harder, and Canadian Library Association (CLTA) Executive Director, Kelly Moore, spoke to the Canadian Finance Committee on Oct. 26.

Together they raised the issues of public library infrastructure, the Canada Post Library Book Rate and library services for Canadians with print disabilities and asked for funding support in these three fundamental areas.



A video of their presentation can be found online at:

<http://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/Parlvu/ContentEntityDetailView.aspx?ContentEntityId=5134>

#### Looking for information about sessions, events and accommodation for the BC Library Conference in Penticton?

##### VISIT

[www.bclibraryconference.ca](http://www.bclibraryconference.ca)

##### WHEN:

Thursday, April 22, 2010 - Saturday, April 24, 2010

##### WHERE:

Penticton Trade and Convention Centre  
273 Power Street, Penticton BC V2A 7K9



Seriously Entertaining:  
Learning through Fun and Games  
April 22-24, 2010, Penticton



## UPDATES FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE



### Public Library InterLINK

In January 2009, Board members and Administrators from InterLINK's 18 member libraries came together to develop a strategic plan that would provide direction for the organization and ensure that it was able to continue its mission

of assisting libraries as they work collaboratively and provide open access to each other's collections for the 2.6 million British Columbians served by InterLINK member libraries.

The January strategic planning session identified a number of key results areas that were subsequently grouped into four strategic areas: services to users, services to member libraries, governance and external relations. The strategic plan was endorsed by InterLINK's Board and the Administrators Advisory Group and was sent back to member boards for final approval.

This final approval will take place in the fall of 2009 and will chart InterLINK's course for the next three years (to read the most recent draft of the strategic plan, go to [http://interlink.smallboxsoftware.net/about/current\\_news.htm](http://interlink.smallboxsoftware.net/about/current_news.htm)).

The process of developing a strategic plan for InterLINK paralleled a time of uncertainty for the province's public libraries. As is well-known, the global economic meltdown that has dominated the news for much of 2009 has also had an impact in British Columbia. As the provincial government worked to deal with the recession, there were the inevitable rumours that funding for public library services was one of the targets for cuts.

InterLINK libraries (and other library organizations) responded with a series of discussions that ultimately resulted to a campaign led by the major library associations in BC (BCLTA, BCLA, ABCPLD) that engaged citizens across the province and sent a clear message to the provincial government that public libraries in BC are valued by their users. By all accounts, the campaign succeeded in reversing most of the rumoured cuts. The campaign served as strong reminder that InterLINK provides an excellent way for its libraries to communicate, and also for those libraries to communicate with the rest of the provincial library community.

Another impact of the cuts to library programs was that although libraries seemed to have been pulled from the brink of major funding cuts, cuts did occur, and those cuts will be felt by libraries and their users. The InterLINK strategic plan emphasizes that in working collaboratively libraries are better positioned to endure cuts. Working together allows libraries to find cooperative ways to improve services when and where that cooperation makes sense.

InterLINK continues to work on behalf of its 18 member libraries, assisting in their continuing efforts to provide the highest quality service to their communities.

### Current BC Library Federations and their members

BC currently has six library federations:

**Public Library InterLINK**

**North East Library Federation** (formerly members of Peace River Associated Libraries)

**Kootenay Library Federation**

**North Coast Library Federation**

**North Central Library Federation** (formerly members of North Central Libraries Association)

**IslandLink Library Federation**

[www.bclibraries.ca/home/bc-library-federation](http://www.bclibraries.ca/home/bc-library-federation)

### Greater Victoria Public Library

#### Connecting Teens, Books and Social Networking



IGVPL is helping teens share their love for both books and online social networking. Beginning in 2010, GVPL will lead the online Teen Reading Club program [TeenRC](#) for public libraries across Canada. TeenRC celebrates teen literacy by encouraging reading, writing and discussion.

"Truly TeenRC has changed my life, I used to be in assisted learning classes, but because this website has encouraged me to read ... it is no longer a chore." Writing reviews is a unique experience that one doesn't get in school.

Because of this website, I am no longer in learning support, getting A's in English and I love to read! I would like to be an author so that I can transform others lives like the library and TeenRC have done to mine". – Celine, Member of the TeenRC

This program is supported through generous grants from the Ministry of Education's Public Library Services Branch and the Times Colonist Raise a Reader Fund.

### Penticton Public Library Board

The Penticton Public Library Board has been working with the City to secure funds to create a detailed Concept Plan that would enable the Library to be "shovel ready" in the event more Federal infrastructure grants become available. The initial Library/Museum Study developed by Meiklejohn Architects, was received by Council in 2004. The Board has since been unsuccessful in securing the funds to expand the Library at our current location. There have been discussions around the Library with respect to moving to a P2 (public/private) project in the downtown area, and there also has been talk about the Library taking over the 785 Main Street Complex and relocating the Museum which shares the facility with the Library. On the upside, the Library is front and centre in our community seeing over 5000 visits per week. The Board is optimistic that sooner rather than later, there will be a new or expanded library in Penticton. Stay tuned.

## Nelson Municipal Library

### Oyster-Aid for Literacy Project

Sheryl MacKay hosts this year's Oysters, Authors and Ale at Mary Hall this Friday night (7 p.m.).

Last year, the inaugural "Oysters, Ale and Authors" fundraiser injected over \$4,300 into The Learning Place - an adult literacy centre recently opened on the lower level of the Nelson Municipal Library. The Learning Place literacy centre, a collaborative initiative with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, is part of a four-phase library expansion project.

This year, the second Oyster-aid event, hosted by CBC Radio's North by Northwest host Sheryl MacKay, raised an additional \$5,500 for the expansion project. Close to two hundred people packed Selkirk College's Mary Hall to enjoy delicious hor'd'oeuvres prepared by College students, to listen to author readings and, of course, to sample marvelous mollusks provided by Brent Petkau, the Oyster Man.

June Stockdale, Chief Librarian, says that library staff is excited about having a dedicated space for learning and literacy. "Libraries are all about literacy and learning and we do offer a lot of different types of programs, but this takes it to another level."

The Learning Place offers twice-a-week literacy drop-in for adults and youth, in addition to an English as a second language program. Joan Exley, of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, says the group is a host for the learning space but it is also making the space available to the community. "We're inviting other community partners to come and use that space for literacy and learning opportunities for the community."

### Fundraising begins for library expansion

History has a way of repeating itself.

So it is with the Nelson Library. In 1899 the need for a library became obvious after the community's reading room became "very popular".

One hundred years later the need is real again, with the Nelson Municipal Library undertaking an expansion project to fully utilize the quarters it has in the Stanley Street building.

The facility in those days came out of community demand, just as the reason for the expansion arises now, said Susan Chew, organizer of the community fundraising arm of the library expansion.

"It is interesting to see how history keeps repeating itself with the library and the community of Nelson and how they continue to grow together," she said. "It is a well used and well loved part of the community."

The fundraising for the expansion project kicked off this week, with several projects planned to raise the community's one-quarter share of the \$400,000 expansion project budget.

The first aim of the fundraising campaign is to provide information about

the expansion project to the public, said Chew, so that people understand why they are undertaking the project and how well used it is.

"On average 600 people visit the library each day," said chief librarian June Stockdale. "Seventy five per cent of the people in Nelson hold a library card and our annual circulation has increased 32 per cent in two years."

The expansion project allows for better use of existing space, said Chew, improving its accessibility and ensuring service for future generations. They can actually almost double the space of the library by putting in the interior stairwell and stair lift.

The only way people can reach the lower reaches of the library is by going outside and around the building, making it not a very feasible as part of the library.

By creating better access to the space they can expand the programs and collections of the library, said Chew, without having to relocate or do a huge construction project.

"We need more space - space for people to read, to research, to learn new skills and languages, to discover movies and music and to uncover the history of our vibrant community," said Nelson Municipal Library board chair, Dianne Harke.

People can donate in person (and online), purchase a Christmas gift card in someone's name, buy raffle tickets for a chance to win a vacation package (only 500 tickets are being sold locally), remember a special person with a donation in their name and make a family donation.

A vision challenge will also be launched to assess what young people want the library to do with their space downstairs. Every submission is entered into a draw for different giveaways like iTunes downloads.

The campaign runs until March when it will be re-assessed. Drop by the library to make a donation or to take part in the raffle.

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## Vanderhoof Public Library

A very successful summer reading club program was held with an average of 15 participants attending one of four programs offered during the six week time frame for 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 year olds. A new program was added to accommodate children of all ages to meet the requests of parents wishing to have their children coming into the library at the same time.

With the warm sunny weather, two storytimes in the park were presented to an eager crowd of over twenty children and parents.

At the end of August the Vanderhoof Fire Department came to the Library, complete with fire truck, and gave a safety demonstration to approximately 40 children and their parents. While stressing safety, the program, complete with puppet, was very entertaining.

Our multi-purpose room continues to showcase artists work in and around our community. An excellent way for the general public to become aware and appreciate the remarkable artistic talent in our area. This room has also become a meeting place for important community information and projects such as "Save the Nechako Sturgeon" presentation.

## Kimberley Public Library

### Recent events at The Kimberley Library Board:

- We were very fortunate, late last year, to obtain the services of our Director, Karin Von Wittgenstein. Karin has been very active, getting to know our wonderful staff and our friendly community, assessing and upgrading the library materials and computer system, improving and expanding programs, and working with the board on our renovations.
- Renovations to our 25 year old building have begun, with much appreciated grants from the City of Kimberley and British Columbia Towns for Tomorrow.
  - A new heating and air conditioning system has been installed.
  - In the new year, interior renovations will proceed. These will include a second floor reading room, new high efficiency lighting throughout, new carpet in the collections area and new sheet flooring in the high traffic areas, new colorful painting, upgraded electrical and communications, window shading devices, and most importantly a small elevator to permit Kimberley's disabled and elderly to easily access that second floor. The construction period will be testing, but the results we're sure will be wonderful.
- Recent Library Events :
  - One Book One Kootenay (OBOK) event with Author Angie Abdou
  - Presentation (by donation to library) by Randy Harris – Travels in Australia
  - Presentation by Author Larry Jacobson "Jewel of the Kootenays: The Emerald Mine"
  - Film Nights

Over the summer, our outdoor area has been much improved with new paving, planting areas and hanging flower baskets. To view that, and for more info on the Kimberley Public Library, visit: <http://kimberley.bclibrary.ca>

## BCLTA's Parliamentary Corner Q&A

# Q

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# A

### Can we change our mind?

At our last regular monthly meeting of our local Library Trustees Association a motion was adopted that with the benefit of hindsight, we wish we had not made. Can we now change our mind? If yes, how do we do it?

### Answer



Yes, you can change your mind, by using one of the following methods.

1. **RECONSIDER:** The motion to Reconsider the Vote must be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side, affirmative or negative. It is debatable if the motion to be reconsidered is debatable. The motion to Reconsider the Vote must be made on the same day as the motion to be reconsidered was made. Requires a majority vote to adopt. RONR (10th ed.) p. 304
2. **RESCIND:** The motion to Rescind is used to repeal an action that the assembly has taken previously. A vote cannot be rescinded after action has been taken, such as the signing of a contract, a resignation or the expenditure of a sum of money. This motion requires a two-thirds vote, or a majority of the entire membership, or a majority vote with previous notice. This motion must be seconded, is debatable and amendable. RONR (10th ed.) p. 293
3. **TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:** This motion can be applied to main motions, bylaws, special rules of order, and minutes of previous meetings. This motion requires a two-thirds vote, or a majority of the entire membership, or a majority vote with previous notice. This motion must be seconded, is debatable and amendable. RONR (10th ed.) p. 293





## Membership Benefits

### { WHY BELONG TO BCLTA? }

#### ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR BC PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The British Columbia Library Trustees' Association was registered under the Society Act of BC on February 9, 1977. It represents 69 library boards and over 650 library trustees who volunteer their time on library boards throughout our province. The Association provides support and representation for library trustees. Board-appointed members exercise their votes at the annual meeting and individual trustees are eligible to run for the BCLTA Executive, which meets four times per year.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in BCLTA is an institutional membership for the library board, with each board appointing individual member(s) to carry voting privileges to the annual meeting. Institutional membership is available to the board of any public library recognized by BCLTA. Associate and honorary/life memberships in BCLTA are also available.

#### As part of a BCLTA member library board, you enjoy these benefits:

- Organized representation to the provincial government;
- BCLTA's trustee handbooks (online) - The Effective Board Member and The Board Chair;
- BCLTA annual conference;
- Province-wide Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) and Chairing the Board training;
- Subscription to the Open Door newsletter;
- Full access to WebJunction BC ([www.bc.webjunction.org](http://www.bc.webjunction.org));
- Eligibility to run for the BCLTA Executive;
- Representation to the Canadian Library Trustees' Association;
- Representation to the other library associations and the Public Library Services Branch;
- Annual representation at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention as funding permits; and
- The right to nominate individuals or organizations for BCLTA awards and eligibility to receive awards.

#### BCLTA SUPPORTS THE TRUSTEE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

##### BCLTA Awards

Appreciation for outstanding efforts in library service:

- Nancy Bennett Merit Award
- Super Trustee Award
- Library Advocate Award

##### Conference

The BCLTA conference is held annually either as a stand-alone event or in partnership with the BC Library Association. Themed speeches, sessions, forums, awards ceremonies, annual general meeting and social events are planned for trustees, by trustees.

##### Newsletter

The Open Door is published twice annually. Institutional membership in the Association includes copies for each board member, as funding permits, otherwise received electronically.

##### E-Bulletins

Periodic email updates are conveyed to the membership in order to keep trustees informed of issues, events, announcements and news of interest to library boards.

##### Website

BCLTA's online presence - [www.bclta.org](http://www.bclta.org) - where you'll find information on the Association and a wealth of resources and materials specifically for trustees.

##### Trustee Orientation Program (TOP)

- Presented upon request at cost-recovery throughout BC
- Access to TOP Online

##### Board Chair Training

- Periodic training sessions offered to groups of board chairs and to prospective board chairs

##### WJBC

- Membership in WebJunction BC, a place for library staff, trustees and volunteers to take advantage of free educational and other resources and to meet online to learn and share information about all types of libraries. Visit WJBC at [www.bc.webjunction.org](http://www.bc.webjunction.org).

#### SUBMISSIONS TO OPEN DOOR

Is your board involved in unique project you'd like to tell your fellow trustees about? Is there an upcoming library event, funding opportunity, or regional initiative that deserves special attention? Do you have a success story to share? How about an interesting photo of your library? Open Door invites you to submit your articles, photos and story ideas to the editor at [admin@bclta.org](mailto:admin@bclta.org). Help us to keep on top of the BC library scene!

[www.bclta.org](http://www.bclta.org)

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

'To develop and support library trustees to advance public library service in British Columbia'