

BC Library Association – Accessibility Interest Group (AIG) - Agenda

Date: Monday, March 9 from 1 - 2 pm

Location: Zoom

In attendance: Rachel Chong (Chair), Tara Thompson, Jen Griffin, Rakhshanda, Alysa, Dave Cox

Review Notes 2026.01.19

1. No amendments or revisions.

Review action items & updates

1. Rachel Chong created a Grants and Funding page for the Accessibility Interest Group to compile potential resources in this area.
2. Rachel Chong update resources to include Alzheimer's, American Sign Language for Librarians, and the Accessibility Resources Toolkits
3. Rachel Chong confirmed funding/payment options to bring in guest speakers via BCLA
 - a. I did find out that if your potential speaker aligns with our honorarium guidelines, we could at least offer them that! Here is the [link with the honorarium details](#). Essentially, if the presenter is hosting a talk that is tied to their lived experience, such as someone who is IBPOC or LGBTQ2S+ or neurodivergent or physical disability sharing-out about their identity and experiences ([Honorarium policy](#)), BCLA is receptive to offering **\$275** as an expression of gratitude. There are some considerations to read through, for example if someone is being paid by their institution and it's their job to this work, we would decline.
4. Rachel Chong shared March meeting date with BCLA
5. Good news! The House of Commons Finance Committee approved amendments to Bill C-15 (2025 Budget Implementation Act) that reinstates the protections for free literature for the blind and reduced postage rates for library materials in the Canada Post Corporations Act. The new wording reads:
Exceptions — rates
(3.1) The Corporation must provide for
(a) the transmission by post, free of postage, of letters, books, tapes, records and other similar material for the use of the blind; and
(b) a reduced rate of postage for library materials lent by a library to a borrower, including by means of an interlibrary loan.
Bill C-15 must now be sent back to the House of Commons for Report Stage and 3rd Reading. Once passed, it will proceed to the Senate. We do not expect any major changes to this section and certainly none that should cause further harm to Canada Post rates for library materials or materials for the use of the blind.

Upcoming events

1. National AccessAbility Week 2026, starting the last Sunday in May. What is your library doing?
2. Other days to note:
 - a. Neurodiversity Celebration Week (March 16 – 22)

- b. Autism Awareness Month in April/ Autism Awareness Day (April 2)
 - c. Deaf Awareness Week (May 6 – 12)
 - d. Disability Pride Month (July)
 - e. Discussion around book displays as well as trying new accessibility equipment via library loans (such as keyboards, white noise machines, etc.)
- 3. Training: March 11 – 12 [Accessible Reading Symposium](#) compliments of NNELS, the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ).
- 4. Training: Accessibility Assessment Framework for Library Spaces Community of Practice (3rd Tuesday of each month, from 1 – 2pm, for 6 months). Pre-registration required. The community of practice has already begun.
- 5. Conference: [Accessible Professional Network 2026 Conference in Toronto](#)
- 6. [Navigating Toward Better Accessibility in Audiobooks](#) with Simon Jaeger (NNELS) and Iona Gandrabur (CELA) Wednesday, March 25th at 10am – 11am PST on Zoom (Recorded)
 “Accessibility is a direction, not a fixed destination, and this session will explore several initiatives aimed at making audiobooks even better for all readers... We will also explore the opportunity AI offers to create more accessible audiobooks and discuss our practical experience with the process and results. Lastly, we’ll share the results of a collaborative project aimed at learning about the user experience with accessible audiobooks from readers with and without disabilities.”

Other Business

- 1. Tara – connected with Manager of Project and Innovation at Wayfront Center in Vancouver. They have grant funding for on demand interpreting & increasing audio accessibility (hearing aide – Bluetooth). – Tara to share contacts with Rachel. Possible interest in having Wayfront Center visiting one of the AIG meetings.
- 2. Rachel is on the potential candidate LEAP pilot project via BCELN
- 3. Resources:
 - a. [Overlay Fact Sheet](#) doesn’t make the website accessible. See [Accessibility Overlay Widgets Attract Lawsuits - Accessibility.Works](#)
 - b. [Accessible Metadata MARC tagsv](#)
 - c. [Web Accessibility Checklist | Checklists](#)
- 4. Can we record the next meeting for those who cannot attend? Yes, assuming those in attendance consent to being recorded.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 20 from 12 – 1pm