

Strategic Framework to 2025



British Columbia
Library Trustees
Association

BCLTA Convictions

Where do we come from?

Since 1977, BCLTA has been convening, supporting, and representing trustees who govern public libraries of all shapes and sizes around BC. We have morphed and evolved as the needs of trustees and the resources of BCLTA have changed.

What are our ambitions?

A world where trustees of BC public libraries are supported in their role as governors and stewards of strong library systems. A world where BC library trustees have connections to each other and between their boards.

Where is our world going?

Our world is changing, constantly. The social, technological, political, economic, and funding climates affect public libraries every day. Our ability to be agile, proactive and responsive, and adaptable is key for trustees and public libraries around BC.

What is the tension we resolve?

We are part of a BC library community that includes many individuals and organizations. BCLTA seeks to meet BC trustees and our provincial partners in the spaces of similarities and differences. We seek to develop a unique mix of offerings that allow us to work collectively as distinct individuals and groups who are committed to strong public libraries even while we come from communities of all shapes and sizes.

Who are we most important to?

We are here for the over 700 library trustees in BC who serve their library communities by working to build and maintain strong, sustainable public libraries.

What experience do we enable?

We offer a connected, resource sharing, supportive, educational, empowering, advocating, and value-based experience. We offer the opportunity for trustees to work together towards a coordinated approach to governance of public libraries and their issues.

What are we like?

We are leaders driven by the values of public libraries. We believe in the transformative role of libraries and library trustees in our communities.

What makes us remarkable?

We are an association of governors related to, and serving, a public that provides our communities with free, safe(r), and welcoming public spaces and content. We have proven our commitment and resilience, through thick and thin, since 1977.

What do we fight for?

We fight for the values of public libraries including access, privacy, democracy, diversity, education & lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, the public good, preservation, service, and social responsibility. We fight for the resources, support, and funding needed for communities in BC to govern their libraries and offer robust programming and services to their users. We fight for truth and for reconciliation.

BCLTA Strategic Framework to 2025

BCLTA Convictions are lived by:

Supporting trustees to engage with board development. We focus on common issues of common concern and support effective public library governance. We do this by expanding the reach of trustee orientation and board development resources; by convening provincial discussions and meetings; and by connecting trustees with trustees for peer networking.

Representing trustees. We amplify the voices of trustees and bring public library board needs to provincial, strategic, and partnership initiatives. We ensure that the governance of public libraries (all types from across the province) is integral to all discussions for advancing the development of public libraries across the province.

Connecting with all trustees. We are the recognized representatives of public library trustees to the provincial government, to provincial organizations, to other library associations across the country, and to the BC Public Library Partners. We want to know the trustees we represent.

Strategic Focus #1: Supporting Trustee and Board Development

Outcomes

- Knowledgeable, confident, and effective public library boards and trustees.
- Exemplary public library governance practices across the province that reflect local needs.
- Province wide governance that embraces public library values and concretely supports public library efforts and initiatives for reconciliation, inclusivity and diversity, and equitable access to service.

Goal 1: Expand reach of trustee orientation and board development resources.

We will accomplish this by:

- Being informed by membership needs and issues and leading board development initiatives in areas such as reconciliation and inclusivity and diversity.
- Prioritizing accessible and equitable delivery to trustee orientation and board development, including the expansion of online resources.
- Working with the provincial government for accessible development resources.

- Increasing association revenue, outside of membership fees, to increase association membership services and value.

Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships and collaborations for shared trustee and staff professional development.

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with the BC Public Library Partners (Partners) on professional development events.
- Seeking opportunities to work with the Library Federations and other like-minded organizations.

Strategic Focus #2: Representing Trustees and Boards

Outcomes

- The Partners are successful in their advocacy efforts regarding provincial funding for public libraries, connectivity, and public library services for, by, and with First Nations improves across the province.
- The membership informs, and is informed of, BCLTA advocacy actions.

- BCLTA is known to the provincial government for effectively representing the needs and priorities of public library trustees and boards.
- BCLTA is known to provincial organizations for effectively representing the needs and priorities of public library trustees and boards.

Goal 1: Strong and effective BC Public Library Partners.

We will accomplish this by:

- Contributing resources and expertise to Partners' work and developing opportunities for further collaboration.
- Ensuring that the impact of Partners' work is measured and shared with the broader community.

Goal 2: Successful advocacy strategy.

We will accomplish this by:

- Ensuring that we are informed by and represent membership needs and issues to the Partners.
- Developing a strategy with the Partners that amplifies our unified public library voice to influencers, the government, and other organizations.
- Working with the provincial government to advance the development of public libraries equitably across the province.

Goal 3: Reliable and effective provincial support for the advancement public libraries across the province.

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with the Partners and membership.
- Building influence with other organizations, particularly those in the galleries, libraries, archives, and museum (GLAM) sector.
- Working with the provincial government, particularly the Libraries Branch, for furthering a shared understanding of the value of public libraries and the need for funding that ensures equitable access to public library spaces, resources, and staff expertise in communities across the province.

Strategic Focus #3: Connecting with Trustees and Boards

Outcomes

- Trustees are engaged with their association, use its resources, and participate in the governance of the association.
- BCLTA knows the common issues of common concern across the province and is familiar with unique local issues.
- BCLTA is knowledgeable and confident in supporting and representing the needs of trustees and boards.

Goal 1: Meet trustees and boards where they live and work.

We will accomplish this by:

- Finding resources for in person membership meetings with BCLTA staff and local BCLTA directors.
- Increasing the reach of trustee orientation and board development resources in person and online.
- Knowing who the 700+ trustees are across the province.

Goal 2: Increase trustee and board engagement with BCLTA.

We will accomplish this by:

- Encouraging trustees to shape the association through governance.
- Encouraging trustees to contribute ideas, resources, and networking opportunities through BCLTA social media, website and the *Bulletin*.
- Finding resources to increase membership access to BCLTA events.

The Foundation for BCLTA Strategic Success

Public Library Values

BCLTA is the professional association for BC public library trustees and our work is driven by public library values such as equitable access, intellectual freedom, privacy, inclusivity and diversity, life-long learning, and reconciliation. BCLTA is a champion of public library values in various forums such conferences, library education programs, and provincial government consultations. BCLTA is a member of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations and supports the recommendations of the CFLA-FCAB Truth and Reconciliation Report.

BCLTA Board Development

BCLTA is a registered society under the *BC Societies Act* and the board of directors has legal and fiduciary responsibility for the oversight of the association. Annually each director completes a self-evaluation and an evaluation of the board. These evaluations inform the board's development. Of particular interest for BCLTA's strategic success is board succession planning and recruitment.

Partnerships and Collaboration

BCLTA values its partnerships and opportunities for collaboration. As a small association, our best work is done with others. This includes membership involvement, the BC Public Library Partners, seeking opportunities with the provincial government, particularly with the Libraries Branch, and building new opportunities for collaboration such as our 2017 Letter of Understanding with the BC School Trustee Association. The association is seeking new opportunities with various organizations and foundations in the areas of reconciliation, diversity and inclusivity, innovative governance practices, and leadership development.

Operational Capacity and Sustainability

BCLTA staff are committed to ensuring that the necessary skills and expertise are available for the success of the association and augments organizational capacity through partnerships and with outside expertise. The sustainability of the association is built on clear and timely communications, accurate and transparent financial management, and outcome focused partnerships and initiatives. The association is in position for revenue and service growth.