

## **BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee *MINUTES***

**December 8, 2016 Burnaby Public Library**

Present: Ravi Basi, Michael Burris; Allan Cho; Wendy Jang ; Michael McCarthy; Mark MacKichan  
Naomi Morgan ; Jessica Whu, Jenny Zhang, Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)  
Regrets: Eva Quintana; Susan Pierce; Aditi Gupta (teleconferencing not available)

### **Meeting Opening:**

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the minutes and agenda. A warm welcome was extended to Mark MacKichan (VPL) and Naomi Morgan (SPL) who were attending the meeting for the first time.

### **Intercultural Communication (ICC) Workshop Proposal:**

In the last meeting ( September 22) it was agreed to send a proposal to the BCLA to offer our Intercultural Communication Workshop as part of the 2017 BCLA conference\*. This was to address the demand for intercultural training as expressed by library staff who responded to our online survey.

The deadline for submitting the proposal was December 6. Fereshteh thanked Ravi for writing a very strong proposal and submitting it (copy to be emailed separately). Fereshteh and Ravi will be presenting.

BLA's response is expected in early January.

### **Website and blog maintenance:**

We need to take down the blog as was decided in previous meeting. Jessica has not received any feedback- yet.

**Action:** everyone to please visit the blog at <https://bcladiversity.wordpress.com/> while it is still accessible and choose "transferable" items and what you think should be added to our website and write back to Jessica. The deadline is December 19.

### **Changes within the committee:**

We have new members: Mark and Naomi.

Roberta has left the committee. BPL has not sent a replacement yet.

Ravi will still be with us but will not attend all meetings, Naomi will be attending instead.

### **Selection of the meeting dates for 2017 and what next:**

It was decided that we should wait for the news regarding the proposal.

The committee will meet on January 19 at the usual meeting place. Depending on what happens with the proposal we will discuss next steps and plan activities and projects to work on in the year.

### **Round table:**

- IRCC and InterLINK have started negotiations for NewToBC funding for the period 2017-2020. ( Michael Burris, Interlink)
- Funding levels announced by IRCC would allow NewToBC to continue the good work it has done so far.
- NewToBC's scope will remain the same ( Interlink) and does not expand Province wide.
- Interlink will continue World Languages project. An RFP for the 2017 program was sent out in November. Library Bound has been WL's vendor since the beginning of the project.
- UBC has a new president ( Santa Ono) who has strong multicultural back ground and is interested in diversity issues. (Allan)
- SPL participated in True Colours of Surrey Anti-racism Campaign organized by the City. (Ravi)
- A questionnaire was put on the city's website asking city residents questions like:  
Where do you experience or witness racism most and least in Surrey?  
Answers? Most: Transit, Street, neighbourhood; least: **Libraries** ! banks.  
The questionnaire was designed to assess racism and discrimination in Surrey and various ideas were explored to address these issues.
- SPL will have a new branch next year, more a shared space for the community rather than a traditional library.
- There has been incidents of racist activities and comments in Richmond. Wendy suggested that the committee look at ways to support anti-racist initiatives.
- VPL has hired their Aboriginal storyteller in residence. ( Mark)
- North Vancouver City Library has been busy with programs and services targeting new comers:  
ESL book club, Persian book club, English conversation classes, library tours and community related celebrations.
- **Next meeting date:**

**Thursday January 19, 2017 . Location : BPL ( Metrotown Branch, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Board Room).**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.