

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

**November 6, 2014, Burnaby Public Library**

Present: Michael McCarthy, Ravi Basi, Roberta Summersgill, Wendy Jang, Fereshteh Kashefi

Regrets: Allan Cho, Michael Burris

### **Highlights of the meeting**

#### **1. Meeting Opening**

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the minutes and agenda.

The committee has expressed its gratitude to Gillian for her leadership and will arrange a get-together to thank her in person and wish her well in her new role.. Fereshteh has accepted the nomination to step in as the new chair and will write to Annette DeFaveri to introduce herself.

The consensus was that the committee can play a significant role in delivering its mandate especially now with the strong move towards community oriented programs in libraries.

**Action:** fk to write to BCLA Executive to introduce herself.

fk to send copies of the following mandate statement to Michael for website inclusion:

- **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.**

#### **2. Membership**

- Review of membership list, process for confirming membership – what libraries / individuals are missing?

**Action:** fk to give the list of current members to Michael M.

fk to contact north shore libraries and other libraries to see if they can support the committee by sending reps.

#### **3. Workshop (Intercultural Communication): promotion and management, ideas for the 2015 conference :**

The latest request for our Intercultural Communication workshop came from UBCO ( UBC Okanagan). We had done another workshop for them previously ( Sheryl and Fereshteh ). Fereshteh and Ravi volunteered to present the workshop. We did not proceed partly because there was not enough time to clarify the past procedure of offering this workshop to libraries and other agencies and find out how to follow the new guidelines provided by the Association.

**Action:** Fereshteh will contact BCLA Executive about new process.

It was noted that the committee might have some money left over from revenue generated in previous years which can help to pay for speaker fees and such if we find and invite a speaker for 2015 conference, or other occasions.

**Action:** fk to ask BCLA office for current account balance.

The following topics were briefly discussed as topics of interest for the 2015 conference:

Impact of immigration changes on libraries:

Massive policy changes in Immigration process

Cuts to settlement agencies programs

Find out what the gaps are and what kind of programs to set up:

Example: citizenship classes, English conversation classes, book club and reading circles.

Panel ? with expert participants from settlement agencies, ISS of BC for example

Deadline for proposals for the 2015 conference is December 10.

### **3. Website Development:**

It seems that we might have missed a training opportunity for maintaining the committee's component of the new BCLA website. Michael asked if we can follow up and see what the situation is.

**Action:** fk to follow up

### **Roundtable –**

- Wendy: Big donation of Chinese books from Dr.. Lee is now sorted out, divided into two collections: a circulating collection and a reference collection which soon will open to public. Part of the donation might become available to other libraries. Wendy has a new TV program ( book talk) in Cantonese in addition to her regular Fairchild radio book talks.
- Michael M. has a new position: Community Librarian : Northwest Area ( congratulations Michael)
- Library champions program is in full swing in participating libraries. NVCL is running its 3<sup>rd</sup> intake. Roberta and Ravi very much involved in the program for BPL and SPL.
  - Ravi has been offering short version of the workshop to champions and SPL staff.
  - SPL has hired a multicultural Family Services Librarian. SPL now has 4 outreach and community librarians.
- Community conversations and Community dialogues are happening in various libraries ( NVCL ) BPL ( under the title : Inclusion Café, library hosting ) and SPL.
- Establishment of immigrant advisory groups in various locations
- Libraries playing major roles by joining various partnerships like North Shore S Immigrant Inclusion Partnership ( NVCL)and Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table (BPL)
- Roberta reported that Burnaby Table organized a successful program called Faith Tours (visiting places of worship and talking with related followers about their faith.
- Fereshteh reported that North Vancouver Museum and Archives has launched an exhibition called "Sharing our Stories Preserving Multicultural Histories on the North Shore ". This first community history initiative portrays Iranian Canadian community. Fereshteh is a member of the Advisory Committee that helps with the project.
- **Next meeting – location and date TBD .**