

British Columbia Library Association | Climate Action Committee Minutes March 15, 2024

Attendees: Caitlin MacRae, David Waddell, Helen Brown, Nuh Mehmet, Josh, Shirly, Dan Hackborn

Regrets: Diana Marshall, Amory Strader, Lisa Nathan

- 1) Welcome and check ins
 - a) Acknowledgment that the bulk of the committee is remoting in from unceded Coast Salish land [For David, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations]
 - b) Brief intros for new faces*
- 2) Approved February minutes and today's agenda (Dan H. taking minutes today)
- 3) David introduced Committee's flexible, adaptable, no burnout working model aspirations to new faces, see also: Active Project Tracking listed below
- 4) Business arising, action updates
 - a) BCLA AGM Resolution (Helen): In light of the BCLA's call out for resolutions at the upcoming AGM, Helen proposes suggesting a resolution from CAC to include or embed climate justice and/or action in BCLA values statements, rather than siloing it as separate statements while acknowledging the statements and support that BCLA has offered on these matters. Helen suggests asking Rina whether or not it would be helpful to include them directly in the values
 - i) Caitlin posits that it is good to keep up the momentum and include that language within the overall organizational values

ACTION ITEM: David will take idea forward to Rina while following up with other items to be discussed

- 5) Position Statement (Helen/David) Helen shared link to statement to make sure everyone has seen it
 - a) Well-received by individuals and organizations nationally and internationally
 - b) CFLA Climate Action Committee is discussing funding from an ECCC grant to further building out BCLA statement into a nationally applicable document; regionally relevant build out similar to Lancet Countdown Health & Climate Change; CFLA CAC is connecting with Rina about allocating this funding
 - c) David highlights Position Statement as an example of capacity-based contributing for new members

ACTION ITEM: get in touch with Helen re: any further questions

- 6) Logo design opportunity update (David, Caitlin) Caitlin reviewed the process so far: collaboration w/ student graphic designers at Vancouver Community College ; initial consultations led to stylescapes which were refined into four logo designs which went out this week; committee members offered feedback on those designs; keeping aesthetic cues while addressing other concerns like colour palettes being similar to political organizations or less-accessible visual motifs and colour. CAC is happy with the collaboration, will be working with the designers to develop

style guidelines over the next few weeks

- 7) Toolkit Project (Helen). Helen introduced intent of toolkit, to bridge scientific consensus and goals with library work; practical guidance for libraries on what to actually do. Working to make it accessible and relevant Canada-wide; BCLA has committed to hosting the toolkit on its website; collaboration with library workers across Canada, has had meetings with OLA and CFLA committees on this topic. Toolkit will suggest resources to continue climate work; aggregate similar information at other organizations such as assessment best practices (particularly for organizations without resource or support to conduct a full dedicated assessment on their own); stories/examples from libraries across Canada undertaking climate work. Students at UBC will be collaborating with two libraries including Surrey to contribute to the toolkit; as well as students from Lisa's Information Worlds of Climate Justice class this semester are searching for relevant examples of library climate justice initiatives.

ACTION ITEM: Helen will be dedicating time to it this summer

- 8) BC Benchmarking Survey (Dan) Diana sends regrets. Obviously edit down length by clarifying what we want to measure. Initial responses indicate that the Committee feels like the impacts part is too specific. Most questions are in document comments; get in touch to review, Dan will also move to Basecamp. Team requires someone to go through and assess from academic/special collection library perspective
 - a) Text box for prior to two year period
 - b) Qualtrics functionality (hovering definitions, specific answer formatting)
 - c) Moderate tone & language? (climate justice, "try to offer", "been able to offer")

ACTION ITEM: Diana ? Asking Rina about question of Indigenous and on-reserve libraries; while BCLA does not represent them, do not want to other those institutions

- 9) Library Trustees Policy Project (Caitlin). Caitlin is in touch with executive director of BC Library Trustees Association, which supports BC library trustees through education, governance documenting assistance, and a province-wide forum, as well as the chair of the New West Board to bring the Position Statement to them and ask for help in supporting the Calls to Action for their libraries and organizations.
 - i) 1st stage is a casual get-to-know the Position Statement and question period followed by a smaller working group looking at the Statement in a more focused manner to make recommendations to members
 - ii) 1st meeting possibly happening in May but possibly not until September
- 10) Climate Action Week (David). Introduction: Climate Action Week (CAW) is a focused event at the start of November for highlight climate issues through programming, displays, etc.
 - a) Evaluation report finished and David will share over the weekend
 - b) Please refer organizations to upcoming onboarding meeting
- 11) BC Gaming Grant (David). As CAW expands oftentimes participants want more help, which requires more resources and time; David is putting together grant proposal under Arts and Culture activity category to BC Gaming Grants specifically because timeline aligns with this year's CAW, as opposed to environmental categories which have later deadlines. David clarifying that he will follow up with Rina about using the Arts & Culture designation vs. other categories.

- a) Helen and Caitlin propose that it is the character of the organization that matters (arts and culture) for the gaming grants, rather than the content of the initiative. Ultimately, if we go for Environmental or similar it will not go through in time to support CAW this year.
- 12) OLA CAC meeting update (Diana) Defer as Diana is the OLA liaison, and absent.
 - 13) CFLA CAC update (Dan, Helen). David was contacted by Lita Barrie, referred by Helen, in order to meet about Climate Action Week and the aforementioned ECCC grant to potentially offer funding support from that source in order to not duplicate efforts of an established initiative; will be meeting with her next week for an initial conversation; Helen will also attend and David invites any other interested members to attend as well.
 - a) Helen shared that CFLA is trying to figure out exactly how to allocate the money as the grant was approved very quickly during the initiation of the Committee
 - b) CFLA is distributing a survey asking how member organizations would like its Climate Action Committee to support their climate action efforts; survey goes out Tuesday, April 2nd and is intended support CFLA in clarifying its role in strengthening and assisting, but not duplicating, regional efforts
 - 14) Active Project Tracking Sheet (David). introduction to the organizing sheet. Committee is not looking to have 1 person on 5 projects, personal sustainability is key, avoid burnout.

ACTION ITEM: open invitation for Committee members to activate or propose new projects

- 15) Communication, Branches, Basecamp, website etc. Attending these monthly meetings is step 1 of Climate Action Committee communications with other platforms available for further work.
- 16) Annual report and AGM planning (David). BCLA AGM coming up. CAW report has kept David busy no significant update
- 17) New business
 - a) CAPAL Presentation (Helen). Got notice that CAPAL Academic libraries virtual conference on sustainability in early June has accepted Helen's proposal to talk about Climate Action Statement. Collaborate with Caitlin to co-develop trustee presentation at the same time?
 - b) David highlights value of promoting CAC work in these professional forums to spread the word and highlight the work.
 - c) Congrats to Helen!
- 18) Spotlight for New Initiatives
 - a) Keep an eye out for the ALA Draft Strategy for cross-border collaboration opportunities;
 - b) Helen has promoted Position Statement to working group members in charge of developing the statement
 - c) David has been invited to attend Lisa Nathan's Climate Justice course; David using it as opportunity to promote the Committee; "we are the profession", "many hands make light work"; unwieldy large committee is the good kind of problem;
 - d) Shout out to new members, thank you for stepping up and attending
 - e) Other BCLA sections have been approaching David for low-burnout best practices
 - f) Caitlin climate pension report card; "what does your pension fund?" Kevin Milsip working on that; most pensions are out east but there is one BC pension plan on that list.

- g) Helen would like to hear more on Nuh's work with SDGs and libraries from Nuh; some audio difficulties; possible meeting between David and Nuh

19) Action item review

- a) David follow up with Rina on asking whether or not it would be helpful to propose an AGM resolution to include climate justice directly in the BCLA values and potentially whether Arts & Culture is the appropriate BC Gaming Grant category; most committee members think it is however.
- b) David and Caitlin to continue working with graphic designers and share style guidelines when available.
- c) Dan will move Survey draft to Basecamp.
- d) David to share Climate Action week evaluation report.
- e) David to share invite to meeting with Lita Barrie, chair of CFLA Climate Action Committee.
- f) Everyone refer new organizations to upcoming Climate Action Week onboarding (email David for link/dates).
- g) Everyone fill out CFLA survey upon publication.
- h) Everyone send Helen resources on the carbon/ecological impacts of collections.
- i) Nuh and David meet?

20) Final miscellany

- a) Jennifer joined earlier and wanted to highlight Digital Cleanup Day tomorrow, March 16!
- b) Helen is asking for any resources on the climate impacts of collections, whether through procurement or use, impacts of e-resources vs. print resources; ARL presentations highlighted this too, seems to be a very in-demand topic and having a collection of resources is useful.

Check out and closing thoughts.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 19, 2024, noon-1pm