

## From the Program Committee

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*"What emerged from proposal readings was not only the best and most interesting achievements relative to [the conference] but also, in many cases, the very real concerns of people whose professional lives and workplaces are in transition."*

"Nothing ever becomes real 'till it is experienced..."

—John Keats, in a letter to his brother

At work in January, hardcopy stacks of FLEAT III proposals sit piled on my desk. Spread all over my living room are maps of Vancouver Island and the Pacific Rim National Park, ferry schedules and trail guides. In my mind's eye I see smiling faces of friends and colleagues; we're charged up with the excitement of seeing each other again, and of our shared learning experiences.

Having a role in putting this conference together has been quite like planning a trip to somewhere I really want to go: I have most but not all of the hard information before me, a "sky's the limit" approach (at least in the early stages!), a vivid imagination to hold in check and a sincere desire to have it all work out for the best.

This analogy may be more appropriate than I first realized. Officially the FLEAT III conference theme is "Language, Resources and Cultures." What emerged from proposal readings was not only the best and most interesting achievements relative to this theme but also, in many cases, the very real concerns of people whose professional lives and workplaces are in transition. How do we get from where we are to where we want to be? Will the trip be as expected? Did I pack everything I need? A significant number of conference sessions will address the problems we are facing as we travel these often changing paths.

On behalf of the Program Committee, I want to thank each and every person who submitted a proposal for consideration. My heartfelt thanks go out as well to the articulate and thoughtful members of the North American Program Committee: Peter Liddell (our conference host), Ursula Williams (Notre Dame), Mikle Ledgerwood (SUNY Stony Brook) and Michael Nieckoski (School for International Training). And

special mention to the LLA Liaison Team of Akio Iwasaki (LLA Foreign Officer) and LeeAnn Stone (University of California—Irvine).

Safe travels. See you at FLEAT III! ■