

# BCLA Multicultural Services Committee/Interest Group Meeting

## Minutes

**Date:** September 22, 2022 9:30AM

**Location:** Zoom

**Present:** Jessica (Burnaby Public Library), Tara Thompson (Okanagan Regional Library), Ravi (Surrey Libraries) and Andrea (Librarian-at-large)

### AGENDA

1. Update from Continuing Education Working Group
2. Discuss nominees for open Executive positions – Chair and Vice Chair
3. Vote on nominees for Executive
4. Update on new BCLA website & forums
5. Roundtable
6. Next Meeting & Action Items
7. Other?

### MEETING

#### Land Acknowledgement

Jessica started the meeting with a land acknowledgment.

#### 1. Update from Continuing Education Working Group

Jessica shared an update from this Working Group that met over the summer. The plan is to incorporate a continuing education event into one of our upcoming meetings either on Thursday, November 24, 2022 or Tuesday, February 21, 2023. The event would consist of a series of lightning talks that would highlight practical knowledge and actionable steps that library staff can take to better serve our multicultural communities. There would be four segments each with their own topic. Here are the four proposed topics:

1. How to develop collections for multicultural communities?
2. How do we effectively reach out to and connect with multicultural communities?
3. What should we consider when reaching out? What should we be mindful of?
4. How can library staff make initial contact with multicultural communities?

After the lightning talks, there would be a break followed by a roundtable discussion. We discussed the possibility of using breakout sessions during the event and inviting community service provider(s) to come and speak on topic #4. Potential community service provider speakers included a representative from the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (“AMSSA”).

Some additional potential speakers were discussed. Jessica mentioned a librarian from the University of Toronto but this librarian is only available for the February 2023 meeting not the November 2022 meeting. Other potential speakers that were discussed include Sue Clarke (LibraryBound's multilingual sales representative) who could speak to multilingual collections, Ava Quintana (BPL), Wendy from VPL to talk about Chinese collections and tips, Balbir (FVRL), and Rachel Chong (KPU) to discuss protocol for outreach with Elders.

**Next Steps:** It was decided that we would try to hold the Continuing Education event during our February 2023 meeting to give the Committee and the Working Group sufficient time to connect with speakers. The Committee welcomes feedback on the proposed continuing education event. Jessica will share the minutes of our September meeting with the Working Group and they will plan next steps. The Working Group may ask listserv members for assistance with organizing the event.

## **2. Discuss nominees for open Executive positions – Chair and Vice Chair**

Unfortunately, the Committee has yet to receive any nominations for these two open positions. The time commitment required is very reasonable – usually only a few hours each month. The Chair and Vice Chair are supported by the Secretary who helps plan meetings, create agendas, communicate with Committee members, and more. Being on the executive of a committee can be excellent experience – all library staff members and library students are welcome to put their names forward.

**Next Steps:** Meeting attendees and listserv members are encouraged to reach out to people in their network and find library colleagues who are interested in either of these two positions. We will revisit these positions at our next meeting.

## **3. Vote on Executive Positions**

See above.

**Next Steps:** Tabled to the next meeting in November 2022.

## **4. Update on new BCLA website & forums**

Jessica and Andrea will be providing feedback on the new BCLA website and online community forums. The beta testing of the website and forums will occur in early October 2022.

**Next Steps:** Jessica and Andrea will report back to the Committee about the new features and functionality of the website and online forums at the next meeting in November.

## **5. Roundtable**

Jessica (BPL) – She shared an update on her Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (“EDI”) project. One of the goals of the project is to provide libraries with equitable hiring practices and recruitment strategies that they can use to help diversify the library sector's workforce.

Tara (ORL) – She mentioned that language conversation circles are very popular right now and that her system is trying to connect with Vietnamese newcomers by reaching out to local Vietnamese churches.

Ravi (SL) – She mentioned that she will be taking a close look at the recently released Statistics Canada Census data about languages spoken in Canada to inform the development and delivery of multicultural programs and services. Ravi also advised the Committee that Surrey Libraries recently created a posting for an Indigenous Coordinator and will be hosting a screening of the award-winning, local documentary entitled “EMERGENCE: Out of the Shadows.” The documentary features the lived experiences of three young LGBTQIA+ South Asians as they try to navigate how to come to terms with and express their sexuality within their conservative South Asian families and communities. You can find more information about this documentary at this website: <https://emergencefilm.net/>

Ravi mentioned that Surrey Libraries has also requested a Spanish speaking settlement worker who could serve the growing number of Spanish speaking residents, especially migrants and temporary workers. Surrey Libraries is also partnering with Fraser Health on a human library program focused on stigma faced by people experiencing issues such as addiction, homelessness, mental health, etc. The goal of the program is to dispel myths and stereotypes around these issues faced by people within our communities.

Andrea (Librarian-at-large) – She mentioned that the Immigrant Services Society of BC (“ISSofBC”) is in the process of updating their newcomer guide by revising lesson plans and activities that introduce newcomers to Indigenous peoples, cultures, traditions, spirituality and more.

## **6. Next Meeting & Action Items**

Our new meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday, November 24, 2022 from 9:30-11:00am. The secretary will email the meeting link information to all listserv members two weeks in advance of the next meeting and a meeting reminder the day before the next meeting.

## **7. Other?**

N/A

Meeting adjourned at 10:28am.