

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** January 19, 2023  
**Author:** Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian & CEO  
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**Vandocs #:** DOC/2022/317083

**TO:** Library Board  
**FROM:** Christina de Castell  
**SUBJECT:** Library Associations and Organizations

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### **SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of the various library associations and library bodies and VPL's relationship to them, to support trustees understanding of their roles.

### **PURPOSE**

This report is for discussion and information.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board receive the report for information.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Board self-evaluation in 2022 identified that Board members do not all have a clear understanding of the roles and activities of the BCLTA, and other Library-related organizations, including InterLINK, Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC), BC Library Association, and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations.

### **DISCUSSION**

The following material describes the role of the library associations and organizations that regularly interact with VPL, and is provided to support discussion of the roles, future conversations about their activities, and reporting back as liaisons.

## **Role of Liaisons and Appointees**

VPL appoints a Board member to be a liaison to each of the VPL Foundation, Friends of the VPL, and InterLINK. A Board member is also asked to sit on the board of the VPL Trust, and a Board member may be elected to the Board of the BC Library Trustees Association.

Liaisons are asked to attend meetings of the organizations, to provide updates on behalf of VPL, and to answer or refer questions that arise about VPL. Liaisons may identify opportunities for collaboration, and would bring these to the Board Chair and Chief Librarian for discussion. When liaisons have information to share with the full Board, the Board's Executive Assistant can assist with preparing a written report, or an item can be added to the agenda for a verbal report.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

- What questions have arisen from trustees who have recently filled liaison roles that would be helpful for future liaisons?
- Do trustees who have filled liaison roles have examples of the kinds of information that they think could be reported back to the Board?
- Would trustees like to receive more information about the advocacy activities of the national and provincial associations?

## **InterLINK**

InterLINK is a federation of BC libraries including the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Sea to Sky and Sunshine Coast. It facilitates resource sharing of physical materials across 18 member libraries for all residents and provides delivery service between libraries, facilitates interlibrary loan, coordinates collaborative activities to support and benefit members, such as training, and supports communication between libraries.

Key InterLINK projects include:

- NewToBC, which supports the planning, development, promotion, and delivery of library-based and other settlement services for newcomer immigrants and refugees in British Columbia. This includes the Library Champions, a volunteer opportunity for immigrants.
- Project LLEAD, the only leadership program focused on employees in all roles within academic, public and enterprise libraries and information services. This year long program blends experiential and strengths-based learning. Developed in BC, it has grown and now attracts participants from libraries across Canada.

## **BC Library Association**

**Membership:** VPL has an organizational membership and many staff are individual personal members.

*The British Columbia Library Association leads the library community in advocacy, professional development, and support of intellectual freedom. We ensure that all British Columbians have equitable access to information, ideas and works of the imagination.*

The British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) builds partnerships and relationships between libraries, governments, and community organizations. Their goal is to advance the values of the Association and to promote a widespread understanding of the benefits of library and information services.

**The purposes are:**

1. To promote and foster the role of libraries and library workers in British Columbia through advocacy, education and leadership;
2. To provide opportunities to expand knowledge and skills through conferences, continuing education, publications and association work;
3. To participate in formal liaisons with provincial, national and international organizations;
4. To encourage membership in the Association;
5. To ensure long term, stable funding of the Association.

The BC Library Association offers an annual professional development conference for library workers in the spring, which library trustees are welcome to attend. They have policy and program committees, which VPL staff participate in, and VPL staff are regularly on the Board of the Association.

### **BC Library Trustees Association**

**Membership:** Each library board in BC holds one institutional membership

Their mission is *“to support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries,”* and in doing so, BCLTA strives to provide a range of services to trustees and boards to help them become leaders in their communities.

BCLTA also fills an important strategic role, providing organized representation to local, provincial, and federal governments on behalf of library trustees. We undertake ongoing advocacy work to these same levels of government and the public to raise the profile of – and resolve the issues facing – public libraries across British Columbia.

#### **The purposes of the Society are:**

1. To Promote and foster the effectiveness of all public library boards in British Columbia through advocacy, education and leadership for the advancement of library service throughout the province.
2. Expand the knowledge and skills of library trustees in order that they may make decisions necessary to achieve effective and comprehensive library service.
3. Foster a greater understanding of library service, public libraries and the role of library trustees in the community through conferences, training, continuing education, and publications
4. Liaise with the Public Library Services Branch of British Columbia and other provincial, national and international government bodies, departments and agencies
5. Encourage cooperation and the exchange of ideas among various types of libraries and between libraries and related organizations
6. Strive to secure long-term, stable funding for public libraries in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.

The BCLTA provides numerous learning opportunities for board members to support trustees in their governance roles.

### **Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD)**

**Membership:** VPL holds one institutional membership and is represented by the person appointed by the library board as a chief librarian in British Columbia pursuant to the Library Act.

The Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors is an executive association of public library directors in BC who represents the staff and professional functions of librarianship. It serves as a vehicle

for information exchange among directors, represents the concerns of directors to both provincial and federal governments and provides a practical means of attaining cooperative solutions among BC public libraries

**The purposes of the organization are:**

1. to serve as a vehicle for the exchange of information of interest and concern to public library directors in British Columbia;
2. to provide a forum for the discussion of issues common to public library directors in British Columbia;
3. to represent the concerns of public library directors in British Columbia.

The ABCPLD organizes professional development for chief librarians and works closely with the BC Library Association and BC Library Trustees Association on advocacy around provincial issues.

**Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)**

**Membership:** VPL is an organizational member and is represented by the Chief Librarian & CEO, as well as by staff appointed to working groups on specific topics. Current working groups include digital content, a project with the Canadian Urban Institute, security, and marketing and communications. More than 55% of all Canadians are served by a CULC/CBUC member library. The activity in CULC/CBUC libraries comprises more than 80% of Canada's public library activity.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) / Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada was formally incorporated in 2008. For more than 20 years CULC/CBUC has met, and worked under different names to better library service in Canada's populated urban areas.

Their purpose is to work collaboratively to build vibrant urban communities by strengthening the capacity of Canada's urban libraries.

1. Research: Create, analyze, and disseminate information that will further the mission of the organization.
2. Capacity Building: Strengthen the capacity of urban libraries to anticipate and respond to the needs of the community.
3. Knowledge Transfer and Exchange: Strengthen our ability to transfer knowledge, share information with CULC/CBUC, and to advance the urban agenda.
4. Organizational Resiliency: Focus on capacity building initiatives in order to strengthen the resources required for the organization to meet its mandate.

CULC organizes professional development and networking for chief librarians/CEOs, coordinates key performance indicators for members, and undertakes research and advocacy. VPL compares with CULC members as benchmarks for metrics on a per capita basis, such as Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Hamilton,

and Victoria. CULC members frequently share best practices in policy development and reporting, and rely on each other for knowledge sharing.

### **Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA)**

**Membership:** VPL is a member of CFLA as part of our membership in CULC.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) is the united, national voice of Canada's library community. CFLA was just launched in 2016 as a successor association to the Canadian Library Association which was in place for over 60 years.

**As the national voice of Canada's library communities, CFLA-FCAB will work to:**

- advance library excellence in Canada;
- champion library values and the value of libraries; and
- influence national and international public policy impacting libraries and their communities.

CFLA holds a policy and advocacy role nationally, coordinating among the provincial associations and different library types. The most active area of work is copyright, and the most significant position statement for VPL is their statement on Intellectual Freedom, which is incorporated into our Collection Development policy.

### **Urban Libraries Council**

**Membership:** VPL is an institutional member.

The Urban Libraries Council is an innovation and action tank of North America's leading public library systems. ULC drives cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships to elevate the power of libraries as essential, transformative institutions for the 21st century. ULC identifies significant challenges facing today's communities and develops new tools and techniques to help libraries achieve stronger outcomes in education, workforce and economic development, digital equity and race and social equity.

ULC organizes professional development activities, coordinates knowledge sharing, and produces policy documents. Directors and managers participate through email discussion lists and using resources.

### **The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)**

**Membership:** VPL is an institutional member and any staff member can participate in association activities.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice

of the library and information profession. IFLA was founded in 1927 in Edinburgh, Scotland and headquartered in The Royal Library, the national library of the Netherlands, in The Hague. IFLA now has more than 1,500 Members in over 150 countries around the world.

IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. Their aims are to:

- Promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services
- Encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services
- Represent the interests of members throughout the world

Christina de Castell, VPL's Chief Librarian & CEO, worked in the Hague for IFLA in 2015/16, focusing on international copyright policy.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Organizational memberships are included in the library's annual operating budget, as they support the effective delivery of VPL services. Most of the organizations listed above do not offer individual memberships. While individual memberships are available for BCLA and IFLA, VPL does not generally fund professional association memberships for staff unless they are a requirement of the role, e.g. certain roles in Accounting.