

# BCLA Multicultural Services Committee/Interest Group Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 12, 2022 10:00AM **Location:** Zoom

**Present:** Jessica (Burnaby Public Library), Nicole (Okanagan Regional Library), Ravi (Surrey Libraries), Emily S. (Vancouver Public Library), Andrea (Librarian-at-large), Ann (Coquitlam Public Library), Victoria (North Vancouver District Public Library), Balbir (Fraser Valley Regional Library), Patricia (Prince George Public Library) and Emily G. (Burnaby Public Library)

## AGENDA

1. Terms of Reference - [final version](#) for approval
2. CE Event Update
3. Committee Executive (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary)
4. Roundtable
5. Next Meetings

## MEETING

### Land Acknowledgement

Jessica started the meeting with a land acknowledgment.

### 1. Terms of Reference

We discussed the final draft Terms of Reference. The Multicultural Services Committee has been around for more than 20 years. With recent changes to the governance structure of BCLA, the Committee had previously decided to become an Interest Group. Ravi, who has been leading the Interest Group's efforts to revise the Terms of Reference, walked us through some of the key parts of the [Terms of Reference](#) including the objectives and deliverables etc. Members thanked Ravi for her efforts.

The section titled "Timelines and Tools" discusses the decision-making processes for the Interest Group. Jessica suggested moving ahead with a consensus-based model of decision-making instead of a quorum-based model due to the modest number of members who regularly attend meetings. Attendees expressed approval of this choice.

**Action:** Jessica put the final Terms of Reference to a vote. The attendees approved the Terms of Reference unanimously. Jessica will now send them to Rina for review.

### 2. Update from Continuing Education Planning Working Group

Jessica, a member of the Continuing Education Planning Working Group, shared that she and the other members of the Working Group are trying to set up a meeting to discuss next steps. The plan is still to offer some continuing education as part of one of our regular fall or winter meetings in the 2022-2023 calendar year.

Some potential topics were discussed. Patricia (PGPL) suggested a session that gave members tips on how to reach multicultural groups that do not regularly visit public libraries outside of Storytimes.

Balbir (FVRL) shared some tips including making your library's welcome brochure available in as many different languages as possible. He also suggested promoting library services during Storytimes, checking in with community agencies, visiting local places of worship and other places like parks where residents gather on a regular basis. Balbir shared that in his experience, the best way to connect with different cultural communities, is by having members of those communities working as staff in the library.

Andrea suggested creating an Open Education Resource (OER) that includes tips, like those shared by Balbir, on how to make meaningful connections with the multicultural communities we are trying to serve. She suggested starting with a Google document that the Interest Group could add to over time and share with other library staff.

Balbir expressed interest in being one of the speakers at the CE event.

**Action:** The Continuing Education Working Group is going to meet over the summer break (the Interest Group does not meet over the summer months of June-August) to settle on a topic and presenters for the event. Interest Group members are invited to share ideas for topics and presenters with Jessica.

### 3. Committee Executive

Jessica shared that she would be stepping back from being the Chair of the Interest Group. The Chair and Vice Chair positions are open. Jessica shared that Andrea had volunteered to take on the role of Secretary.

Jessica invited members to put their names forward for Chair and Vice Chair. The terms of appointment for the different executive roles are set out in the Terms of Reference.

Emily (BPL) asked Jessica about the time commitment required to be Chair. Jessica said that it was hard to quantify the time that she spends working on the Interest Group but she explained some of the responsibilities which include putting together an agenda, organizing meeting dates, chairing meetings, and taking and posting meeting minutes (a role that will now be taken on by the secretary). Occasionally, Rina forwards a question from a member about the Multicultural Services Interest Group to Jessica and Jessica will answer the question. Since we are an Interest Group and not a Section, we are not required to formally report to the BCLA Board. Jessica explained that the Chair does not have a lot of responsibilities or duties outside of planning and leading the four annual meetings.

Jessica said that she would send out the call for Chair and Vice Chair on the listserv.

**Action:** Jessica to collect names of people interested in becoming the Interest Group's Chair and Vice Chair. The Interest Group will discuss the nominees at the next meeting in September 2022 and decide who will serve in those roles.

### 4. Roundtable

Patricia (PGPL) – She encouraged attendees to check out the Collection HQ Database that allows you to run an EDI report on your collection. Patricia also shared that they have recently started an English Corner.

Nicole (ORL) – They have started an English Corner. Participants met recently for the second session.

Jessica – She is working on her EDI Recruitment Project with BCLA.

Ann (CPL) – They are now offering Mother Goose programming in Farsi and Korean. This programming is now possible because the library has staff members who speak Farsi and Korean. CPL is working with SUCCESS to offer this programming because they have a solid client base.

Victoria (NVDPL) – The library recently used their StoryLab Facility at the Lynn Valley branch to record staff members' performing Storytimes in multiple different languages including Spanish, German and Farsi. Victoria expressed an interest in offering Intergenerational programming – the idea being that an older generation of multilingual speakers could help younger multilingual speakers.

Andrea shared that Murray Mollard, the Executive Director of North Shore Community Resources, is passionate about intergenerational programming and offered to connect Victoria and Murray via email.

Emily (BPL) – She is currently the co-lead on an internal anti-racism working group. BPL will be making some anti-oppression training available to all staff. This training will not be mandatory but there will be a rolling closure of BPL branches to ensure that all staff interested in the training can attend. BPL is also working hard to enhance the multilingual collections at their different branches with a particular emphasis on children's collections. Displays of multilingual children's collection items have been set up at branches as part of Asian Heritage Month.

Andrea (Librarian-at-large) – She will be attending a Continuing Legal Education Conference on Indigenous Women and the Law at the end of the month.

Ravi – (Surrey Libraries) – She mentioned that she asks Collections Services to run a report each year on the top 50 highest-circulating adult non-fiction titles. And every year, at least 30 of the top circulating titles are English Language Training titles including the IELTS books and study guides. She also mentioned that Surrey Libraries is working with an EDI consultant who is in the second year of his/her/their term. The EDI consultant has worked with the Board and management and plans to work with other library staff next year in 2023.

Balbir (FVRL) – He mentioned that they have started doing some in person programming at the Clearbrook branch. FVRL is trying to recruit patrons for the Library Champion program. All staff completed a 1-hour webinar offered by the Centre for Equitable Library Access.

## 5. Next Meetings

Balbir expressed a desire to continue holding meetings virtually or in a hybrid format (part in-person and part virtual). Attendees agreed that holding meetings virtually makes them more accessible to members throughout the province. Last year, Jessica sent out a Doodle Poll with possible meeting dates. Attendees discussed holding meetings the third week of each meeting month e.g. the third week in September. In the past, meetings had been held on Thursdays but some members expressed concern that some people may not be able to attend if meetings are held on the same day each month. Attendees decided to hold the meetings the third week of each meeting month, alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Action:** Jessica will create a Doodle Poll with potential meeting dates for 2022-2023 and send it out to the listserv. Listserv members are asked to kindly complete the Poll as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12am.