



BCTLA Spring 2020 Newsletter

President's Message

June is looming and the school year is coming to a close. Time for year end pizza parties, visits from the public library and reminders to sign up for summer reading programs. Ah, yes, the gentle end to the school year...

WAIT!

For many of us, June 1st is actually bringing a physical return to work ...

That's not to say that we haven't been working all along. Stories from teacher-librarians around the province show how busy they've been during remote learning. As a 'leader from the middle,' teacher-librarians are used to juggling multiple supports for teachers and students; finding resources, modeling inquiry, teaching multiple literacies, supporting technology, championing free, voluntary reading. The list goes on, and while little was taken away during our remote learning time, much was added. Suddenly, teachers need access to database passwords so they can access these holdings outside the school. They need to know where to find quality ebooks and if they can read a book and post it online. They are looking for a partner to suggest digital resources, interpret copyright and support digital literacy lessons. So June will not be a return to school after a well-earned break, but a continuation of the work we've been doing all along.

To those of you who are returning physically to work in June, those of you who have been there all along supporting the children of essential services workers and those of you who need to continue staying home for your own health or that of your families, the BCTLA wishes you a safe, smooth final month of the school year and a restful summer vacation. While fall 2020 will undoubtedly bring challenges, this unusual school year has shown us we can handle anything the world throws at us. After all, we're teacher-librarians!

Summer Contest: Storybook Snacking

What do you munch while reading Munsch?

Nibble while reading Nielsen?

Slurp while reading Seuss?

The BCTLA is looking for pictures of teacher-librarians devouring both books and treats. Email your pictures to psac049@bctf.ca or share them on Twitter or Facebook. From June to September, one participant will be selected at random each month to win a \$20 e-gift card to a bookstore.

Looking forward to seeing your culinary and literary inspiration!



Conference and Summer Institute Information

Cancellations and contingency plans have become the new normal for all of us.

It likely comes as no surprise that the BCTLA is cancelling our Summer Institute this year. Please look for more information on Summer Institute 2021 next spring.

On a brighter note, the BCTLA annual October conference will go ahead on October 23, 2020. More details and registration information will be released either later this spring or in early fall. What we do know now is that the conference will be held in a virtual format as the BCTF has decided that all PSA meetings and events to be held before January 1, 2021 must be held in an online virtual

environment. The BCTLA executive is busy investigating how to run a large, virtual conference and will report out to chapter councillors at our meeting on May 30th.



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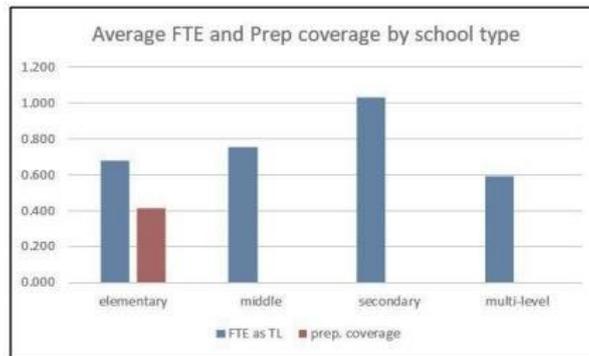
Working and Learning Conditions Report

The 2019-2020 BCTLA Working and Learning Conditions Report is completed and posted on the website. Thank you to all the teacher-librarians that responded to our survey. This survey has been completed annually since 1982 and has helped us support and advocate for teacher-librarians with the BCTF and within school districts.

This year the survey had a response level of 18% of our schools. Highlights from the survey include:

- 14% of people managing school libraries still have no formal training. This is similar to 2018-19 survey findings.
- The average prep. coverage that is included in a teacher-librarian position has increased in elementary schools, compared to last year's survey (see chart below).
- There are similar levels of help (either technician and/or clerk) reported in secondary schools and elementary schools and a decrease of help at middle schools and multi-level schools. Less than half of multi-level, middle and elementary schools have a clerk or technician.
- From 60 to 85% of teacher-librarians are involved in teaching technology, with the variance attributed to school level (elementary, middle or secondary).

Thank you to Leisbet Beaudry, BCTLA Membership Coordinator, for her efforts in completing the report. To view the report on the website, click [here](#).



Chapter Year End Report

Chapter councillors are asked at the end of each year to complete a brief report.

[Report Form](#)

This year has been challenging and we understand that you may have increased job duties this June. Please complete this report to best of your ability and do not feel obligated to answer all questions.

Angela Thacker Memorial Award



On January 31, BCTLA VP, Sarah Wethered, was in Toronto, accepting the prestigious Angela Thacker Memorial Award for her outstanding contributions to teacher-librarianship within her school district and the province. This award is presented every two years and this year, three people were honoured, Alison Bodner from Manitoba, Alanna King from Ontario, and Sarah Wethered from British Columbia. The following is Sarah's account of her experience.

I found out that I won the award on December 17 and I cried for about half an hour. It was overwhelming to get messages of congratulations from the big names of our field – Anita Brooks Kirkland (pictured above in the middle), Judith Sykes and Carol Koechlin. I must admit, I thought that the selection committee had made a mistake in choosing me, or that only three people were nominated, so they gave it to all of us. I was so relieved to hear that there were many nominations and the reason they gave out three awards, instead of one, was that they couldn't pick from the three of us who had been shortlisted.

The awards ceremony was the kick off to the Treasure Mountain 2020 symposium, so I spent the weekend learning about the latest research on school libraries, which I hope to implement in my own library program as soon as possible. It was exciting to hear the authors of the articles speak about their projects and to discuss them with other teacher-librarians from around Canada. It was also fun

to catch up with my University of Alberta graduate advisor, Dr. Dianne Oberg, whom I hadn't seen since November 2003, when I received my M.Ed.

This award would not have been possible without the support of so many – the New Westminster Teacher-Librarians' Association, the executive of the BCTLA, and my staff at New Westminster Secondary School. Thank you so much for helping achieve what will probably be the pinnacle of my career.



Author's Visit: Eileen Cook

In February, the BCTLA hosted an event with YA author Eileen Cook. Eileen was engaging and entertaining as she shared her journey to becoming an author and treated us to a reading from her book *You Owe Me a Murder*. While some participants won copies of her books for their libraries, Eileen, a prolific knitter, did the presentation for the cost of some really great wool (generously donated by BCTLA VP Sarah Wethered). We look forward to hosting more author events in the future.

If you missed the event, a recording can be found on our BCTLA Official YouTube Channel.



BCTLA YouTube Channel

Lisa Strong, teacher-librarian at Burnaby Central, came up with the brilliant idea to invite local YA authors to share their work online.

A huge thank you to Lisa Strong and author Eileen Cook for organizing the channel and recruiting so many fabulous authors!

To view and subscribe to our channel, visit [BCTLA Official YouTube](#).

