



Canadian Library Association
Association canadienne
des bibliothèques



CLA Grassroots Advocacy Summer Bulletin

Meet with your local Member of Parliament (MP) Today!

While CLA continues to communicate member concerns to government through a coordinated advocacy approach, politicians still respond best to strong, local pressure.

As a CLA member, you can play a key role in helping to advance CLA's advocacy goals by interacting and communicating with elected officials directly, one-on-one.

MPs are in their ridings this summer, and this is your opportunity to help get CLA's key messages across! A strong collective voice has a far greater chance of achieving tangible advocacy results than one voice alone.

So contact your MP, ask for a meeting – in person or by phone – and share our messages on copyright legislation, the library book rate, and Canada's digital economy.

Speaking points on the three key issues are provided below.

To find your local MP, please visit:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?PostalCode=A1A1A1&Submit=Find&Language=E>

If you have a meeting with your MP, please send a summary to:

Kelly Moore, CLA Executive Director

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Message 1: Copyright Legislation

CLA's Position:

- CLA appreciates the government's intent to provide copyright legislation which is both balanced and technologically neutral.
- CLA acknowledges the complexity of copyright in the 21st century and applauds the Government's ongoing attempt to define the balance between the concerns of creators, content providers and users as a key goal of continuing copyright reform. CLA will continue to work with the Government to develop balanced copyright legislation, which must reflect the public interest.

Why balanced copyright legislation is important to library users:

- Over 21 million library users are seriously concerned about the shape Canadian copyright legislation continues to take. Library users **are** the Canadian public: they are not members of a "special interest group" when it comes to copyright.

Key issues of concern:

- Key issues of concern relevant to libraries and copyright legislation include fair dealing, digital locks, exceptions for the print disabled, preservation, and educational issues.

For more information, CLA's most recent position statement, *Protecting the Public Interest in the Digital World: the views of the Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques on Bill C-32, An Act to Amend the Copyright Act*, is available at:

http://www.cla.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/Resources/Copyright/Toolkit_Oct-2010-I.pdf



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Message 2: Library Book Rate

What is it?

- A reduced rate for mailing library books between libraries and from libraries to their users
- A service that has been provided by Canada Post since 1939

Why is there an issue?

- The rate is dependent on renewal by Canada Post each year; there is no guarantee for the service in the long-term
- The service receives no financial support from the federal government

What is the solution?

- During the last Parliamentary Session, MP Merv Tweed (Brandon-Souris) introduced a private member's bill (Bill C-509), *An Act to amend the Canada Post Corporate Act (library materials)*
- Prior to the election call, CLA was thrilled to see Bill C-509 reach unprecedented levels in the legislative process. It is CLA's hope that the library community can once again work together with the Federal Government to implement and pass proposed legislation to protect the Library Book Rate
- Permanent and sustainable investment for the Library Book Rate must be established without any further delay

Who benefits?

- More than 2000 libraries and one million individuals in Canada who currently make use of the rate
- All Canadians, as the service is part of our national intellectual infrastructure, contributing to the national public policy goals of literacy, lifelong learning, inclusion, and vibrant communities



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Message 3: Canada's Digital Economy

The role of Canada's libraries:

- Canada's libraries can and should play an important role in the development of a national digital economy
- Libraries are working to keep pace with the necessary changes to the ways we provide access, the materials we collect, and the formats we preserve. Without strong digital and information policies, we risk losing material simply because we can no longer access it in the format in which it was produced.

The role of the Federal Government:

- The Federal Government must develop policies to ensure that Canadians have both access to emerging and digital media, and the skills needed to make the best use of the opportunities that these media provide.
- Actions include:
 - developing a national digital strategy
 - passing and implementing balanced copyright legislation
 - ensuring access to sufficient bandwidth
 - implementing open access policies for public information and data

The Community Access Program:

- A key component of Canada's digital economy is the Community Access Program (CAP). CAP provides Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and the skills they need to use it effectively in order to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the new global knowledge-based economy.
- Libraries are valuable CAP providers. Under CAP, public locations like schools, libraries and community centres act as "on-ramps" to the Information Highway, and provide computer support and training.
- It is absolutely crucial that the Community Access Program continue with long-term, sustainable funding, as it serves a vital role in communities across the country.