

BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee **MINUTES** March 13, 2014 Burnaby Public Library

Present: Gillian Guilmant-Smith, Fareshteh Kashefi, Michael Burris, Roberta Summersgill, Wendy Jang, Allan Cho

Regrets: Ravi Basi, Michael McCarthy

1. Michael provided the following updates from Interlink: New to BC - Program is coming to the end of provincial funding. They are in the negotiation phase for continued funding for 10 libraries. The Library Champions program has been terrific and has a very positive impact. Roberta noted that Burnaby is doing programs at all branches except Cameron. Fareshteh brought up the idea of running a similar program with seniors "community ambassadors". World Languages Collections – Wrapped up 2013 project with the same number of libraries, but more languages available. The idea has been raised to share read through collections or excess donations amongst Interlink libraries. (Fareshteh mentioned that North Van has 5 copies of Persian book club sets that may be available to borrow.)
2. Account Balance – status?

ACTION - Gillian will ask BCLA office for current account balance.

3. Mandate statement for committee – discussion regarding proposed mandate statement in lieu of BCLA Executive Director's feedback. The group looked at BCLA's Strategic Plan (Jan.2013 to Dec. 2015) and determined that our group's mandate dovetails nicely with the goals of the organization. We considered revising our mandate statement to read:
 - To advocate for improvement, promote awareness and facilitate access to library services for ethnic communities.
 - To provide support, advice, and to share best practises (including training) with library staff.

ACTION – Gillian will ask BCLA office for mandate statements from other SCIGs (sections, committees, interest groups) to share with the committee via email for comparison before a final decision is made.

4. Roundtable – Allan (UBC) UBC has a new president, Arvind Gupta. UBC has created an Asian/ Canadian studies program; Roberta (BPL) – Library Champions program in full swing – strat plan review underway, using "street teams" to gather community feedback; Fareshteh (NVCL) more & more active in the community (part of Northshore Welcoming Committee); Wendy (RPL) Roundtable meeting on diversity & inclusiveness – working w/ consultants on a public report. Upcoming program/ booktalk of interest on *Chinese Comfort women* (email sent to group). Gillian (VPL) Library champions program underway in some branches. Changes to programming, info services and collections still underway.

Next meeting – work on strategic goals for committee – location and date TBD – will send email to group to determine.