

**MINUTES OF THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**9:00 - 10:15 am, Saturday, June 20, 1998
Victoria Conference Centre**

1. Call to Order

Frieda Wiebe called the meeting to order at 9:05am

2. Establishment of Quorum

Quorum established by Sybil Harrison

3. Announcement of Parliamentarian

Sylvia Crooks was announced as Parliamentarian

4. Minutes of the 1997 Annual General Meeting - May 10, 1997

The minutes were published in the June/July 1997 Reporter.

Motion to approve the minutes of the 1997 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Anda Phelps. Seconded by Ken Haycock

CARRIED

5. Annual Report

Motion to adopt the 1997/98 Annual Report.

Moved by Lois Bewley. Seconded by Todd Mundle

CARRIED

6. Treasurer's Report - 1997 Financial Statements; Appointment of Auditor

Niina Mitter presented the Treasurer's report. Niina noted that BCLA did well in spite of falling interest rates.

Motion to accept the audited financial report

Moved by Ron Clancy. Seconded by Elaine Fairey

CARRIED

Motion that Collins Barrow continue as auditors in 1998

Moved by Niina Mitter. Seconded by Todd Mundle

CARRIED

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Sybil Harrison reported that as of June 12, 1998, BCLA has 642 members.

422 personal voting members

100 institutional voting members

71 personal associate members

49 institutional associate members

Motion to accept the membership report

Moved by Robert Gore. Seconded by Pam Clancy.
CARRIED

8. Nominations Committee Report

Frieda announced the acclamation of BCLA's New Executive:

Vice President - President Elect: Sybil Harrison

Assistant Treasurer - Treasurer Elect: Robert Gore

Membership Secretary: Sylvia Roberts

2 Year Director: Jacqueline Bradshaw

1 Year Director: Ann Goodhart

9. Resolutions Committee Report - member resolutions; special resolution
Barbara Patterson, Resolutions Chair, introduced three new resolutions.

1. Notice of Special Resolution: Membership By-Laws

Proposed Membership By-laws

3. Members

3.1 Membership of the Association shall be made up of the following:

a) Individual members:

Individuals engaged in library or information work, members and past members of library boards and other individuals interested in the purposes of the Association.

b) Student Members

Students enrolled in a recognized program in library, information or archival studies at a college or university.

First-year students will be provided complimentary one-year memberships, and are eligible for a reduced student rate for the following year.

c) Honorary members:

Individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the library field and the Association.

One-year honorary memberships may be granted.

Distinguished individuals in the field may have lifetime honorary memberships conferred upon them.

d) Institutional members:

Libraries and library schools in British Columbia, library associations with whom the Association exchanges membership on a reciprocal basis, and other organizations supportive of the purposes of the Association.

Recommendation: update the language of by-laws and adopt new membership by-laws that provide all categories of members with the opportunity to vote and participate fully in the activities of the Association.

Motion to accept the resolution

Moved by Sybil Harrison. Seconded by Todd Mundle

Background: Voting privileges are currently restricted to active members. Associate members, which include students and library schools, among others, are denied voting privileges. The recommendation to change the membership by-laws to extend voting privileges to associate members stems from the desire to encourage belonging within the BCLA, and eliminate the disenfranchisement of those currently unable to vote.

Discussion: **Motion** to amend the special resolution to remove the category..."and other individuals interested in the purposes of the association" from section 3.1.a. of the Proposed Membership By-Laws.

Moved by Liz Ball. Seconded by Brian Campbell.

Gordon Ray spoke out against the amendment. He suggested that wording be changed to strengthen the power of the statement from..."interested in" to "supportive of"

When put to a vote the amendment was defeated.

Recommendation: by Todd Mundle to change the wording of section 3.1.a. to reflect Gordon Ray's suggestion.

Motion to accept the original resolution with this change in wording

Moved by Todd Mundle. Seconded by Elaine Fairey

CARRIED

2. BCLA Resolution on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment

Whereas the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) provides for an extension of National Treatment which results in foreign corporations being given every right, concession or privilege that a government may provide local companies or communities;

And Whereas the MAI in the Performance Requirements sets out a lengthy list of government measures that cannot be imposed on foreign corporations, such as establishing a percentage of local content or requirements to purchase goods locally; require a given level or value of production, investment, employment, research and development; and local hiring requirements;

And Whereas under the MAI foreign investors have an unqualified right to sue governments under secretive rules of international arbitration;

And Whereas the MAI under the Investor Protection section provides that governments shall not expropriate or nationalize directly or indirectly an investment or take any measure or measures having equivalent effect;

And Whereas the MAI could threaten existing public services such as libraries, public education, and public health through foreign companies demanding “equal treatment” and therefore subsidies similar to those allocated to the public sector;

And Whereas the MAI was negotiated in secret and was only discovered by the citizens of Canada and the world through a leak to an activist organization;

And Whereas the current status of the MAI negotiations is unclear but the possibility of moving the principles of MAI onto the agenda of other international bodies such as the World Trade Organization or the International Monetary Fund exists;

BE IT RESOLVED that the BCLA opposes the MAI and requests that the Government of Canada cease its support for such an agreement and withdraw from any further negotiations immediately;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BCLA urges the Government of Canada to consult widely and in depth with all the people of Canada before undertaking any further action on the MAI or other international trading treaties of similar magnitude;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BCLA encourages its member librarians and libraries to create displays and programs which will educate the public on the importance of treaties such as the MAI and encourage dialogue leading to clarification and understanding.

Moved by Fiona Hunt

Seconded by Miriam Moses

Fiona Hunt provided some background information on the MAI and its potential effects on libraries.

Motion to split the resolution so that the first “be it resolved” stands alone.

Moved by Liz Ball. Seconded by Holly Nguyen

Discussion: The second and third resolves weaken the first.

CARRIED

Friendly amendment to change ..."opposes" to ..."oppose"

ACCEPTED

Motion accept the second and third resolves with the above friendly amendment.

Moved by Fiona Hunt. Seconded by Miriam Moses.

CARRIED

3. BCLA Resolution on Freedom of Information

Whereas librarians are in favour of the widest possible access to government information as a fundamental democratic right;

And Whereas the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) was involved closely in building support for and developing the B.C. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;

And Whereas the Act was acknowledged widely to be one of the most progressive in Canada and internationally;

And Whereas the B.C. government established an all party committee of the legislature to review the Act;

And Whereas the BCLA and many other community organization submitted briefs in support of strengthening the Act;

And Whereas the B.C. government, without waiting for the report of the all party committee of the legislature, has reduced the budgets for the FOI offices by an average of 50% and plan to increase dramatically the cost of making an FOI request;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the BCLA support the CAMPAIGN FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT and its core demands: no fee increases for FOI requests; no cuts to the FOI budgets of the Ministries and Crown Corporations; B.C. government to re-commit to the principles of an open and accountable government through strengthening the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Moved by Nancy Hannum. Seconded by Percilla Groves
CARRIED

10. President's Report

Frieda Wiebe offered thanks to all for their help and energy throughout the year. She thanked Ron Clancy in particular for agreeing to stay on as Past President for another year, given her upcoming move to the United Arab Emirates. Frieda reviewed the wide variety of activities that took place over the year, which included the following: developing grant proposals, establishing policies and positions on public issues affecting libraries, defending intellectual freedom principles, promoting continuing education opportunities throughout the province, advocating for libraries on the political front, raising funds for the association, providing additional benefits for members, and strengthening the infrastructure of the association.

11. Incoming President's Report

Greg Buss reflected on the conference theme and the presentation by John Raulston Saul. His discussion on BCLA and power ended with an acknowledgment of the many individuals who contribute to BCLA. Greg commented that he is looking forward to the year.

12. Other Business

Ron Clancy acknowledged the mutually beneficial relationship that has developed between BCLA and Interlink during their co-habitation at the Bonsor office. He presented a small remembrance from Interlink for the new BCLA office.

Ron also presented Frieda Wiebe with a gift from the Executive.

Announcement of the BC Libraries Showcase, Bibliotique display and Awards Luncheon

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Anita Cocchia. Seconded by Liz Ball

CARRIED