

BCLA Diversity and Multicultural Services Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, September 26, 2013, Burnaby Public Library, Metrotown Branch

Present: Gillian Guilmant-Smith, Roberta Summersgill, Ravi Basi, Michael Burris, Fereshteh Kashefi, Michael McCarthy

Regrets: Wendy Jang, Allan Cho, Sara Amon

1. Review of last meeting (March 7, 2013)
2. Committee membership / update contact info –list was passed around, updates made
3. Review mandate statement – discussion around wording of our mandate statement. The group agreed on the following revision:

The Committee's mandate is:

- to improve library collections, programs and services to ethnic communities;
- to promote awareness and facilitate access to these services,
- to provide support, advice, and to share best practises with library staff.

ACTION- Gillian will send out to committee for final revisions & follow up with BCLA for approval/ updating BCLA website and send to Michael M. to update blog.

*The revised mandate may provide a good opportunity for us to promote the work of the committee amongst BCLA members.

4. Website update: Michael M. told us that the site has been up since Dec.2009 and since that time has had over 4000 views (mostly from the US and Canada.) He is looking for new items to post on the blog.

ACTION – Ravi will share google docs re. Intercultural Communication workshop with MM to post.

5. Urban Libraries Settlement Project (**now known as NewToBC.**) Michael B. presented the NewToBC website. The funding for the project encompasses 2 years with the overall goal for libraries to connect with newcomers and partner with settlement agencies. The project consists of 4 main areas:
 - Website (www.newtobc.ca)
 - Lists of EAL (English as an additional language) resources
 - Library champions program
 - Training for library staff

At this time, 10 urban libraries within Interlink are participating. There is an application in for further government funding to continue project into the future.

Highlights of the webpage include:

- “Welcome to your library” brochure in 18 languages
- Information about language collections in public libraries
- EAL resources (can be used by libraries and immigrant serving agencies to identify collection development needs and opportunities)
- Demographic information by community (Census)
- Library champions

At this time, Ravi provided some additional information about the Library Champions program. Four libraries are participating at the moment (Surrey Public Library, North Vancouver City Library, Delta Public Library, Richmond Public Library and West Vancouver Public Library, with Vancouver Public Library signed up to participate in the 2nd project cycle.)

The Library Champions program has been an amazing experience for Ravi and for Surrey Public Library, success due to the strength of the coordinator (Branca), and the energy and enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers. Surrey Public Library is participating in 4 cycles (intakes.) Library Champions are volunteers that go out into the community and spread the word about public libraries and our resources for newcomers.

Staff training is underway as part of NewtoBC project. Staff can attend training at any library.

6. World Languages – Michael B. The goal of the World Languages program is to help libraries expand the number of languages they can provide in their collection. During the first year, 3 languages were identified (Persian, Korean and Chinese.) Library Bound was chosen as the vendor and provides shelf-ready material. 8 libraries participated.

The intent is to grow the number of languages and grow the number of participating libraries (next year Japanese, German, Punjabi and Tagalog will be added.)

7. Roundtable – Gillian is temporarily acting in Outreach Services (VPL) but will return to the Programming Department (Multicultural portfolio) in the future.

Group discussed BCLA 2014 conference – Interlink is planning a presentation on NewToBC and there may be an opportunity for our group to sponsor/ support/ convene etc.

8. Next meeting dates:

- Thursday, December 12, 9:30 to noon, BPL Metrotown branch (*holiday lunch to follow. Roberta suggested an Indian buffet on Kingsway called “Saffron”. More information to come.)
- Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:30 to noon, BPL Metrotown branch