

BCTC Chair Report to Membership  
2011 AGM

Rather than prepare a report extolling the customary list of annual accomplishments (of which there are many), I want to focus on one particular aspect: the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pacific Contact.

My own association with BCTC began twenty years ago shortly after I entered the arena of arts management. I may not have attended every year, but Pacific Contact nevertheless has been a vital anchor to my work.

Pacific Contact has invariably offered experiences that have helped me become a better arts administrator. It is where I make new acquaintances and catch-up with long-time colleagues. It provides inspiration with new ideas for new possibilities.

My experience is one that thousands of artists, managers, and presenters have shared over the past 35 years. Taken together, these collective experiences underscore the influence and impact Pacific Contact and BCTC have had on touring within this province and across Canada.

Like any organization, BCTC has had its ups and downs over the years. Rising like a Phoenix, the organization was revitalized under the timely guidance of John McLaughlin. Ten years ago Joanna Maratta took over as executive director to further nurture BCTC, constantly pushing us forward to ensure Pacific Contact remains vital and relevant for its membership.

Pacific Contact and BC Touring Council have achieved these goals through creativity, adaptability and responsiveness – traits which are familiar to each of us through our work in the performing arts.

Examples abound: from collaborative Arts Summits to annual regional meetings and from a customized regional block-booking service to behind-the-scenes advocacy activities ensuring the voice of the arts sector is heard.

At the root of each example is our membership: the performers, agents, facility managers, presenters and community cultural leaders. And therein lies the secret of BCTC's longevity: an ingrained understanding that our membership is the sole reason for, and beneficiary of, our services.

Membership is why and for whom BCTC exists. As the membership changes, and touring and presenting evolve, so too does BCTC. Just as membership is the root of its longevity, it is also the foundation of the Touring Council's success.

So on the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pacific Contact I congratulate the membership for its dedication to BCTC and its creativity, adaptability and responsiveness in keeping the performing arts a vital element of our communities throughout British Columbia.

Before I close, I must make a few acknowledgements.

As I mentioned, Joanna Maratta has been at the helm of our organization for ten years, six of which I have served on the BCTC Board of Directors. From my perspective I can say confidently the organization is in the hands of a dedicated, tenacious, and creative individual, who confidently guides this

organization with a strong vision. Joanna, on behalf of the board, as well as the membership, I offer a heart-felt 'thank-you'.

Assisting Joanna is a small group of loyal, hard-working individuals: Kara Harris (Pacific Contact and administration), Shannon Lythgoe (silent auction coordinator, COBB), Linda Tamblyn (web developer and communications), John McLachlan (Community Presenters Assistance, graphic design) Sheryl McGraw - Special Projects, and George Scott - Production Manager. The board and I are very appreciative of their enthusiastic and professional contributions.

I also want to thank the BCTC Board of Directors for its service. In particular I would like to single out the directors who are retiring from the board following six years of support: Wendy Atkinson, Neil Harrower, Heidi Kux-Kardos, and Margo Holmes.

As for me I would like to take this opportunity to say 'good bye', as I not only retire from the board at the end of this meeting but I also soon depart facility management on the eve of a new job. It has been a distinct honour to serve the BCTC membership alongside my board colleagues and Joanna.

I am sad to leave the Executive, but I do so with full confidence that this organization will continue building on its 35 years of successes, serving its membership with the traits that have become its hallmarks.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gravett  
Chair, BC Touring Council