

BCLA Multicultural Services Committee Minutes

Date: November 30, 2017 9:30AM

Location: Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch, Burnaby Public Library

Present: Alexis Greenwood, Alicia Cheng, Emily Sugerman, Jessica Whu, Ravi Basi

Regrets: Eva Quintana, Inti Dewey, Marianne Huang, Wendy Jang, Winifred Chong

Staff Experiences of Racism in Libraries survey

- Update: The working group is working on the final revision of the questions. Recruitment will be happening soon to gather survey participants.
- The survey is meant to gather information from other libraries about whether they're experiencing incidents of racism and if so, are there influential factors.
- Alexis volunteered to be our point person for recruitment (by emailing out to BCLA mailing list, MSC mailing list, and contacting liaisons in other libraries).

Action required: Working group to give feedback about the draft survey to Leila as we make revisions.

Weeding Culturally Insensitive Material

- Discussion about how library systems are handling material regarding minority cultures.
- Surrey Libraries' youth department is working on a project for reviewing Indigenous material.
- VPL has special collection maintenance guidelines for their Indigenous material including guidelines for authenticity/accuracy and cultural insensitivity.

Action required: Committee members who couldn't attend this meeting in person can also give feedback about this subject via our mailing list.

Blog

- We've now posting regularly on our [BCLA MSC subsite blog](#) (at least monthly). Jessica is looking for any interested writers to submit a blog article (max. 100 words)

Action required: If you can, write an article and send it to Jessica about any relevant multicultural topic (news, upcoming event, or a tool that would be helpful for multicultural services). Check out the [blog](#) for ideas.

Roundtable

- Alexis (VPL) gave an introduction to the [Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre](#). SIIC offers career guides, classes and workshops, and networking events. If you know potential partner organizations or groups who want to work together, let Alexis know (“We have space!”). Any ideas or gaps you see, let Alexis know.
- Emily (SLAIS) shared about her work on a metadata project for a Japanese professor in Singapore on Japanese performing arts for her recent co-op experience. She’s currently working with artist friends centre in making foreign language books accessible.
- Surrey Libraries ran an event to thank the library champions and to make the connections between the city staff and the champions for potential employment opportunity. It was a great turnout and fit right in with the newcomers week at Surrey.
- The group discussed the challenge of organizing/shelving English Language Training (ELT) material. People will typically ask for them by level. How do you assess the level? VPL shared about they catalog them with a subject tag and level. Surrey Libraries is in the process of creating guidelines and steps to address the challenge.
- VPL has a Tech Buddies program that gives an opportunity for senior to be trained on tech by teens. It’s been rewarding to see teens and seniors paired together who speak the same first language.
- VPL completed website usability testing with newcomers at ISSofBC. It was very insightful and changes have already been implemented on the site based on feedback and discovery.

Next Meetings:

In lieu of our regular meeting, we will have a train the trainer session for the [Intercultural Communication Workshop](#) on March 1.

Intercultural Communication Trainers Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018 9:00AM

Location: Burnaby Public Library (Metrotown Branch, 3rd floor Board room)

RSVP details will be sent out to the mailing list.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday, May 11, 2018 5:30PM at Richmond Public Library

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.