



British Columbia
Library Association

Resolution Submission Form

Please email to execdir@bcla.bc.ca by April 3rd, 2013.

Please indicate **2013 Resolution – Title (the title of the Resolution!)** in the email subject line.

1. Title of Resolution	Update BCLA By-laws 13 and 14
2. Rationale / Purpose for Resolution	<p>BCLA is a member-driven organization that should, whenever possible, support members making independent decisions that best suit the work they do within the Association.</p> <p>Currently BCLA has several long-standing, active and involved Committees who, because of the way the by-laws are articulated, need Board approval for the appointment of a new Chair. This resolution would change this aspect of the by-laws and support members of Committees to vote for and appoint the Chair of their choice without Board involvement.</p> <p>Currently BCLA by-laws state that only “<i>Chairs of the Committees shall act in an advisory capacity to the Directors and assist them generally. They shall attend meetings of the Directors when requested, and perform such other duties as may be entrusted to them.</i>” Interest Groups as well as Committees perform vital roles and functions within the Association and should be recognized for their often specialized knowledge and expertise. Chairs of Interest Groups should be acknowledged as potential contributors to Board meetings and as advisors to Board members when necessary.</p> <p>When BCLA members meet and decide to form a group within the Association they should be allowed to decide what designation they would prefer – Committee or Interest Group. Once the BCLA Board no longer appoints a Committee Chair and once Interest Group Chairs are also included as Board advisors, there is no distinction between a Committee and an Interest Group. Given this, any group of individuals engaged in the work of the Association should be free to decide if they will be called a Committee or an Interest Group.</p> <p>Currently the definition of a Working Group is either vague or undefined in the BCLA By-laws. Having an articulated definition will help with both the work of the Board and the operational activities of the Association. A clear definition of a Working Group will also distinguish it from either a Committee or a Working</p>



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	Group.
3. Prior History of this Resolution (IF ANY)	none
4. Body of the Resolution (Action Proposed)	<p>Whereas BCLA Committees should elect and appoint their own Chair,</p> <p>Whereas Interest Groups should be formally recognized as providing support and information directly to the BCLA Board,</p> <p>Whereas any group in BCLA should be able to decide whether they want to be designated an Interest Group or a Committee,</p> <p>Whereas BCLA needs a formal articulation of the difference between a Working Group and Committees and Interest Groups,</p> <p>Therefore be it resolved that,</p> <p>BCLA will adjust by-law sections 13 and 14 to:</p> <p>Allow Committees to elect and appoint their own Chairs,</p> <p>Formally recognize the importance and role of Interest Group in providing information to the BCLA Board,</p> <p>Support any BCLA group's decision to call themselves either an Interest Group or Committee,</p>
5. Initiating Individual, Committee or Interest Group	BCLA Board of Directors
6. Mover's Name, Telephone and Email	Ursula Brigl ubrigl@cranbrookpubliclibrary.ca
7. Seconder's Name, Telephone and Email	Chris Middlemass cmiddlemass@gmail.com
8. BCLA Committees / Interest Groups Consulted (IF ANY)	Issue originally brought to the Board by the Mentorship Committee
9. Endorsement by BCLA Committees / Interest Groups (IF ANY)	n/a
10. Fiscal Implications (IF ANY)	n/a
11. If this resolution necessitates a change in an existing bylaw, state the bylaw and the change. If this resolution proposes a new bylaw, please state	Both current and new articulations of by-law Section 13 and 14 are attached.



the new bylaw. (Review BCLA Bylaws.)*	
12. If this resolution conflicts with an existing bylaw, state provisions for resolving the conflict.	n/a
13. If this resolution proposes a BCLA position statement, indicate the position's relation to libraries and library service.	n/a

* See <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/page/constitution%20and%20by-laws.aspx>

Current By-Laws

13. COMMITTEES

13.1 Committees and Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to perform duties specified by the Board of Directors, and shall hold office for the time specified, until their successors are appointed, or until they are discharged. The Committee Chairs may appoint a Vice-Chair to assist them in their duties; however one person will be designated as the primary representative of the Committee. The President and Executive Director are ex-officio members of every Committee.

13.2 A majority of a Committee shall be a quorum. The Board of Directors may fill a vacancy arising on a Committee by appointment.

13.3 The Chairs of the Committees shall act in an advisory capacity to the Directors and assist them generally. They shall attend meetings of the Directors when requested, and perform such other duties as may be entrusted to them.

13.3 The Association will provide meeting space at the annual conference for Committees. Those meetings will be free of charge and open to all members of the Association.

13.4 Members of Committees shall also be members of the Association in good standing.

14. INTEREST GROUPS

14.1 The purpose of Interest Groups is to allow members of the Association having a common interest in some aspect of library service that is not dealt with in the formal structure of BCLA to meet and correspond on the subject.

14.2 Interest Groups do not officially represent BCLA and cannot issue policy or position statements or media releases on behalf of the Association.

14.3 Interest Groups may be proposed on the application of not less than ten members of the Association in good standing. The application shall state the aims or terms of reference of the Interest Group and should be in harmony with overall BCLA goals, objectives and policies. The application shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.



14.4 Interest Groups shall elect one of their members as Convenor. The Convenor may appoint a viceconvenor, but one person shall be designated as the primary representative of the Interest Group. The Convenor will be responsible for liaison with the Board of Directors and will submit an annual report of the Interest Group's activities to the Board of Directors at the request of the Executive Director, and before the Annual Meeting. The Convenor shall attend meetings of the Directors when requested. Aside from the mandatory Convenor, each Interest Group may design its own structure to suit its needs.

14.5 The Association will provide meeting space at the annual conference for Interest Groups. Those meetings will be free of charge and open to all members of the Association.

14.6 The Association shall not collect membership or other fees for Interest Groups. However, Interest Groups may independently elect to assess their members for dues.

14.7 The Board of Directors may vote to dissolve an Interest Group under any one of the following conditions:

- a) an annual report has not been submitted by March 31 of every year;
- b) a Convenor has not been chosen by the Interest Group by September 30 every year;
- c) the Interest Group has less than ten BCLA members in good standing. A list of BCLA members that support the Interest Group must be submitted annually by March 30 to the Office Manager.
- d) The Board of Directors may also move to discontinue the Association's relationship with an Interest Group if they feel it is no longer compatible with the objects of the Association.

14.8 Members of Interest Groups shall also be members of the Association in good standing.

Proposal for Updating By-Laws

13. Working Groups

- 13.1 A Working Group is formed at either Board or Executive Director request, depending on whether the task is in support of a Board objective or in support of operational activities.
- 13.2 A Working Group is formed for a specific task and for a predetermined amount of time not to exceed one year. When the task is complete the group is dissolved.
- 13.3 The structure and task of the Working Group is determined by either the Board, if the Working Group is tasked to support a Board objective or by the Executive Director if the Working Group is tasked to support operational activities.

14. Committees and Interest Groups

- 14.1 The purpose of a Committee or Interest Groups is to allow members of the Association having a common interest in some aspect of library service that is not dealt with in the formal structure of BCLA to meet and correspond on the subject.



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- 14.2 Once a group is assembled according to the by-laws the group can decide on whether they want to be called a Committee or an Interest Group. The BCLA President and Executive Director are ex-officio members of all Committees and Interest Groups.
- 14.3 The Convenors of Committees and Interest Groups shall act in an advisory capacity to the Directors and the Executive Director and assist them generally. They shall attend meetings of the Directors when requested, and perform such other duties as may be entrusted to them.
- 14.4 Committees and Interest Groups do not officially represent BCLA and cannot issue policy or position statements or media releases on behalf of the Association.
- 14.5 Committees and Interest Groups may be proposed on the application of not less than ten members of the Association in good standing. The application shall state the aims or terms of reference of the Committee or Interest Group and should be in harmony with overall BCLA goals, objectives and policies. The application shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
- 14.6 Committees and Interest Groups shall elect one of their members as Convenor. The Convenor may appoint a vice-convenor, but one person shall be designated as the primary representative of the Committee or Interest Group. The Convenor will be responsible for liaising with the Board of Directors and will submit an annual report of the group's activities to the Board of Directors at the request of the Executive Director, and before the Annual Meeting. The Convenor shall attend meetings of the Directors when requested. Aside from the mandatory Convenor, each group may design its own structure to suit its needs.
- 14.7 The Association will provide meeting space at the annual conference for Committees and Interest Groups. Those meetings will be free of charge and open to all members of the Association.
- 14.8 The Association shall not collect membership or other fees for Interest Groups. However, groups may independently elect to assess their members for dues.
- 14.9 The Board of Directors may vote to dissolve a Committee or Interest Group under any one of the following conditions:
- a) an annual report has not been submitted by March 31 of every year;
 - b) a Convenor has not been chosen by the Committee or Interest Group by September 30 every year;
 - c) the Committee or Interest Group has less than ten BCLA members in good standing. A list of BCLA members that support the Interest Group must be submitted annually by March 30 to the Office Manager.



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- d) The Board of Directors may also move to discontinue the Association's relationship with an Interest Group if they feel it is no longer compatible with the objects of the Association.

14.10 Members of Committees and Interest Groups shall also be members of the Association in good standing.