

BCLA First Nations Interest Group Minutes
November 3rd, 2:00pm
Sto:lo Resource Centre

In Attendance:

Sarah Dupont (Coordinator/Chair)
Beth Davis (BCLA Liaison)
Rachel Yaroshuk (Secretary/Treasurer)
Nancy Hannum
Shannon LaBelle
Alissa Cherry
Sheena Gardner
Linda Epps
Eleanore Wellwood
Brad Gordon
Alan Webber
Tamarak Hockin
John Park
Anita Thompson
Christina Neigel
Sarah Kurkoff
Gordon Yusko (by phone)
Kim Lawson (by phone)
Ashley Van Dijk (Host)

1. BCLA Conference

The BCLA Conference is taking place May 9-11th. The selected theme is “Are we there yet?” which focuses on change within libraries. They are looking for speakers who are working on projects in the development stage. Proposals for speaking sessions are due Dec 11th. If anyone is interested in drafting a proposal for the speaking session, please contact Sarah. (One suggestion for the speaking session was a collaborative research session.)

At the Conference we will do a table with fundraiser items and promotions. We also hope to promote our interest group to other BCLA members. Please contact Sarah if you are interested in participating in the conference working group (related to both the session proposal and table).

2. Scholarships

The Gene Joseph scholarship was created for aspiring Aboriginal librarians to attend SLAIS. Nancy and Ann Doyle will continue to steward the scholarship at UBC.

We also want to develop a similar scholarship for library technicians. BCLA is able to assist with the administration/housing of the scholarship. This may increase the accessibility of the library technician's scholarships across institutions. A call for a working group to initiate this scholarship was answered by Tamarack, Nancy, and Anita. Nancy will also ask Gene if she would be interested in participating.

3. BCLA Strategic Plan

The strategic plan has been drafted and is presently up for review. Any concerns may be addressed to Sarah who will meet November 28th to share FNIG's input. In addition there is a survey monkey poll that was distributed via email, in which you may voice your concerns.

Some concerns discussed in the meeting included:

- A stronger focus on library users and communication to the people we serve.
- A stronger focus on leadership. Terms such as advocacy seem reactionary, while we would like to see the BCLA proactively looking forward and anticipating change.
- The strategic plan should embody the transformative change that is facing the profession as we struggle to renew our relevance to the public.
- The strategic item three is all encompassing. Priorities should be determined to ensure these goals are met. That said, we would also like to expand this item to include supporting groups that support libraries.

4. Open Discussion for Moving Forward

We considered the current FNIG goals as expressed on the website. While many of the statements resonated with people, there was a sense that they required updating.

- The language used in our goals should move away from
 - *"the community" to "First Nations peoples" or "First Nations organizations"* which may foster stronger relationships with First Nations peoples
 - *"libraries" and to think more broadly as "information professionals"*.
This change in position may allow librarian/information professionals to transcend the physical space of the library and provide more accessible, relevant services to First Nations peoples. By both increasing collaboration and increasing marketing and communications between information professionals and First Nations people...
- Information professionals should be proactively marketing library services that have been established after consulting First Nations peoples.
Seeking out what First Nations peoples needs are by monitoring First Nations Twitter, blogs, newspapers etc. will allow Information Professionals to remain current on First Nations concerns. When pursuing the necessary dialogue between Information Professionals and First Nations peoples beware of falling into the "expert/needs" dichotomy.
- It is important that we recognize the full spectrum of knowledge.

5. Additional Items

On November 14th Sheena and Helen will be holding a meeting for UBC students to gauge interest in a FNIG student chapter. They will report back the response at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

A future meeting will be scheduled in January. For those interested in preparing a proposal for the conference, stay tuned for a meeting date to be scheduled some time before December 11th.