



## MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: November 12, 2019  
Author: Rhonda Sherwood, VPL Trustee  
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Meeting Date: November 27, 2019

TO: Library Board  
FROM: Rhonda Sherwood  
**SUBJECT: BCLTA Liaison Report**

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### **SUMMARY**

This report constitutes the regular monthly update from the BCLTA liaison.

### **PURPOSE**

This report is for information.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board receive the report for information.

### **BOARD POLICY**

No policy connections.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

The VPL 2020 Strategic Plan includes a focus on Sharing & Collaboration and seeks to foster a community that shares information, ideas & stories. The VPL board's liaison roles, while part of our standard governance practice, also support this initiative.

### **BACKGROUND**

Until February 2017 this report was provided verbally. In an effort to increase the efficiency of board meetings the VPL Governance Committee agreed to have the monthly updates on

BCLTA and InterLINK provided via written report. Reference to “Library Partners” includes the following organizations BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA), BC Library Association (BCLA), Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD), and the BC Libraries Cooperative (BCLC).

## **DISCUSSION**

As a not-for-profit society BCLTA is membership driven and responsive to trustee needs. Supporting and connecting trustees is woven into our Convictions and guides the work of the Board of Directors and staff.

BCLTA 2020 Forum and AGM The theme for the 2020 BCLTA Forum and AGM will be Governance and Intellectual Freedom.

The event will take place on April 18th at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond which is located on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwítlh (TseilWaututh) Nations.

Starting in December information will be added to the BCLTA website as it becomes available. Updates will be found in the monthly Bulletin.

BCLTA Governance Workshops 2020 At their November 7th board meeting the BCLTA Directors took bold action for increasing access to public library governance development and support by:

1. Changing the name of BCLTA workshops from the Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) to BCLTA Governance Workshops. The change in name acknowledges the changes that the program has undergone in the past 18 months. The workshop is an expertly facilitated day of discussions and activities that benefit the entire governance team – the trustees, the board chair, and the library director. The workshop provides an overview of BC public library governance including public library trends and issues, effective board practices, and the overall development of a highly functioning governance team, while having flexibility to dive deeper where needed and appropriate. BCLTA Governance Workshops are more than orientation and are for all library trustees and library directors.
2. Offering an on-demand and tailored for your board BCLTA Governance Workshops. These workshops are:
  - Based on the BCLTA Governance Workshop (see above)
  - Available as is possible to schedule and deliver by BCLTA staff
  - Are tailored for your boards (or a group of local boards or library federation) needs. For example, your board may want a morning of governance overview and an afternoon with a focus on fiduciary oversight or intellectual freedom.

- Developed in consultation with your board the fee for an on-demand or tailored for your board workshop is \$150 per participant with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 participants. The host library is responsible for the venue and catering.
3. Launching the BCLTA Governance Workshop Pilot Project in January 2020. This is a one year project that will require membership participation, workshop evaluation, outcomes assessment, and external funding for the association to continue the project beyond 2020.

While the ED is still working on the launch details for January, the following can be expected:

- The project will address the barriers of cost and access for attending a BCLTA Governance Workshop.
- The workshop fee will be \$50 per participant.
- Workshops will be scheduled by BCLTA in consultation with libraries and library federations.

Workshops will take place in centrally located and accessible venues. Exceptions will be made for geographically isolated boards

- In locations where highway conditions are a concern, workshops will be scheduled late April through June and September through October
- Host libraries or library federations will be responsible for the venue and catering

Representing Trustees BCLTA has the unique mandate of representing trustees from across British Columbia at the provincial level. This mandate, for the most part, is executed through the work of the BC Public Library Partners (BCLTA, the Association of BC Public Library Directors, the BC Library Association, and the BC Libraries Cooperative).

### **Below is a snap-shot of BCLTA work representing Trustees**

Meeting with Minister Fleming, Ministry of Education On October 25th, the BCLTA President, Mike Gagel, along with the Partners, met with Minister Fleming. This was a very positive meeting at which the Partners presented Minister Fleming with the \$20 Million in 2020 postcards that were signed by mayors and councillors at the 2019 UBCM Convention (see the October Bulletin for the Partners' UBCM Report). As well, the Partners reiterated the message that the \$6 million increase is to address past provincial funding cuts to public libraries and that the \$6 million dollars is to be directly applied to the public library operating grants.

M. Gagel reminded the Minister that at the 2018 BCLTA AGM the resolution to "Reinstate the sub-vote to support public libraries and the library sector" was unanimously passed. This resolution was sent to the Ministry of Education in May of 2018.

The Minister acknowledged the \$20M in 2020 campaign and the support that it has garnered from libraries and local government. The Minister suggested key Cabinet Ministers and Treasury Board members for the Partners to meet with. Those meetings are now being scheduled.

During the meeting M. Gagel had the opportunity to share with the Minister the importance of having Assistant Deputy Minister McCrea at the September BCLTA Board Retreat (see October Community Report) to discuss ways for BCLTA and the Ministry of Education to work together for excellence in BC public library governance.

Federal Election Campaign Letters During the federal election campaign, on behalf of BCLTA, M. Gagel sent letters to Federal Party Leaders, J. Trudeau, J. Singh, A. Scheer, and E. May, regarding the importance of public libraries as public infrastructure and asking for their support of public libraries. The letters can be found in the Advocacy in Action section of the BCLTA website.

Promoting BC Public Library Boards BCLTA continues to promote the value of BC public library boards and the importance of trustee support to the Ministry of Education. BCLTA has invited the Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Assistant Deputy Minister McCrea, and their government colleagues to meet with the BCLTA and to participate in a brief public library governance workshop so that they may better understand the role of trustees and the governance of BC public libraries.

#### Other Highlights

- The Bulletin. Please subscribe, talk about, and contribute to the Bulletin. Be part of connecting with trustees and showcasing the work of public library boards. The Bulletin is read by provincial government staff, MLAs, local government officials, and others who are part of BC public library discussions and decision making.
- Chairing the Board. The BCLTA ED is developing a new workshop for current and aspiring board chairs and library directors. Watch for announcements in early 2020.
- BCLTA Discussion Starters: Intellectual Freedom. This was released in October and was immediately the biggest hit on the BCLTA website. The use of, and positive feedback from, this resource has informed the theme of the 2020 BCLTA Forum.

BCLTA is committed to our mandate and convictions and always improving how we deliver value to our members. Stay up to date on BCLTA activities by subscribing to the Bulletin and by contacting the Executive Director, Babs Kelly at [execdir@bclta.ca](mailto:execdir@bclta.ca) with any questions or needs.