



To develop and support library trustees to advance public library service in British Columbia

## What does the British Columbia Library Trustees' Association do?

Our organization, which was founded in 1977, represents the boards and trustees that govern local public libraries. We represent 69 library boards and over 600 library trustees who volunteer their time on library boards throughout our province.

BCLTA is governed by a Board of nine and the work of the Board is supported by an Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. Contact information for the current Board and staff can be found on our website, [www.bclta.org](http://www.bclta.org), under the tab "About BCLTA".

Membership in the BCLTA is an institutional membership for the library board with each board member than being recognized as an individual member.

BCLTA's mission is "to develop and support library trustees to advance public library service in BC." Therefore we strive to provide a range of services to trustees and boards to make them leaders in BC's library community. BCLTA also fills an important strategic role providing organized representation to the provincial government for library trustees, and undertaking advocacy work on behalf of trustees and public libraries with various levels of government and the public.

As a BCLTA member you enjoy these benefits:

- **Organized representation to the provincial government**
- **Open Door Newsletter:** BCLTA publishes the Open Door newsletter two times per year. A copy for each trustee is sent to your Board Chair for distribution. Content is trustee focused and includes information and updates on provincial and federal issues and events; an opportunity for trustees to share their success stories and challenges so others may learn from their experience; recognition of outstanding trustee contributions and information on trustee education programs.
- **Bulletins:** BCLTA publishes bulletins to our membership on an on-going basis to keep trustees informed of current issues, often under the banner of "Have You Heard?" The topics cover everything from upcoming trustee events to a call to action on provincial or national issues. Typically these bulletins are sent electronically to Board Chairs for distribution at the local level.
- **Trustee Education Programs:** The highly regarded Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) is BCLTA's flagship training program. This full day course introduces trustees to the provincial context for public library leadership, including legislation and services, community advocacy, current issues and strategies for success. It also provides a forum for sharing information and ideas with other board members. In 2006, thanks to the support of PLSB, we are able to use regional trainers to deliver this program to library boards right in your own community at no charge. For further details regarding course content or to book a TOP session, look under the "Trustee Development" tab on our website. To complement the classroom TOP sessions, in the spring of 2006, we are launching an online version of TOP so stay tuned for more information. BCLTA also offers courses at the annual conference and ad hoc programs from time to time.

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- **Trustee Handbook:** Updated in 2006, the BCLTA Trustee Handbook is primarily an education and resource tool that was designed to provide a comprehensive resource for public library trustees in British Columbia. This handbook covers a wide range of basic information required by trustees - including a history of Library Boards in BC, effective meeting management, roles of the trustee, and resources available to trustees. If you don't already have a handbook, please contact BCLTA.
- **Conference:** The BCLTA conference is held annually either as a stand-alone or in partnership with BCLA and/or CLA. It provides an excellent networking and education opportunity for members. Theme speeches, issues, forums, award ceremonies, annual general meeting and social events are planned for trustees by trustees.
- **Website [www.bclta.org](http://www.bclta.org) :** Our website is a great resource for trustees. There are links to printed resources and relevant websites, updates on training programs, archives of our newsletters and bulletins and much more. The site is updated regularly so check it out.
- **Voting rights and eligibility to run for the BCLTA Executive.**
- **Representation on the Canadian Library Trustees' Association Executive and other library associations.**
- **Annual representation at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention.**
- **Eligibility for BCLTA Awards.** BCLTA has three categories of awards to recognize outstanding trustees and other organizations that contribute to our libraries - The Nancy Bennett Award, Super Trustee Award and Library Advocate Award.

We are here to support our members so please contact us if you have any questions.

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