

## North Coast Library Federation Annual Report, 2008-2009

Over the past year the North Coast Library Federation has continued to successfully implement and foster goals and initiatives outlined in its Service Plan.

Five of the seven NCLF libraries have now migrated to the Evergreen Integrated Library System: Prince Rupert, Terrace, Houston, Smithers, and Hazelton. This has necessitated the development of a circulation policy and has culminated in the first draft of the NCLF Policy Manual.

A beautiful North Coast Library Federation card designed by Leah Pipe has been printed and distributed to all member libraries. Thank you to Eve Hope of Hazelton Library who did all of the coordination and organization to make these distinctive cards a reality.

A number of Federation libraries have worked hard over the past year to produce an impressive array of shared collections. As a result, The North Coast Library Federation now has a collection of 76 themed Literacy Bags, Large Print books, and multilingual books in French and Punjabi. These are either circulating throughout the Federation libraries or are being prepared to circulate. Shared collections will be expanded over the next two years with the addition of multilingual books in German, Dutch, Chinese, Punjabi, Finnish, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

With an ever increasing demand for materials online, the Federation purchased two online database licenses: Ancestry Library Edition (a genealogy database), and Consumer Reports Online. These databases can be accessed at any of the North Coast Library Federation libraries. The NCLF continues to investigate databases that will be relevant and helpful to its patrons.

The Annual General Meeting and spring conference was hosted by Prince Rupert Public Library in May. Participants took advantage of workshops on strategic planning and Law Matters. This was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Terrace's retiring Head Librarian Ed Currell. Ed was instrumental in the formation of the NCLF and dedicated much time to its day-to-day operations and various projects. His presence and contributions to the NCLF will be missed.

A fall conference was held in Houston in September. Participants took part in a genealogy workshop, and in round table discussions on literacy, programming, and displays. Askaway Coordinator Phil Hall provided advanced training and peer evaluation to Askaway providers.

A coordinator was contracted in October of 2008 for 12 months to assume responsibilities of coordinating and organizing Federation events and services. This has included organizing regular librarian advisory committee meetings, coordinating the Spring Conference and AGM, promotion of the NCLF, cataloguing shared collections, and preparing the year end financial statements.

In the near future, Federation book totes will be available at each library. Library Week will be celebrated in October. Next year, we will host the 2010 conference at Port Edward's North Pacific Cannery!

Trustees and Library Directors are to be commended for work done to advance the goals of the NCLF and their continued commitment to improving services for residents of the Northwest.