

Introduction

20 years ago, representatives from the LCS and CLCA with a nucleus of Youth Chapter met in Victoria and established the WLC BC council upon the invitation of Michel Murr.

Years later, an official registration was made and it became a charity in 2005.

The cost was funded by the Regional Secretariat General and both societies (Victoria paid more than Vancouver).

Last year, the council members were happy to meet in Victoria and celebrate the election of Mr George Murr as WVP of WLCU.

Scholarships

We celebrated successful scholarship events in the past, and the Lebanese ambassador attended an event. A letter of thank you and support came from the Tueni family as our scholarship was called the Gibran Tueni Scholarship. Lebanese and Canadian media covered the event. The awarded students received a nice certificate and some money.

In the last two years, no grade 12 student has presented an application, and no local society has had any real enthusiasm to hold a scholarship event.

We need to:

- Re-nominate a scholarship committee (referee)
- Review the guidelines

Worldwide participation in WLCU affairs and meetings

I sent on behalf of the council a written proposals for new bylaws and constitutional amendments, as well as guidelines on how to run meetings, etc.

- We did not participate in the San Francisco (North American) meeting
- We did not participate in the Argentina world congress

- We established a good relationship with WP Alejandro Kuri, but we were not able to function with his administration

Cultural activities

The sponsors of two events at the Vancouver Public Library with the SFU were Rawi Hage and Pierre Ahmaranian.

Partnership with SFU

As part of our ongoing relationship with SFU, we offered their library two cases of books from the Ministry of Culture in Lebanon, and celebrated seven years of cooperation over a dinner organized by us with the presence of Mohamed Elchoum (Regional president) and our guest, Pierre Ahmaranian. Present from SFU were Prof Alex Dawson, Prof Derryl McClean, and Prof Ken Seigneurie.

Relationships with 3 international bodies

International Lebanese Titanic Committee (ILTC)

The formation of this international committee was initiated by our council. The ITLC presented Minister Bassil proposals to erect monuments in Lebanon to commemorate the 125 Lebanese who died on the Titanic. Next week, the BC council is sponsoring, with the ILTC, an event prepared by the LCSBC (WLCU Vancouver Chapter) at the Vancouver Public Library.

Phoenician International Research Centre

We participated in the creation of this virtual centre in 2009. We helped the new officers to relocate the licence from North Carolina to New Jersey (after the retirement of Salim Khalaf from NC). We also moved their webpage to our server; now our website is more cultural and authentic in its mission statement.

Lebanese Emigration Research Centre

Yearly, we send documents and items to the Museum of Lebanese Emigration. In 2013, Nicolas Haddad presented items to Dr Guita Hourani. Dr Nick Kahwaji

did the same in 2014. It is amazing to see that 90% of their WLCU items come from BC.

Websites WLCU/ULCM.org

We are in charge of the international website WLCU.org, and it reflects the strength of our organization in BC. We need financial support from the Vancouver and Victoria clubs as well as personal or corporate donations to maintain and improve the site. In the past, we received donations from worldwide WLCU leaders to keep it running.

We need to improve our local pages related to BC council LCS, Victoria, and the Youth.

We also run the Facebook pages for WLCU.org and LCSBC. We need Victoria's input and participation.

Newsletter "The Lebanese Heritage, from BC to the World"

Our monthly online newsletter is sent to over 20,000 subscribers monthly. The WLCU in BC is known worldwide and our reputation is very good.

Commemorative Benches at Queen Elizabeth Park

The benches will be ready in the first week of May 2015. We are waiting for the LCS to decide on an inauguration date to start working on the project.

Fundraising was not successful; it was more individual than society work.

The Lebanese Migrant Statue in Victoria

Thanks to all who Re-initiated the process, writing the letter and following up with attendance at the meeting. Now it is in our hands to continue the work with the City of Victoria - if possible we should aim at the fall of 2015 for inauguration.

This project represents the whole of the Lebanese community in BC, and is the collective responsibility of all Council officers. I propose the creation of a committee to tackle all details of the relocation of the statue, preparing the pedestal, proposing the inscription, etc.

I propose the following:

- 1) Creation of a “Lebanese Migrant Committee in BC” under the BC council
- 2) Preparation of guidelines for the pedestal (shape, height, size, engineering study)
- 3) Preparation of guidelines for the inscription on the pedestal, taking into consideration what we used on Gibran monument at SFU, (a logo, mention of all the societies, etc.) so to let our Canadian-born children be proud. For example:

Thank you, Canada!

From all the Lebanese of Canada

(1888-2015)

- 4) Preparation of a budget and fundraising for the cost

Thank you for attending, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you as President for the last two years.

John Badr
President