



REPORT COVER PAGE

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TO: Library Board
FROM: Jennifer Chan, Library Board Chair
SUBJECT: BC Library Associations and Library Bodies

The Chief Librarian will provide a briefing of the various library associations and library bodies and VPL's relationship to them.

Library Associations Primer

BC Library Association

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. Our 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.

BC Library Trustees Association

Our mission is *“to support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries,”* and in doing so, we strive 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

Library Associations Primer

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.

Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD)

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.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA)

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:

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

Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)

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.

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

Library Associations Primer

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/CBUC is committed to the strengthening of vibrant urban communities through building the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our members collectively serve more than 7.5 million active users who annually make more than 384 million uses of our 522 locations virtual services. In 2010 we loaned in excess of 185,000,000 items, and had more than 350,000 uses in person and online. CULC/CBUC member libraries expended over \$90 million on collections including \$11 million on digital resources. More than 12,000 library workers are employed by CULC/CBUC member libraries.

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 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

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 have 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 our members throughout the world

Library Associations Primer

BCLA Academic, public, special libraries	BCLTA Public libraries - Trustees	ABCPLD Public library directors	BC Libraries Coop
Promote and foster the role of libraries and library workers through advocacy, education and leadership	Support and represent trustees; Foster a greater understanding of library service , public libraries and the role of Trustees	Represent staff and professional functions of librarianship; Forum for discussion and information exchange among libraries Directors	Community enterprise focused on shared infrastructure and resources
Advocacy	Advocacy	Advocacy on matters of concern to public library directors	
Professional development	Education, leadership	Professional development for public library directors	
Build partnerships between libraries, governments and community organizations	Provide representation and liaise with to local, provincial and federal governments on behalf of trustees.	Represent concerns of Directors to provincial and federal governments	Understand challenges facing libraries, guide and support members through change.
Participate in formal liaisons with provincial, national and international organizations	Encourage cooperation and the exchange of ideas among various types of libraries and between libraries and related organizations	Provides a practical means of attaining cooperative solutions,	Develop partnerships with aligned organizations.
Intellectual freedom	Secure long term stable funding for public libraries	Networking opportunities for public library directors	

Federations - Focused on enhanced library service and collaboration to achieve efficiency and agreed upon objectives