



Work this fall is dominated by potential changes to the BCLA by-laws. This is due to new legislation governing societies and not-for-profits. While it is good opportunity for the BCLA Board Executive to review the by-laws, it is also a legal requirement to complete such a review by November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016. BCLA will hold a special AGM on Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> to introduce the changes to the by-laws to the membership. Overall the new legislation is meant to update the old legislation that was originally passed in the 1970s. While the contentious parts of the legislation don't affect BCLA, other non-profits in the Province, especially environmental groups and groups supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities, are protesting the change. The new legislation allows access to an organizations membership lists and contact information. It also restricts who is eligible to serve on a Board prohibiting third party representation. For BCLA though this is a good opportunity to review By-Laws and bring them up to date.

Two significant national issues are important for BCLA advocacy work this fall. Canada's Chief Statistician, Wayne Smith, has stepped down citing deep concerns about the independence of Statistics Canada. This is the second Chief Statistician to step down in less than 10 years. BCLA has written to the Prime Minister's office expressing concerns about the need to trust the data collected by the government and the need to trust that the data will be independently managed. The new Prime Minister campaigned, in part, on the idea of evidence-based decision making and BCLA has suggested that an independent Statistics Canada should provide the arms-length statistical data needed for such an approach.

At the same time the Canadian government is collecting feedback on Bill C-51. This Bill extends Canada's anti-terror laws beyond legislation implemented after 9/11. The bill, though, is not just about terrorism. It's about granting greater powers to police authorities to target activities that could "undermine the security of Canada" as well as activities that are detrimental to Canada's interests. Bill C-51 means broad and significant changes to national security measures. Its main provisions would facilitate information sharing among 17 (and some say more than 17) federal institutions, give police powers that would allow them to preventatively detain or restrict terror suspects, ban the "promotion of terrorism," allow the public safety minister to add people to Canada's "no-fly list," and enhance the powers of Canada's spy agency CSIS. The provisions have received widespread criticism, including a broad letter writing campaign from libraries and open access to information supporters from across the country. The BCLA Board sent a letter that expresses our collective concerns.

Regular activities this fall include the beginning of our conference planning activities. The theme for the 2017 BC Library Conference is **Seek. Spark. Ignite.**

The conference itself will continue to focus on ideas, thinking, core values and principles as well as learning from each other and from other organizations whose approaches intersect with ours.

Best wishes to all,  
Annette DeFaveri  
BCLA Executive Director