1988 - BC Museums Association Conference - Harrison Hot Springs

**“Getting on Track for the ‘90s” - Current Issues Session**

Presenters: Bill Barkley, Pat Bovey, Carol Mayer, Nicholas Tuele, Beverly Sommer, Carol Tulk Greg Evans and Joy Leach.   It is fascinating to compare with hot topics of both the novel new-time things of that 1980s era, and the "Are we still talking about this?" topics of today, 40 years later!

Here is a synopsis of **Bill Barley's talk** an the topic of **Administration**.    Bill was then CEO of the RBCM during a time of great change.   He also served as a BCMA Councillor and President of the Canadian Museums Association.

1. **Government**
   1. Questioning Role of government - museums used to be part of the essential core of government operations under the Office of the Provincial Secretary
   2. Withdrawal of Public Funding and Management (Privatization)
   3. Demanding Accountability
   4. Listening more
   5. Economic Development - Tourism
2. **Staff**
   1. Low Turnover
   2. Aging Population - large numbers hired during 1960’s Centennial years
   3. Burnout - due to poor pay & benefits
   4. Better Trained in 1980s
3. **Visitors**
   1. 40 – 50 million annually - Canada increased during 1980s
   2. Electronic media sophistication
   3. Less car travel - more group tours
4. **Costs**
   1. It costs more now to do less
5. **Barriers**
   1. Art Galleries & Museums are breaking down barriers of old practices
6. **Management**
   1. Emphasis on good management
   2. More specific expectations of Boards
7. **Funding**
   1. Not keeping up with inflation
   2. Increased emphasis on Fund Raising
8. **Computerization**
   1. Break-In time needed for new installations and systems
   2. Computers may assist when integrated
9. **Unionization**
   1. Increasing
10. **Workload**
    1. Staff doing more than in the past - not always well - burnout
11. **Media Relations**
    1. Media paying more attention
    2. Learn to use Media attention
12. **Capital Growth**
    1. Decreasing local growth now - focus on National Galleries
    2. Began at a moment of prosperity - not soon again will that happen
13. **Revenue Generation**
    1. Increased dependance on revenue: Admissions, Retail Sales, Grants, Donations
14. **Change**
    1. Change has become part of the day to day working activity in all areas
    2. The old way was steady, predictable and repetitive - Preservationist Mindset