

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

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 Burnaby Public Library: Bob Prittie Branch**

Present: Ravi Basi, Allan Cho, Michael McCarthy, Fereshteh Kashefi (Chair)

Regrets: Michael Burris, Wendy Jang, Roberta Summersgill, Eva Quintana, Susan Pierce

### ***Highlights of the meeting***

#### **Meeting Opening**

Welcome and introductions, adoption of the previous minutes and agenda.

#### **Membership**

Fereshteh has contacted our new members who were not able to attend the meetings for a while due to scheduling conflicts, they would like to continue being part of the committee and stay on the mailing list. In response to another enquiry we found out that conference calling is available from BPL Board Room.

The outside party would have to call 604-436-5407 to join the meeting.

#### **PUBLICITY AND REACHING OUT**

Allan has been working on an invitation which will be posted on bcla listserve. The Google doc will be sent to every one for their feedback. Ravi is working on a questionnaire to be added to the invite asking interested individuals what their expectations are from the committee.

#### **Web site Maintenance**

Michael McCarthy and Fereshteh attended a virtual website maintenance training session on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. Michael will kindly continue to be our webmaster and will also take care of the blog. Currently he is adding previous years' minutes to the site.

#### **Syrian Refugees**

A large number of Syrian refugees are settling down in Surrey, resulting in an increased need for more settlement workers, staff training in intercultural communication, and Arabic speakers and translators. SPL is involved by providing Intercultural communication training and offering various library services to new comers.

#### **Round table:**

\* Congratulations to Ravi on her new position: Manager, Multicultural Services. Congrats to SPL too, Well done SPL.

\* Allan is involved with ExplorASIAN and Asian Heritage Month Celebrations. This year's theme is Japan.

\* NVCL will be celebrating Japan's art and culture with a program on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\* 2016 is UBC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, visit "points of light" info on [alumniceentre.uc.ca](http://alumniceentre.uc.ca) to view this beautiful design and idea.

- \* June is the aboriginal month and UBC will celebrate with various programs and exhibitions.
  - \* A new intake of Library Champions is starting in April.
  - \* VPL has 2 new story telling / oral history / memory preservation projects. Following the success of the first one which was called West End stories:
    - \*\* China Town Stories: Making Local History
    - \*\* Remembering our DTES Women: the Stories behind the Women's Memorial Quilt.
- Visit VPL website for more info on these.

**Next Meeting :**

**Thursday May 26, 2016 BPL, Bob Prittie Branch, Board Room, 9:30 a.m.**

**Other meetings this year:**

**Thursdays : September 22, December 8.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30