

BCLA Community-Led Interest Group Meeting

April 11, 2025, 10am – 12pm PST

Virtual meeting via Zoom

In attendance:

Janeen Parent (FVRL), Shideh Taleban (NVCL), CJ Pentland (NVCL), Tara Thompson (ORL), Jessica Stol (LPL), Barbara Reid (VPL), Leann Preiss, Nicole Sousa (BPL).

1. Land acknowledgement & Introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 28.

3. Call for CLIG Secretary.

CLIG is looking for a Secretary - or two co-Secretaries - for the term of May 2025 to May 2027. Please contact Janeen or Jessica if you are interested in the role or have any questions.

4. Round table discussion of what is happening at various library systems

North Vancouver City Library (NVCL)

NVCL now has an Indigenous programmer, Nicole Johnson, who will be with them for the next two years. The Library has recently posted their Book Bike Ambassador position for the summer. Their previous book bike was retired and the new bike will be re-envisioned this coming year. The North Shore Writers Festival is also upcoming, in conjunction with the other North Shore libraries. NVCL is rolling out a new strategic plan, so programming has lessened to focus on implementing the plan.

NVCL has gotten more sewing machines and is offering more workshops, including an upcycling workshop for Earth Day. Discussed whether libraries have taken their sewing machines out to do programming in the community. NVCL doesn't take their sewing machines out into the community, however they have brought the machines to the Open Door Community Hub (outreach in-house programming). NVCL will be doing a presentation at BCLA about their sewing machines. Transporting the sewing machines is often a challenge for libraries, as well as how comfortable staff are with operating the technology. ORL has sewing machines in many of their Maker Spaces, but ORL also has kits of sewing machines that staff can borrow to do programming and most of this programming seems to happen in-branch.

Discussed how common it is for library systems to have Indigenous Liaisons or Indigenous Programmers. NVCL has hired Nicole Johnson as a part of their library team. NVCL also had an Indigenous Storyteller in Residence last year, who was also an employee of the library. Some library systems have Indigenous staff, but they don't have the position of Indigenous Programmer. VPL has an Indigenous Planner and a rotating annual Indigenous Storyteller.

London Public Library (LPL)

LPL is offering tax clinics again this year, with the clinics located at multiple branches around the city. LPL is hiring summer students for the Summer READ program, to provide one-on-one support for reluctant or struggling readers. LPL is also offering a Virtual Healthcare 101 program, in partnership with the hospitals in the city, to teach about the virtual healthcare options available. The library is also doing a Getting Ready for Kindergarten pilot project this summer, to fill a gap where kindergarten readiness programs and orientations were previously filled by the school board.

Discussed healthcare programs offered at libraries. NVCL has hosted immunization clinics and hearing clinics. VPL has organized a monthly healthcare program series at one of their branches - including heart health, diabetes, and foot health. ORL branches have partnered with Interior Health for stroke recovery to help people get back into the community, since libraries can be a safe first-step to visit.

Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL)

FVRL has launched portable DVD players, as well as a new website and strategic plan. The strategic plan highlights Truth & Reconciliation and community. Janeen has been visiting a lot of transition homes and food banks recently, as well as correctional facilities to see how the library can support folks inside corrections and then post-incarceration. Discussed whether other library systems are connecting with correctional facilities and incarcerated populations. There are a lot challenges with getting involved in correctional facilities and this a long-term commitment.

Emergency preparedness has also become part of FVRL's strategic plan. North Shore Emergency Management has visited NVCL to an emergency basics workshop.

Okanagan Regional Library (ORL)

ORL partners with Niteo to do programming where newcomer families are partnered with UBC students to do literacy work together in the library. Their big fundraiser event is upcoming at the Kelowna branch, with the theme of Stories Around the World - storytelling sessions with crafts, songs, and snacks. Spanish and Mandarin storytimes are offered at the Kelowna branch. There is also a Perspective Book Club, run by Kelowna Inclusive, that specifically chooses books that look at different perspectives on issues. Two new Library of Things kits have also been launched - a dental health kit done in partnership with dental hygienists, and a Braille discovery kit (includes Braille LEGO).

Vancouver Public Library (VPL)

VPL's Bibliobike is launching in May. The bike often travels to events to do outreach, but branches can also request it come for programming. VPL's Accessible Services

department has made the Cognitive Friendly kits available to all patrons, instead of just patrons with an accessible services card.

The Skilled Immigrant Info Centre has been shut down, so VPL is working to make their existing programs more accessible and welcoming to newcomers - such as putting captions on when screening films, having more conversational opportunities and programs where folks can practice their English. North Shore Libraries and Surrey Library are continuing the New to BC Library Champions program for the next two years, in collaboration with InterLINK.

Burnaby Public Library (BPL)

BPL's Community Librarians are visiting supportive housing facilities and food banks. Children's Librarians are doing lots of Welcome to Kindergarten outreach visits. Teen Librarians are working with schools and the custody centre in Burnaby.

4. Round table of what the future looks like for CLIG

CLIG will explore guest speakers to share about different topics during future CLIG meetings.

Next Meeting - Friday, June 20, 2025 from 10 AM - 12 PM (PT) on Zoom