

*A Bibliography of Local Government in British Columbia*, by Diane Crossley. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture, 1989. Pp. 68; index.

Diane Crossley's objective in creating this bibliography, under the sponsorship of the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, was to bring together a variety of works relating to local government in British Columbia. It is, however, much more than the usual list, or even a list organized by subject.

The bibliography is organized to cover general Canadian texts on local government, general works on B.C. local government, and then the specialized areas of history, politics, structure and administration, law, finance, service provision, planning, economic development, social services and social issues, single industry towns, regional districts and metropolitan government, special purpose districts, native government, and additional general sources. Each section contains a brief introductory essay indicating its major themes and limitations. Subsequently, each of the sections on specialized areas provides a limited list of general Canadian works followed by a list of B.C. works. Some of the entries are annotated, especially when a generally titled work focuses on a specific B.C. city or has a specific useful theme. The entire bibliography is then indexed by author at the end.

Because of the introductory essays, this is a bibliography that can be read instead of just put on the shelf for future reference. Reading it provides an overview of the variety of writing on B.C. local government, and is bound to reveal sources to follow up on.

Ms. Crossley is careful to point out that the bibliography concentrates on standard journal and published sources with no attempt to include consulting reports and municipal documents, although many such documents are included. My impression is that Ms. Crossley searched for all of the relevant material she could find, but could never be sure that all fugitive documents were identified.

Compiling a bibliography is not an easy task, nor is it the kind of task which provides academic or financial rewards. Yet it is an exceptionally useful one. Diane Crossley and the Policy and Research Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs are owed a great deal of thanks for their efforts.

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