

MANAGEMENT REPORT



Date: March 19, 2015
Author: Jacqueline van Dyk – Director, Library Services

Meeting date: March 26, 2015
To: Library Board
From: Jacqueline van Dyk – Director, Library Services

Subject: **BCLA AND BCLTA CONFERENCES 2015**

SUMMARY

The BC Library Association (BCLA) offers an annual conference, the "BC Library Conference", as an opportunity for the library community to gather together to learn, connect and develop relationships and strategies for moving libraries forward. This year's BC Library Conference will be held in Richmond on May 20-22. (*Appendix I & II*) Tacked on to this, the BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA) is holding training sessions and a reception on May 22, and a one-day conference and AGM on May 23. (*Appendix III*)

Both events offer excellent and complementary opportunities to develop understandings of library issues and opportunities, learn more about the work of libraries, engage with speakers from within and outside the library field, and meet with librarians and trustees from other libraries. Trustees are encouraged to consider participating in one or both of these conferences to inform your governance work with NVDPL.

PURPOSE

This report is for information.

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Library Association was established in 1911. It is a nonprofit, independent, voluntary association. Its more than 800 members include librarians, library personnel, library trustees, other interested individuals, and institutions. A key element of its mandate is to support the development and continuing education of the BC library community.

The BCLTA, founded in 1977, represents the boards and trustees that govern local public libraries in British Columbia. They represent 71 library boards and more than 700 library trustees who volunteer

their time to oversee the successful operations of public libraries throughout the province. In fulfilling their mission, “to support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries,” they strive to provide a range of services to trustees and boards to help them become leaders in their communities.

Over the years, the BCLTA has frequently joined in with the BC Library Association in holding a conference for the library community. Occasionally, the BCLTA has hosted their own conference, and in 2014, they joined with the Canadian Library Association who held their annual conference in Victoria.

Whether the BCLTA co-hosts with the BC Library Association, or goes on their own, library trustees are always welcome to attend the BC Library Conference.

DISCUSSION

The BC Library Association has structured this year's conference, *Creative Communities*, into curated sessions that are meant to introduce attendees to speakers from outside the library environment who are tackling similar issues and assessing similar challenges to those facing libraries.

The sessions are organized by program streams that represent vital areas of dialogue to take libraries forward: access, evidence, activism, place, and work. The streams are areas of shared interest for everyone in all libraries and are meant to transcend the boundaries that can keep library sectors in silos.

The BCLTA Conference, *Relationships in Governance: Finding Common Ground*, complements this with sessions that focus on community connections, K-12 context and the shared leadership model. This trustee-focused day includes their Annual General Meeting.

Library trustees are entitled to register for the main conference at BCLA member rates. Full conference for members, at early bird rates (register before April 14) is \$325. The BCLTA conference, including the Friday opening reception, is \$125.

At this point, the Board's budget is unknown, but is anticipated to be at least \$6,700. Board meeting costs, training workshops, the Christmas party and BCLTA membership dues are allocated to this budget. Budget allocation decisions can be made by the Board at the April meeting, at which time the Board's budget will be known.

As a point of reference, selection criteria for staff who wish to attend the conference is based on supporting work goals and is reimbursed at the early bird member's rates. Attendance comes with an expectation of sharing the learning by reporting back to colleagues in some way.

FINAL REMARKS

Various library staff (including management) will be in attendance at the conference and would be delighted to engage in conversation with our trustees.



March 10th, 2015

Dear BC Library Directors,

On behalf of the British Columbia Library Association I'd like to invite you, your staff and your Trustees to the 2015 BC Library Conference, May 20th to the 22nd at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel.

The BC Library Conference brings together people from across the province to discuss, explore, assess and build new ideas about libraries. This year's conference program is a blend of library generated sessions and sessions that the Conference Planning Committee has curated for the program. The curated sessions are meant to introduce attendees to speakers from outside the library environment who are tackling similar issues and assessing similar challenges to those facing libraries. Overall we want to provide the space and inspiration for each attendee to consider the intersections between current library work, potential library work, and a vision for the future.

The brief descriptions below are a sample of some of the sessions that may be of interest to you, your staff or your Trustees.

In Conversation with Penny Ballem: Dr. Ballem joined the City of Vancouver in 2008 as the City Manager after a diverse career in the health sector and administration. She'll discuss the role of libraries in their communities from a municipal perspective. She will specifically consider the wider roles libraries can play to support local government.

Library of the Year: Leading Change and Transforming Culture: Join Pilar Martinez, Deputy CEO of the Edmonton Public Library as she discusses the challenges that instigated a shift in organizational culture at the Edmonton Public Library. In 2014 EPL was named Library of the Year by Library Journal, the first Canadian library to be honoured by the journal.

Learning Beyond the School: Libraries and Learning Transformation: Rod Allen, Superintendent of Learning with the BC Ministry of Education hosts a session focused on education transformation, an introduction to personalized learning and the role of public libraries in new partnerships and new directions from the Ministry.

Public Engagement for Public Libraries: Make it Fun, Make it Count: This hands-on, interactive session showcases a variety of engagement tools used in recent planning and engagement processes for public libraries across Canada. Emory Davidge, Principal, The Public Good: Planning and Public Engagement, Samm Bradd, Principal, Drawing Change, and Daphne Wood, Director, Planning and Organizational Development, Vancouver Public Library will host the session.

Beyond the Book: Brand the New Library: This session reimagines the brand of the library and suggests a new graphic language that moves away from books and towards the concepts of networks, dialogue, innovation and collaboration. Kevin Broome has over ten years' experience working in digital development, social media and creative strategy. He has worked with Starbucks, the Canadian National Railway and The Heart & Stroke Foundation, among others.



Telling Your Story: Marketing Your Library and its Programs: Lesli Boldt, President of Boldt Communication, Inc mounts a session to talk about the many tools and approaches libraries can use to tell their own stories to patrons, stakeholders and the larger community.

Towards a Renewed National Voice for Libraries: CLA Reinvents Itself: Join incoming CLA President Sandra Singh, incoming BCLA President Caroline Daniels and CLA Treasurer Michael Ridley to discuss the potential future of our national library association.

To see the conference program in full: http://bclaconnect.ca/2015-conference/?page_id=171

To register for the conference: <http://bclibraryconf.eventbrite.com/?aff=dir>

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind Directors that BCLA offers Trustees the same discounted registration price as our personal member rate, regardless of whether they are a personal member or not.

If you are interested in staying at the conference hotel BCLA has negotiated a nightly rate of \$145 plus taxes per night for conference attendees. Reservations can be made online here: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1410179104&key=A36B64E>

For a full list of BCLA Continuing Education Awards and Scholarships please see:

https://bclaconnect.ca/?page_id=920

Many of the scholarships and awards can help offset the cost of travel to the conference and the cost of accommodation.

I hope you are interested in this year's BC Library Conference.
I look forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Buzzell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Buzzell
BCLA President



British Columbia Library Association

Creative Communities

BC Library Conference 2015

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC
May 20-22, 2015

Program + Speakers

Conference At a Glance

For a list of sessions and events happening each day, visit:

[Wednesday Sessions](#)

[Thursday Sessions](#)

[Friday Sessions](#)

For an overview of all the events happening by day:

[Thursday Overview](#)

[Friday Overview](#)

We are continuing with program streams in 2015 believing they are vital areas of dialogue to take us forward: access, evidence, activism, place, and work. The streams are areas of shared and necessary interest for everyone in all libraries. We believe that these streams transcend the boundaries that can keep library sectors in silos.

There are 5 programming streams: access, activism, evidence, place and work.

Access Commodification of information, copyright, licensing vs ownership, digitization and preservation, metadata schemas and standards, open access, closed stacks, and institutional repositories – ensuring information remains accessible for everyone is not easy or guaranteed. Are our current tools of access and description adequate? What are we doing to advocate for free access and is it enough? What are the threats to access in both the physical and digital worlds?

Activism We are not neutral. We are information activists, creators of information policy, advocates for intellectual freedom and protection of privacy. We challenge exclusion and digital divides and support social justice and diversity. How are we upholding the values and missions that protect and support our communities? What are we doing both internally and externally to ensure the library remains an open and inclusive space? What issues should we identify, address, or rally around to continue this important aspect of our profession?

Evidence Evidence based library practice anyone? With this stream, we hope to make space for librarians and other information professionals to talk about research and how their findings can contribute to decision making in our professional practice. Let's look beyond reference and circulation stats and ask how are we really doing?

Place Learning space, maker/hackerspace, community space, physical and online space- the library as place of cultural and intellectual meaning is in a period of renewal. We are reconfiguring our spaces to be flexible and in many ways undefined. What are we learning about public space, user needs, and libraries as places?

Work From collective bargaining and workers' rights to professional development and identity, to the nuanced politics of communal fridges, we all share experiences and have valuable insight to contribute as workers. In this stream, we propose an exploration of that role within our various contexts. Let's talk theory, practice, and everything in between.



BCLTA Conference 2015

Relationships in Governance: Finding Common Ground

This year's BCLTA conference will be held on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 at the Richmond Public Library and at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, immediately following the BC Library Association conference May 20 - 22.

The Sheraton has kindly extended the reduced room rate of \$145 per night to BCLTA conference attendees.

We are grateful to the Libraries Branch, Ministry of Education, whose financial support has allowed us to keep registration costs as low as possible.

Friday, May 22

9:00 – 4:00 Trustee Orientation Program

Cost: \$125
Location: Richmond Public Library
Includes: Continental breakfast, lunch, course materials

1:00 – 4:00 Chairing the Board

Cost: \$75
Location: Richmond Public Library
Includes: Refreshments, course materials

5:00 – 7:00 Annual Awards Ceremony and Reception

Cost: Included in conference price (\$125)
Location: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond
Includes: Appetizers, cash bar, annual awards, keynote speaker

Our keynote speaker for this event is Mr. Ken Roberts, who will speak on *The Future of the Book*: Most eBooks are simply digitalized versions of printed books. What will happen when *books* are designed as electronic products? Are libraries prepared for new definitions of what we mean by the word *book*?

Ken Roberts was Chief Librarian of the Hamilton Public Library from 1994 until 2012, and is a popular speaker on the technology and trends affecting the future of libraries. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on the Future of Libraries in Canada, the former President of the Canadian Library Association and the Ontario Library Association, and is a former Governor General Award nominee for Children's Literature.

Saturday, May 23

9:00 – 5:00 Conference Sessions

Cost: \$125 (includes Friday evening opening reception)
Location: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond
Includes: Continental breakfast, lunch

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome

Paul Tutsch, President, BCLTA

9:15 – 10:15 The Future of Education and Implications for Libraries

Rod Allen, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Superintendent of Learning, Ministry of Education; Director, Libraries Branch.

10:30 – 12:00 Community Collaboration

Maureen Sawa, CEO, Greater Victoria Public Library: It's Not the Collection, It's the Connection
Michelle Colussi, Transitionus: Measuring What Matters

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 Shared Leadership: The Board and the CEO

Kathy Gibler, Executive Director, Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Gardens
Chair, Board of Trustees, Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Gardens

2:30 – 3:30 Annual General Meeting

3:45 – 5:00 Trustee Roundtable