



*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](http://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