

FEDERATION OF BC WRITERS

2015 NEW YEAR MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

WE ASKED; YOU ANSWERED

From December 28, 2014 to January 15, 2015 the Federation of BC Writers posted a *2015 New Year Membership Survey* on *bcwriters.ca* asking two questions...

- How well does the Fed service your region?
- What could the Fed to do to serve you and your region better?

The first allowed participants to select from values that ranged from 'Very Well' to 'Poorly'.

The second was open ended, giving participants a chance to say what they felt.

Although more might have been better, 24 respondents give us their opinions, enough to get a sense of what people are saying about services and programs offered by the Fed – and for the Board to probe more deeply.

How well does the Fed service your region?

Overall Rating

Very well	••••
Well	••••••••••
Not Very Well	•••••
Poorly	••••

Vancouver Island / Lower Mainland / Fraser Valley

Very well	••••
Well	••••••••••
Not Very Well	•
Poorly	•

Central / Southeast / North / Sunshine Coast

Very Well	
Well	•••
Not Very Well	••••
Poorly	•••

NOTES:

Number of respondents...	24
Survey method...	Online form
Dates...	Dec. 28, 2014 to Jan. 15, 2015

What could the Fed to do to serve you and your region better?

Answers in order received:

I have difficulty getting to workshops, etc., on weekday evenings before 7:00, so more events on the weekends or events a little later in the evening would be great.

Maybe some online events would be a good way to connect various regions--online workshops or speakers?

Thanks for all you do. I appreciate how difficult it is to manage an organization in such a big geographic area.

Lower Mainland, North Vancouver

I have to say that I think the latest edition of WordWorks is very impressive!

Vancouver Island, Parksville

It's hard to say. The on-line stuff is good but that's available across the province. Events I've heard about tend to be on Sunday afternoons and a bit of a drive. Not a great time for me, but maybe okay for others.

Fraser Valley, Maple Ridge

Seems there have been lots of events in New Westminster for the last 2 years and not much in Vancouver

There needs to be more activities as there used to be and friendly meet-ups/meetings

Lower Mainland, Vancouver

Sadly, there are not enough services available north of Williams Lake. If there were classes or retreats or even more chances for authors to join together in group readings, anything that helps us promote our work would be helpful.

North, Prince George

I live in 2 places--Port Alice in north Vancouver Island (no writers' groups within a 6 hours' drive). My winter habitation is in Kimberley, and we do have a writers' club, but we don't meet often enough. I need help getting my novel together in some kind of order. I don't know which way to go with it. I'd like to see a novel workshop:)

Southeast, Cranbrook

Offer more retreats, conferences, workshops

Vancouver Island, Victoria

Service has very much improved this year with WordWorks and the Newsletter. I would like to see more events free for members to justify the membership fee. These events should be open to all, but non-members should pay, or sign up.

Lower Mainland, Richmond

Communicate more effectively. Manipulating choices to fit in an electronic format is often funny. For instance, this survey's first question does not define what you perceive to be Southeast as compared to Central - and I'm not prepared to go investigating.

Next, damn if I remember how long I've been a member - my first book came out in 1991 and I was a member then so chose 11-15.

I was also a member when one could get information about and qualify to use the Fed's programs easily.

I've been asked by teachers why the BC Writers stopped sponsoring writers in classrooms - I've replied that it's still a viable program, yet after about three years of making requests for info, both electronically and by phone, I still don't know what's happening with that particular program. I used to benefit from it.

As much as I appreciate all the expertise and volunteering of personal time our board and executives have donated - that could have been used writing - I am grateful to hear that some deep sorting of reality as compared to illusion is going to occur in 2015.

Central, Enderby

More outreach activities such as conferences; linking up with Elephant Mountain Literary Festival.

Southeast, Nelson

We need a central rep who keeps in touch with us and sends reports of our region into the FBCW. We also expect this person to attend our central festivals and recruit new members just as we have done in the past. Why has this not continued as it worked so well in the past?

Central, Kamloops

A simple means of access to the Fed website so that updates on our professional writing lives can be added. Regional social events with lots of notice time to invite non members.

Sunshine Coast, Gibsons

I don't know. Get more BC books on BC Ferries? Get more book reviews in publications?

Central, 100 Mile House

With more workshops out our way.

Fraser Valley, Aldergrove

I am a new member, so I'm at the point of discovering what the Fed has to offer. I look forward to learning more and contributing to the community as time goes on. Thanks for all you do for writers in BC!

Lower Mainland, Vancouver

Works fine for me at the moment, so long as Wordworks continues and the notifications of events are sent out from 'head office' so I know what contests, events etc are occurring. If the fed has an administrator who keeps members informed and not have to rely on volunteers all the time, it works.

The North, Masset

Establish a more visual/approachable presence - organize gatherings, etc. Do some brainstorming to achieve a better presence.

Fraser Valley, Abbotsford

This is not a regional issue, but the new Fed website is VERY slow to load. Anytime I click a link, it is slow slow slow. So much so that I often just abandon it and go elsewhere. I can only imagine others are too. I am not experiencing slow-loading of any other sites I regularly visit. So problem not on my end, I don't think. It would be useful to make the Fed website load faster. The website will get more use.

Vancouver Island, Nanaimo

I'm a new member and can't really assess this yet. However, I am going to 2 events listed in the newsletter, (Campbell River's Words on the Water, and Self Publishing in Nanaimo). Interesting events/authors that are affordable and on the Island is a good fit for me.

Vancouver Island, Duncan

I'd love to see a Self Publishing Workshop offered here in Nelson or in one of our nearby cities. Writing workshops would also be appreciated. I am in the midst of writing a memoir about growing up in a logging camp off the east coast of Vancouver Island and would welcome more ideas etc!!

Southeast, Nelson

Organize events which present established authors in this region. Getting to Vancouver, or worse, to Vancouver Island, is difficult and expensive. Thank you.

Central, Salmon Arm

It is too early to qualify the help issue. What I have asked for are; A, what can BC authors do to promote themselves as a group instead of individually and, B a survey of what dollar return authors actually get from their publishers. I ask this because I have found this very low for myself and others. Authors do not have to give their names just their data. Cheers.

Lower Mainland, West Vancouver

Notes:

The last comment came from a submission that arrived after the data represented on Page 1 had been compiled. That person indicated the Fed was not doing very well serving his region, the Lower Mainland, West Vancouver.

Some of those who responded to the survey included their names and email addresses. The Fed will be contacting those people to continue the dialogue.