



bctla

bcteacherlibrarians
BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHER-LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
2011-2012**

President's Report

Submitted by Heather Daly

This has been an interesting year! From Phase 1 Job Action in the fall through to now, we have been impacted by the bargaining and political situation and have tried to contribute where we can.

In addition, other major BCTLA activities this year have included:

Combating ten years of losses to teacher-librarian staffing and its implications

The major goal of the BCTLA is to “restore school library service to every student and staff member in the province”. The strategy toward meeting this goal is two-pronged: to resist losses by utilizing contractual and policy means, and to provide a new vision for educational leaders to be engaged by when thinking of eliminating, or increasing, teacher-librarian staffing. Specific actions include but are not limited to:

- Working with and providing information to the BCTF Executive and Field Services Division to:
 - Locate and address situations where contracting out may be occurring
 - Increase knowledge about existing teacher-librarian related policy (e.g. 3.P.02)
- Working to promote school libraries as learning commons (“dynamic learning-centred hubs”)

“Stepping up” advocacy, professional development and membership

A focus this year has been on “stepping up” activities in our operational areas of advocacy, professional development, and membership. New and enhanced advocacy initiatives have been or will be launched, including involvement in a research study and an IASL/IFLA advocacy toolkit committee. BCTLA has also made great strides toward our vision of offering a year-round professional development program with the launch of our first webinar series and continuation of summer institutes, in addition to our annual conference. We are very pleased that membership appears to have increased this year.

Reviewing publications services and developing support material

Time was spent this year on re-launching the Working and Learning Conditions Survey on a new platform, on reviewing the current format for *The Bookmark*, and on rethinking the publication method for the BCTLA Reviews Service. BCTLA also continues to develop materials to support the implementation of *The Points of Inquiry* and learning commons.

The BCTLA Executive is concerned about membership levels and our Chapters (LSAs). Teacher-librarian FTE losses and an unusually chaotic year are just two of the factors that are having an impact in some districts on teacher-librarian participation in BCTLA Chapters. In districts with less than five BCTLA members, the Chapter Councillor is not eligible to attend Council meetings, which is counter-productive in terms of supporting those Chapters. Consideration of strategies to address this is ongoing.

Some highlights from 2011-2012:

Executive and Council Meetings

- BCTLA Executive meetings were held on Saturday, September 17 (all day), on Friday, October 21 after the BCTLA conference, on Saturday, January 21 (all day) and on April 14.
- Chapter Councillors met for BCTLA Council meetings on October 22 and April 14.

Advocacy

- BCTLA worked to “step up” advocacy initiatives throughout 2011-12. See the Vice-President, Advocacy’s report for more information.

Working and Learning Conditions

- The Working and Learning Condition survey report was re-launched using Google Docs as a platform and collation of the results is underway.
- A mapping project of the Working and Learning Conditions data from the past ten years is nearly complete.

Professional Publications

- Support materials for *The Points of Inquiry: A Framework for Information Literacy and the 21st-Century Learner* continue to be added to the BCTLA website.
- Discussion was held on formats for *The Bookmark*. In addition, BCTLA Reviews is set to become a separate branded service provided by BCTLA.
- Development of learning commons support materials is underway.

Collaboration

- BCTLA was represented at PSA (Provincial Specialist Association) Council meetings.
- BCTLA continues to collaborate with the Washington Library Media Association, including through a joint presentation at the American Association of School Librarians Conference in October 2011 and via the WLMA President attending our conference in October.
- Communication with the other provincial and territorial school library associations continues but has been impacted by the dissolution of the Canadian Association for School Libraries.
- BCTLA was invited to send representatives to a discussion on database needs and evaluation criteria with ERAC on February 20.
- Representatives of BCTLA provided support on a number of committees, including the Red Cedar Awards (YRCA), the BC Digitization Coalition, The Learning Partnership’s Welcome to Kindergarten Advisory Committee, The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²), and BCLA YAACS (Young Adults and Children’s Services).

Communication

- There was regular communication with Chapter Councillors, including via e-cards at Christmas, and with BCTLA members through the BCTLA Forum, the BCTLA blogs, and Twitter (@BCTLA).
- Brief emailed newsletters (~3 times per year) are also now being sent.
- BCTLA Awards were presented to a number of amazing teacher-librarians!

Professional Development

- New PD options have been added toward the goal of BCTLA establishing a year-round professional development program. These included the BCTLA Ning, summer institutes and a winter and spring webinar series. All of the new additions have been quite successful.
- With many thanks to the Burnaby Teacher-Librarians' Association, the excellent "Reaching Out" Conference and October Awards Ceremony was held.

Membership

- Online membership registration will soon be available through the BCTF website.
- Chapter Councillors worked to increase BCTLA membership, as did the new Member-at-Large (Membership), who sent personal reminders throughout the year. Membership appears to have increased by about 30 as compared to this time last year.

Thank you to the 2011-12 BCTLA Executive: Jeff Yasinchuk, Bonnie McComb, Halia Hirniak, Heather Daly, Chris Evans, Amanda Hufton, Lynn Turner, Suzanne Hall, Moira Ekdahl, Kam Purewal, Arlene Anderson, Patricia Baisi, Gordon Powell, and Val Hamilton. I would also like to once again thank Al Smith, who continues to provide support for the BCTLA Executive.

Once again, thank you also to the BCTLA Chapter Councillors and to all of our Chapter Executive members, to our formal liaison representatives to other associations and agencies, and last but not least, to all of the teacher-librarians in BC for everything you do, and to all of those locally and abroad who have provided support to us in our efforts, but most especially to our Members and Subscribers.

Vice-President, Advocacy's Report

Submitted by Jeff Yasinchuk

It has been an active and productive year in advocacy for the BCTLA with increasing involvement in advocacy projects, making professional connections, and developing relationships with various school library-related groups and organizations. Perhaps even more exciting are the future projects and activities that are on the horizon including ISAL/IFLA project and Arizona State University advocacy project.

Drop Everything and Read 2011 and National School Library Day (October 24)

- 5th annual event with over 45,000 students, teachers, and other participants recorded; this was the highest participation in history.
- T-shirt was a tremendous success, too!
- Posters receive a great deal of attention and much support given a BCTLA conference.

- Event continues to receive much support from BCTLA members and executive, media, and public in general.
- Members statement read in Legislature again by NDP education critic Robin Austin.
- Official letter of recognition of event by Minister of Education George Abbott.

Actions:

- Ultimate goal to work towards 100% participation by BC schools.
- Must continue to be huge presence at BCTLA conference (t-shirts, visible location).
- T-shirts: next fall to get French version of t-shirt; set up a more visual spot at BCTLA conference; provide larger numbers especially in smaller sizes (S/M/L).
- Poster next year; looking at contracting out instead of putting pressure on Al Smith.
- DEAR contacted by SLIC to help organize a national DEAR event; early in discussions and hope to have more information by the end of spring/early summer.
- Need to leverage BCTLA Ning and set up groups next year; have it serve as main portal for DEAR or keep current website/blog?
- Fewer pictures sent in this year; a place where TLs can put pictures; set up a Flickr account for general sharing?
- Refer to member feedback document for 2011 event for 2012 planning.
- Need for an organizing committee for 2012?
- Will continue to lobby BC government to recognize fourth Monday of October as 'BC School Library Day' in conjunction with National School Library Day.

Love Your School Library Day (February 14)

- A BCTLA sponsored event.
- Set up group on BCTLA Ning and asked for ideas for sharing and school library promotion; small response.
- Participation not tracked so level of success with regards to school library advocacy.

Actions:

- Need to do more to promote the event contest (photo, video, etc.), draw, t-shirts.
- Need better use of BCTLA Ning to promote and share ideas.

Freedom to Read Week (February 19th-26th) and Day of Pink

- Not an officially sponsored BCTLA event (by Book and Periodical Council).

Actions:

- Follows closely on heels of LYSLD event, but continue to promote the event via BCTLA Twitter feedback BCTLA Ning.
- Have not been tracking event participation and activities regards to FTR Week so participation rate not known.
- Should BCTLA consider offering sponsorship for event?

Other Activities:

- Attended Elluminate session with Prince George Teacher-Librarians' Association in February to discuss advocacy tools and strategies.
- Assisted with a *Canadian Family* magazine article on how teachers and teacher-librarians promote reading.
- Issued a press release in recognition of the sad ten anniversary (January 28, 2012) of the stripping of the teacher-librarian ratio language from the collective agreement.
- BCTLA continues to have an ongoing relationship with the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA).
- BCTLA has been asked to take an active role on IASL/IFLA School Library Research Committee two year project "School Libraries on the Agenda" to develop SL advocacy toolkit.
- For the fourth consecutive year, Canadian Library Month posters were sent to all public schools in the province with the help of Libraries and Literacy (Ministry of Education).
- BCTLA brought greetings at the colloquium/webcast, "Project Information Literacy" with Dr. Michael Eisenberg (<http://webcasts.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/node/975>) held at UBC on November 22 in celebration of National School Library Day.
- BCTLA Executive members helped to staff the BCTF booth at "Word on the Street" on September 25 where they also distributed school library promotional materials, and staffed a display table at the BCTF New and Student Teachers' Conference on March 2 and 3.

Future Avenues for BCTLA Advocacy:

- Promote active participation by BCTLA members in ASU study with Dr. Ann Ewbank .
- Look to develop closer ties with teacher-librarian training university programs (UBC, University of Alberta, etc.).
- Work to develop relationship with British Columbia Coalition for School Libraries (BCCSL).
- Continue to work at developing a councillor/representative in chapters without representation.

Working and Learning Conditions Chair's Report

Submitted by Amanda Hufton

This year, after meeting with the BCTF Research & Technology Division it was determined that the survey would once again be the sole responsibility of the BCTLA. Using Google Docs, the survey was made online in October of 2011. The survey closed December 16, 2012, in an effort to increase our responses. We had 555 responses in total. Of these, 99% of the respondents indicated that they had an operational library with 96% of the operational libraries being run by a teacher-librarian. While Google Docs has provided further interesting results, the more complex analysis requires data from the Ministry of Education. This data is not easily obtained so the completed BCTLA Working and Learning results will be forthcoming. When completed, the results will be posted to the website.

Education Chair's Report

Submitted by Arlene Anderson

The BCTLA Ning

Our Ning has grown substantially since it was launched a year ago and continues to be a platform of choice for many teacher-librarians who want to move forward as the information landscape changes. The potential for "professional development on demand" is demonstrated by the range of topics groups that are forming and the depth of knowledge that is being shared. The Learning Commons group is just one example. It has attracted contributors from across Canada and offers an excellent place to start for individuals who are interested in transforming their libraries. Blog posts to the Ning provide another avenue for teacher-librarians to expand their expertise and keep up to date as the pace of change fuels a range of opportunities and challenges.

Summer Institute

Last July, BCTLA hosted a summer institute at Rockridge Secondary School in West Vancouver on the topic of media education and global youth culture. The presenter, Wendy Chen, who is a doctoral candidate at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, led twenty-six participants through two sessions focusing on social media and media literacy. Looking ahead, we hope to provide more opportunities for face to face professional development through the organisation of a summer institute in August of 2012.

Winter Webinar Series

In January, as part of its goal to offer professional development opportunities year round, the BCTLA launched a three part Winter Webinar series in collaboration with the Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2). Over 60 participants registered for the series, which was hosted by Garfield Gini-Newman (OISE/University of Toronto) and focused on critical thinking in a digital environment.

Spring Webinar Series

Response to our first webinar series indicates that teacher-librarians in British Columbia are eager to pursue professional development and comfortable with virtual learning platforms. With that in mind, we plan to follow up the Winter Webinar series with two sessions in May hosted by Gordon Powell who is the Coordinator of Library Information Services for Richmond School District. Last winter, a survey of BCTLA members indicated a strong interest in education relating to subscription databases, so Gordon's first session, "Making the Most of Your Subscriptions: Promoting the ERAC Bundle," will likely find popular interest. The second session, "Curation 2.0," will explore how teacher librarians can add value to their programs with technologies that help to manage the selection, organisation, and delivery of content.

Conference Chair's Report

Submitted by Bonnie McComb

This is my last report as the BCTLA Conference Chair and as a member of the BCTLA Executive. I have served as Conference Chair for over 12 years and on the executive for close to 23 years except for a few years somewhere in the middle. Being on the Executive has given me the opportunity to work with many dedicated, passionate teacher-librarians who have continuously inspired me and made my life richer. Over this time period, in particular over the past few years and driven by the changes in technology, I have seen the work load and expectations expand exponentially. The work that is done by this organization of volunteers and the contribution this organization makes to our profession is truly mind boggling.

Even with the explosion of communication tools, our BCTLA conferences still play a vital role in our organization. They provide opportunities for us to connect with each other and celebrate our profession. They help increase our membership which in turn helps fund bringing all our Chapter Councillors together twice a year. These face-to-face meetings with so many committed teacher-librarians from around the province help develop, nourish and sustain our professional relationships and energy.

Thank you to the Burnaby Teacher-Librarians' Association for hosting their fabulous 2011 *Reaching Out* conference. Highlights included a chocolate fountain with tropical fruit skewers and freshly made crepes a vendor treasure hunt; keynote speakers, Doug Johnson, author of the *Blue Skunk Blog*, and Inuit storyteller Michael Kusagak; and over 40 excellent workshops. Another delightful feature was the literary thematic door decorations.

Thank you to Coquitlam Teacher-Librarians' Association for stepping forward to host the next BCTLA conference on October 18-19, 2012. Their theme is *We're IN!: Inquire, Inspire, Innovate*. For more information, refer to the BCTLA website.

Please consider asking your Chapter to step forward to take on a conference. It is a challenging but rewarding professional experience. When a Chapter agrees to host a conference, the profits of the conference are shared between the BCTLA and the chapter (60% to the chapter; 40% to the BCTLA). If there is a shortfall, the BCTLA will absorb the loss.

Member-at-Large (North, Research)

Submitted by Lynn Turner

I was happy to do the Christmas cards this year, and the main focus has been to work on a map which will show changes in BC school library working and learning conditions over the past ten years. The map is basically finished; one more year needs to be added, and then it just needs to be formatted and put onto the BCTLA Ning and website.

BCTLA EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

President: Heather Daly (Coquitlam)

Past President: vacant

Vice-President, Chapter Relations: Halia Hirniak (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)

Vice-President, Advocacy: Jeff Yasinchuk (Kootenay Lake)

Vice-President, Resources: Gordon Powell (Richmond)

Secretary: Patricia Baisi (Surrey)

Treasurer: Chris Evans (Vancouver)

Working and Learning Conditions Chair: Amanda Hufton (Richmond)

Education Chair: Arlene Anderson (West Vancouver)

***The Bookmark* Chair:** Suzanne Hall (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)

Conference Chair: Bonnie McComb (Saanich)

Liaison Chair: Moira Ekdahl (Vancouver)

Member-at-Large (Membership): Kam Purewal (Vancouver)

Member-at-Large (Blogs, Forum): Val Hamilton (Vancouver, retired)

Member-at-Large (North, Research): Lynn Turner (Terrace, retired)