



BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

2016 / 2017 Annual Report



To support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries

President's Message

Being of a certain age (well over 40, unlike BCLTA!), my memory is not as lively as it once was. To prepare this report, I went back over our meeting minutes for the past year. And very soon, I was exhausted. There's a lot going on!

And yet...BCLTA is a very small organization, with a 2017 budget of about \$107,000 and two part-time staff. The board of directors who serve on the BCLTA board also serve on their home library boards (not to mention having jobs, families and other volunteer positions).

So it's really quite amazing how much gets done. Let me give you a quick rundown, organized by our strategic priorities.

Priority #1 – Advocate on behalf of public libraries. The goal is to ensure public libraries in BC thrive.

Our ED (Babs), Director Roberta Burriss and I advised on the development of the provincial document *Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities*, completed last fall. Frequent phone meetings and a couple in-person meetings, for a total of 18 consultations! Our focus was to ensure trustees and their important roles were recognized and supported throughout the document.

We had a lively presence at the UBCM trade show. Being right next to the Conservation Service booth helped – lots of discussion about bears and books! Our umbrellas were a coveted item too. And we had a congenial, productive meeting with Minister Bernier.

We continued to work with our library partners (BC Library Association, BC Libraries Co-op and the Association of BC Library Directors) on advocacy initiatives. And we are building relationships with the BC Museums Association, BC School Trustees Association, UBCM and others. These are all ways to raise the profile of public libraries and build support for them, and provide opportunities for collaboration.

BCLTA also made submissions, on our members' behalf, to the Rural Education Strategy and the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government services, and continued our advocacy to the provincial government right up to the budget release. We also provided tools (such as letter templates) for trustees to craft their own submissions.

Priority #2 – Support trustees. The goal is to enhance trustee effectiveness.

The Trustee Learning and Development project was completed and accepted by the BCLTA board in February. The board directed the Executive Director to begin implementation of the recommendations, some of which are included elsewhere in this report.

The results of the Governance survey, launched last summer, were released in March. Our goal was to understand better the shared experiences and unique differences of our members, in order to respond most effectively.

TOP training sessions were well-utilized over the past year. In 2016 nine sessions were offered, and this year already five sessions have occurred or are planned. We've identified that the workbook needs to be updated and a TOP Advisory Committee will be created to help with that. Interested? Contact Babs!

Communication with our members is top-of-mind. We reduced the number of *Bulletins* to bimonthly, and now send to library board chairs monthly *Board Briefs* that contain highlights from BCLTA meetings. We're working on a website upgrade, but in the meantime sections are being tweaked (see the Advocacy section). And there's quite a bit of tweeting going on too!

Babs connects with our members frequently, providing assistance on a wide range of concerns and issues. The Board also gets out and about. I attended a Kootenay Library Federation meeting and director David Carter attended a TOP training in Squamish recently.

Priority #3 – Strengthen organizational effectiveness. The goal is to strengthen and develop internal organizational capacity.

A strong and well-functioning BCLTA is essential to manage our workload and serve our members. To ensure that, for example, we've been doing board development sessions, prior to meetings, and have begun to review our seriously outdated policy manual. Don't we all love to do that work!

In closing, I want to thank our ED Babs Kelly and our Administrative Assistant Jan Thomas for all their hard work on behalf of BC library trustees. They provide truly outstanding leadership and support.

I also want to thank the board of directors for all their contributions. As I described above, they are busy people and yet they are faithful and committed governors of BCLTA.

And, of course, I want to thank BCLTA members for their ongoing work to make their libraries shine, and for the opportunity to serve as a director for five years, including two years as president. It's been...well, an adventure! I'm so happy to have learned more about BC public library world. It gives me hope.

Here's to another fabulous 40 years (at least)!

Warmest wishes,



Donna Macdonald

BCLTA President 2015-2017

Board of Directors

Donna Macdonald



President 2015 – 2016
On the BCLTA board since 2012
Nelson Public Library

As President of BCLTA, Donna's priorities have been enhancing the support provided to library trustees across the province, including engaging trustees in ongoing advocacy and education about libraries and strengthening the BCLTA as an organization.

Paul Tutsch



Past President 2015 – 2016
On the BCLTA board since 2010
Whistler Public Library

Paul brings many years of trustee experience to the BCLTA including 8 years (2004-2011) as a trustee with the West Vancouver Memorial Library during which time he received the BCLTA Super Trustee Award (2008).

Susan Koch



Treasurer 2015 – 2017
On the BCLTA board since 2015
Richmond Public Library

As a business leader and Chartered Accountant, Susan brings over thirty years of financial, human resource, and analytical expertise to BCLTA. Susan is committed to working to help libraries be as relevant to our communities in our grandchildren's lifetime as they were in hers.

Jerrilyn Schembri



Director 2015 – 2017
On the BCLTA board since 2013
Tumbler Ridge Public Library

Jerrilyn has extensive volunteer and government experience including being a Director at large for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the North Central Local Government Association, and she has served as town councillor for the District of Tumbler Ridge for two terms. Currently Jerrilyn is a grant writer for the District of Tumbler Ridge and a volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross and the Province in Disaster Response and Recovery.

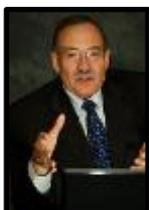
Roberta Burris



Director 2015 – 2017
On the BCLTA board since 2013
Greater Victoria Public Library

Roberta began her working life as a page in her local library, fostering a life-long passion for libraries and literacy. After an extensive career in public service as an information officer, investigator/mediator and internal consultant on human rights, Roberta is now the owner of Burris & Associates Consulting, working with a wide range of non-profit and public sector organizations.

Ernie Ingles



Director 2015 – 2017
On the BCLTA board since 2015
Penticton Public Library

Ernie has had an extensive career in the library community including holding a variety of executive positions, a long list of publications and presentations, founding of the Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute and as a member of the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on the status and future of Canadian libraries and archives which delivered the report, *The Future Now: Canada's Libraries, Archives, and Public Memory*.

David Carter



Director 2016 – 2018
On the BCLTA board since 2016
West Vancouver Memorial Library

David has spent much of his career in public service, including city management, the Canadian Government and a provincial Crown corporation, with a focus on public policy and strategic planning. He has been an active community volunteer, board member and fundraiser throughout his life for a variety of causes including the arts, orchestral music, economic development, community support, and environmental conservation. He is currently the WVML board chair.

Erin Carlson



Director 2016 – 2018
On the BCLTA board since 2016
Okanagan Regional Library

Erin was elected in 2014 to municipal council for the District of Summerland. Since then, she has been the Summerland representative on the ORL Board and was involved in the ORL Strategic Planning process in 2015. She believes that libraries are an essential part of every community. Erin works full time as a horticulturalist and sales manager for her family cherry operation. She also helps coordinate the BC Cherry Association.

Kyla Epstein



Director 2016 – 2018
On the BCLTA board since 2016
Vancouver Public Library

Kyla is the Member Engagement Officer with the BCIT Faculty & Staff Association. With almost two decades of experience in non-profit administration, governance, fundraising, engagement and communications, Kyla is an active volunteer having served on many boards including Check Your Head, PEDAL, Kiwassa St. David's Preschool, Rising Star Co-op, and Next Up. She currently sits on the executive for the PAC at her son's school, serves as a Director with the BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA), and is a 2017 participant in the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference. In her final term with VPL she is honoured to be serving as the Chair. To fill in her free time Kyla loves to read and is lucky to have a child who still loves to be read to.

Mike Gagel



Director 2016 - 2018
On the BCLTA board since 2016
Prince George Public Library

Mike holds a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from the University of British Columbia and has progressively focused his career on staff education and the use of technology. Mike is a Cub Scout leader, Chair of his children's school Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and Vice-Chair of the SD57 Prince George District PAC. Mike also serves as Vice-Chair of the Prince George Public Library and sits on the Policy and Governance Committee and Chairs the Local History Committee. An avid reader, Mike's recent interests include medieval European history, and modern murder-mystery, spy, and science fiction novels. He also enjoys listening to audio books and downloads e-books frequently. Mike's other interests include technology and Maker initiatives, birding, backyard astronomy, and travel.

Please visit bclta.ca for more information about the BCLTA Board and for contact information.

Executive Director's Message

In my role at BCLTA I have the privilege of working with a board of directors who bring their commitment to local community governance and public libraries to province wide discussions, strategy, and influence. This past year BCLTA has strengthened its collaborative relationship with our library sector partners and other organizations; provided advisement to the Libraries Branch on their strategic planning; connected with government and elected officials on our priorities for public libraries (funding, First Nations' library services, and connectivity); and have improved engagement with our members to build an association that understands and strives to meet the membership needs of boards and trustees.

Some highlights include:

- Participating in the 2016 UBCM Exhibitor Hall where we met with Mayors, Councillors, MLAs and library trustees from across the province.
- Meeting, along with our library partners, with Minister Bernier.
- Building local and province-wide advocacy and influence capacity.
 - <http://bclta.ca/bclta-advocacy-actions>
- Researching and sharing *The Trustee Learning and Development Project: Report and Framework*
 - <http://bclta.ca/trustee-education>
- Delivering TOP and Chairing the Board sessions to nearly 150 trustees across the province.
- Researching and sharing the *2016 B.C. Public Library Board Governance and Planning Survey Results*
 - <http://bclta.ca/member-services/bclta-surveys>
- Increasing our engagement with trustees across the province through the *Bulletin*, monthly *BCLTA Board Briefs*, social media, research consultations, committee work, supporting board process, sharing resources and information, TOP, and whenever and however it is possible to hear from you about your work and the difference you are making to your library and community.

Coming up!

- TOP rethink/refresh.
- Website redevelopment.
- Increased advocacy and influence as we get ready for post-election relationship building, the 2017 UBCM convention, the 2018 budget consultations (it's not just about the budget, it's also about how we communicate and who we influence!), and the 2018 municipal elections.

I look forward to hearing from, and working with you, as we strengthen our membership connections and association in the upcoming year.

Kind regards,

Barbara Kelly



To support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries

The BCLTA, founded in 1977, represents the boards and trustees that govern local public libraries in British Columbia. We 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.

Our mission is “to support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries,” and in doing so, we strive to provide a range of services to trustees and boards to help them become leaders in their communities.

BCLTA also fills an important strategic role, providing organized representation to local, provincial, and federal governments on behalf of library trustees. We undertake ongoing advocacy work to these same levels of government and the public to raise the profile of – and resolve the issues facing – public libraries across British Columbia.

Our Vision

Vital to library trustees

Our Mission

To support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries

Member Services

BCLTA offers a range of services to support its members in their vital role as public library trustees. These include:

- The BCLTA BULLETIN, a regular email newsletter highlighting news articles, events and stories of interest to our membership
- Publications we have developed to illuminate the responsibilities of trustee and board governance
- Ongoing surveys and research results about BC libraries and library boards
- An annual awards program to recognize trustees whose service and commitment is outstanding.
- An annual conference, either stand-alone or in conjunction with other library organizations
- The Trustee Orientation Program (TOP), BCLTA's flagship training program
- A new directors' and officers' insurance program for library boards to protect trustees from personal legal liability
- Our website, bclta.ca, which we strive to produce as the go-to resource for BC library trustee

BCLTA Strategic Action Plan 2016 – 2018

Strategic Focus #1: Advocate on Behalf of Public Libraries

Goal: Ensure public libraries in BC thrive.

Being informed by membership needs and issues

Representing the membership in partnerships that deliver successful public library initiatives

Meeting with government ministries and officials to discuss the role, value and issues facing public libraries

Collaborating with other organizations to strengthen public library advocacy and influence

Communicating timely and meaningful information

Strategic Focus #2: Support Trustees

Goal: Enhance trustee effectiveness.

Understanding trustee needs, including unique needs specific to some, such as regional library trustees

Providing trustees with tools, training and information

Focusing on governance, financial oversight, strategic planning and advocacy

Designing, in consultation with trustees and partner organizations, trustee needs assessments and development strategies

Strengthening core services such as TOP and the annual conference

Strategic Focus #3: Strengthen BCLTA Organizational Effectiveness

Goal: Strengthen and develop internal organizational capacity.

Enhancing Board effectiveness and engagement

Strengthening policies and process

Recruiting and active Board succession planning

Ensuring financial capacity for strategic growth

Demonstrating value to our members

Building membership relations that are about sharing information, encouraging dialogue and supporting conversations that make a difference to trustees