

BCLA Climate Action Committee Meeting Minutes 2025.09.19

Attendees: Brielle Steeper, Caitlin MacRae, David Waddell, Diana Marshall, Helen Brown, Lisa Nathan, Laura Harris, Dan Hackborn

Agenda

1. Welcome and check ins
2. Approve CAC August 2025 minutes and today's agenda
 - Minutes and agenda approved
3. Business arising
4. Surrey SLI certification
 - Congratulations to Surrey and the hard work of Jennifer and Kelly! The certification presentation went well, and there is potentially more ways to celebrate this step forward for climate action within Canadian librarianship via a virtual presentation of the certification to the Surrey Libraries board and possibly a workshop planned for BCLA. Big shout out to the BC library community for showing up to the presentation in significant numbers.
5. CAC Document storage update and discussion (Lisa/Dan)
 - The question of a long-term home for the CAC's digital workspace for draft minutes, project draft and planning documents, etc.
 - BC Libraries Co-op was not an option
 - BCLA suggested googledocs
 - Library toolshed is likely not a long-term option
 - Right now the official minutes are stored online on the BCLA website, with various working documents spread out across varied cloud services
 - Deeper exploration forthcoming.
 - Current plan, Recording Secretary will send draft minutes to co-chairs after meeting. AGM minutes will also stay with co-chairs until approved following year, Project leads will determine how to manage their own working material.
6. Updates
 - a. CFLA CAC update (Dan, Helen)

- CFLA is reorganizing; reminder that CFLA is not a typical library association, but an “association of associations” which has led to recent work to clarify structure, mandate, goals; this process is still ongoing.
- The existing standing committee structure is ending and being replaced with a task force structure that is project-based
 - Intended to be more outcome focused, though loss of overall discussion space; at this point the process for submitting a task force proposal is unclear, however there have been promises that it will be transparent and open to all members, .
 - Potential opportunity for BCLA committee members to spearhead proposals and scale them up.
 - Dr. Margaret Law is interim Chair of CFLA

b. Toolkit (Helen)

- Work ongoing
- To support project please send Helen:
 - library projects/initiatives related to any of BCLA CAC’s position statement recommended actions.
 - Examples of emissions mitigation within libraries

c. Climate Action Week 2025 (David)

- Numbers are coming in and have reached prior year’s numbers! Every new participating library is one more than we have previously done. Combination of both new libraries and some libraries reporting after not hearing from them for a year or so.
- A participant has sent in a list of NFB films that are climate films with the proper rights/licensing to host screening as a CAW resource
 - Helen has worked with NFB before to screen films and the ‘Ocean School’ category has a lot of additional films that don’t show up in the main NFB interface oceanschool.nfb.ca/collection/the-harvest/
 - Caitlin may host a screening on forest fire in the Okanagan and Indigenous practices of controlled burns; has also developed a list of Kanopy resources

d. BC benchmarking survey (Dan/Diana)

- Met in August; revisited a 70% completion cutoff to recommit to include all responses due to initial language in survey; data and responses reviewed and updated
- Full report is getting closer to ready for BCLA board

- distilled down to a one-pager or summary
- a portion or output released for Climate Action Week? Diana and Dan will meet to discuss possibility
- some preliminary statistics shared at UBCM panel
- Meeting with Rina re: the continuity of the survey (related to organizational memory?)
- Reaching out to other former members of other committees to participate in future benchmarking? Experience from OLA and CFLA surveys

7. [Canada | Draw the Line - For people, for peace, for the planet](#)

- Downtown Vancouver, as well as in other cities across BC (and Canada)
- Supported by CUPE
- Library contingent in Vancouver; email Lisa for details

7. BCLA 2026, pre-conference climate action workshop @UBC (Lisa)

- Currently looking at co-hosting a full day workshop, on Apr. 21st, the day before the conference, with BCLA's support; applying for travel/accommodations funding for attendees; more info to come

8. Opportunity to hear from Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC | zeic[dot]ca). (David)

- Zero Emissions Innovation Centre, a non-profit established by the federal and municipal gov't of Canada
- Got in touch and offered to give a presentation to the committee
- Caitlin has seen them in other contexts; work mostly with building developers and building design
 - Suggests scheduling a sub-meeting for interested committee members; email David to signal interest
- Develop a resource for libraries looking into facility upgrades?
- Could be spun out as a presentation at a BCLA-type conference?

9. Mental health related to climate change (David)

- Kaylie Higgs from Mental Health and Climate Change Alliance (MHCCA) reached out/followed up to solicit feedback from the BC library community on information needs that library workers have in 2025 re: climate anxiety and grief; also specifically looking for feedback on prior workshop/seminar offered last year and the "Promoting Mental Health in BC's Changing Climate" project that the MHCCA is working on

- information or resources that would support wellbeing and/or ability to communicate about climate change in libraries
 - Diana: benchmarking report: do libraries offer counselling as a benefit to staff; how or if those counselling services are being offered in a context of climate/ecological group?
 - Potential feedback after possible Refugia event for Jasper?
 - Resources for underdeveloped aspects in library leadership
 - collaborative/collegial leadership
 - dealing with complex multi-faceted challenges
 - Trauma-informed professional development training
 - Decision making, change management

10. Book Recycling Directory (Diana)

- Issued call out on BCLA Branches re: book recycling options; folks were very responsive; Diana created a directory resource, organized, alphabetized, indexed, FAQs. Currently waiting to hear back from organizations in the directory to confirm their services before posting to the Climate Action Committee website

11. Action item review

- ALL: keep an eye out for any consultation on the task force process
- ALL: send Helen:
 - library projects/initiatives related to any of BCLA CAC's 10 Calls to Action
 - Specific examples of emissions mitigation within library operations
- ALL: email David if interested in attending ZEIC meeting
- ALL: email Lisa if interested in meeting at Draw the Line
- David: share NFB film resource for Climate Action Week
- Caitlin: share complementary Kanopy list
- Dan: ongoing exploration of digital workspace options
- Diana: share book recycling directory once it is ready
- Dan & Diana: meet re: one-pager possibility for CAW

14. Check out and closing thoughts

Next Meeting: October 17, 2025