

BCLA Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee *MINUTES*

January 19, 2017 Burnaby Public Library

Present: Ravi Basi, Allan Cho, Eva Quintana, Winifred Chong, Leila Meshgini, Shideh Taleban, Naomi Morgan, Jessica Whu, Jenny Zhang, Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)

Regrets: Mark MacKichan, Wendy Jang, Michael McCarthy, Susan Pierce*, Aditi Gupta*
(* teleconferencing was not available)

Meeting Opening:

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the minutes and agenda. Fereshteh welcomed Leila, Shideh and Winifred who were attending the meeting for the first time. We are happy to have 17 names on the member list now, new faces, great additions. Our committee has been active for a long time. In 2001 a committee called "Multilingual Services Committee" was struck from the BCLA Diversity Committee a few years later (date?) the name changed to Diversity & Multicultural Services Committee.

Intercultural Communication (ICC) Workshop Proposal:

We are pleased to report that our proposal: Connecting with Multicultural Communities: Intercultural Communication Workshop for the 2017 BCLA conference* has been accepted. This proposal was to address the demand for staff development and intercultural training as expressed by library staff who responded to our online survey sent out last year (for survey results and conceptual report please visit:

<https://bclaconnect.ca/dmsc/2016/08/25/survey-findings-trends-challenges-and-needs/>

Workshop session is scheduled for Friday April 21, 10:30- 11:15. Ravi and Fereshteh will be presenting. They have started working on the project.

A good part of this workshop will focus on problem solving and practical ideas. In the past, workshop participants were asked to email or bring with them examples of the issues they wished addressed and discussed. This time we'll send a feedback request via BCLA listserv. Committee members expressed their expectations of the workshop as well.

Website content:

We have taken down the blog as was decided in previous meetings. Jessica has reviewed the blog and received feedback from committee members regarding transferrable parts of the blog. She did a card sorting activity with the group to decide on the design (arrangement and grouping) of our subsite's content.

Changes within the committee:

Wendy has asked Ying Zhang's name to be added to the list, as RPL's Multicultural Services Librarian. Fereshteh is planning to step down as committee chair after the workshop presentation and BCLA conference. She'll stay in this role until the next meeting (May 4th) and will formally notify BCLA . Jessica Whu has volunteered to step in and co- chair with Jorge Cardenas. A big thank you to both.

Selection of the meeting dates for 2017 and what next:

We will meet on Thursday May 4th to report on the workshop and conference, and discuss next steps.

Round table:

- Surrey Libraries will be doing intercultural communication workshops for Library staff as part of their continuous staff development initiatives.(Ravi)
- There has been incidents of racist activities and comments in Richmond and Fraser Valley recently, in the last meeting it was suggested that the committee look at ways to support anti-racist activities. Here is a piece of info you might find useful:
- Government of British Columbia's OADR:(Organizing Against Hate & Racism) program helps small communities collaboratively find ways to address incidents of racism and hate crime. Please visit their website for more info and list of member communities.
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/multiculturalism-anti-racism/anti-racism/oarh>
- There is a new Hong Kong Studies Initiative at UBC, led by Professor Shin, created partly in response to the current socio-political climate in Hong Kong. This initiative will include the addition of Cantonese Studies courses in order to help preserve the language. (Allen)
- WVML is looking forward to upcoming Lunar New Year and Nowruz programs, including programs in Youth Department such as egg painting and Farsi Storytime. (Leila and Shideh)
- WVML's new librarian Lucy Zhang will be trained for cataloguing and teaching technology courses in Mandarin. (Leila)
- NVDPL has offered technology classes for seniors in Farsi. (Shideh)
- ESL book clubs continue to be popular at Surrey Libraries. They are looking at creating new ESL book club kits specifically related to Canada's First Peoples, as there are a lot of questions about this topic from newcomers (especially with Canada 150 approaching this year). The kit would include the book of choice as well as the City of Vancouver's Publication "First Peoples: A Guide for Newcomers". (Naomi)
- North Vancouver City Library has multimedia ESL learning kits for beginners to learn on their own with books, audio, and video; there are also Persian language book club sets available for all Persian reading groups to borrow (a total of 36 titles with 12-15 copies each) (Fereshteh)
- **Next meeting date:**

Thursday May 4, 2017 . Location : BPL (Metrotown Branch, 3rd floor Board Room).

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.