

“Telling Our Stories” – Member Society Discussion Session

Hosted by the BCHF Advocacy Committee as part of the 2018 BCHF Annual Conference
May 26, 2018, Senior Citizen's Hall, Nakusp, BC

(This document is an appendix to the “Minutes of the 2018 British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) Annual General Meeting”)

Discussion questions: What are the key issues facing not-for-profit historical organizations in BC today? How might the BCHF and/or your organization help address some of these concerns?

Discussion: The following notes were recorded in response to comments from BCHF members attending the session:

- **Need systematic approach to heritage designations in BC**
 - Does BCHF take a lead role? A counterpoint to federal National Historic Sites, recognizing people/sites/monuments?
 - Is this part of our already-existing Sites and Trails mandate?
 - Can it include our Floating Heritage?
 - Is there a method to publicly show how this is happening?
- **Devolution of provincial heritage sites onto local governments/organizations**
 - attention/support
- **Networking between/with/of small archival collections, especially rural ones**
- **Fees for use BC Archives**
- **Insurance**
 - High cost is a challenge for member organizations. Can we work to mitigate this?
 - Heritage sites have unique needs
 - Volunteers
 - Event insurance
 - Directors and Officers
 - Liability
- **Webinars on**
 - insurance -- have a workshop from an insurance provider at conference too?
 - fundraising
- **Step Up for History**
 - Refresh for municipal elections 2018
- **Possible partners**
 - Coast Capital
 - VanCity
 - Radio stations -- create projects
- **Engaging/Attracting Volunteers**
 - create a menu of jobs that need to be done, including small jobs as "appetizers"
 - volunteer work for high school credit
 - breakdown of tasks into manageable tasks
 - Think about creating position for volunteer coordinator/outreach person

- **Youth/Young people**
 - need to engage younger people -- this may involve a paradigm shift
 - shift in meeting times to after-work hours
 - make sure we are meeting people “where they are”
 - online finding aids
 - historian mentorship program
 - resource list of humans as regional speakers, as “living textbooks” that can be engaged with or signed out
 - embrace new ways to present built history and diverse regional histories, e.g.,
 - open doors
 - podcasts
 - need to be present in classrooms/education system (i.e., support for curriculum/tool kit for classrooms/partnership with Heritage BC; making it easy for classes to get out to heritage sites)
 - presentation(s) at conference -- Alumni Program of Heritage Fairs possible presenter
- **Travelling speakers series**
- **Heritage Homes are disappearing**
 - This problem requires support/information