

British Columbia Library Association Climate Action Committee Minutes



August 21, 2026

Attendees: Lisa Nathan, Dan Hackborn, Helen, Caitlin, Stephanie Hanson, Fraser, Dom, David, Alyssa Gurklis, Shevaun Ruby

Regrets: Isabel Davies

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approve Last Month's Minutes
 - a. *Approved*
3. Business Arising
4. Updates
 - a. BCLA Climate Action Statement – 3 year review
 - i. *Needs to be reviewed (not necessarily changed) every 3 years*
 1. *If change (e.g. to context/background section or anything else) is recommended -> explanation of change and rationale*
 2. *If no change, confirm with Rina via email*
 - ii. **ACTION ITEM: One month for committee members to review statement, suggest changes. Discuss during September CAC meeting.**
 - b. Benchmarking Survey
 - i. *Now closed*
 - c. Climate Action Week
 - i. *Reaching deeper into GLAM sector, people are interested, but orgs needing to find time to commit; striking out on reaching new orgs.*
 - ii. *Is there a theme for CAW 2026? No: have previously resisted themes to be evergreen in our communications; could revisit, but we don't have a theme for this year.*
 - iii. **ACTION ITEM: David will re-send to Rina/CFLA English & French description of CAW to share with CFLA members. Will reiterate that we'd like them to pass this on to their member organizations, who can push this out to their members. Helen can also share with contacts.**

d. Mental Health Climate Change Alliance

- i. *Updates: BCLA has offered admin support (handling potential grant monies; will attach this event to conference registration, advertising, hosting learning materials on their site). UBC can providing rooms, day-of support.*
- ii. *Discussion: Question for the group about proposed budget: Two streams of funding (small grants up to \$20K; large grants up to \$100K). Initially planning on small grant, but consideration of accessibility initiatives (e.g. travel grants and programming grants for libraries to implement programs) pushes us into large grant category. Large grant app requires a bit more work with emphasis on longevity of program and more partners. Caitlin created a pared down budget that includes accessibility/implementation initiatives but allocates less for speaker/facilitators. Thoughts:*
 1. *Some thinking that we might have a better chance of being in small grant category; others see little issue with asking for lower end of larger grant category.*
 2. *There could be other sources of funding to support travel if full amount is not awarded.*

iii. **ACTION ITEM: Caitlin will move forward with submitting larger grant proposal.**

e. BC Climate Action Labs collaboration opportunity (see Branches for more information: [Looking for library partner for UBC Climate Action Certificate students | BCLA](#))

- i. *UBC only library that reached out to Dr. Sara Harris. Possible collaborations of interest:*
 1. *Library of things/repair economy – having students do environmental scan and connecting with libraries that have these collections to talk about what’s working/not working. Fraser and Shevaun offer to talk with students.*
 2. *If MHCCA grant successful, could be of interest to students. For committee consideration – is there any useful collaboration here? Student/youth perspectives?*
 3. *Toolkit (see below)*

f. Climate civic engagement webinar idea

- i. *Discussion: Thoughts on hosting something at UBC (general audience) or for BCLA?*

1. *BCLA-focused event could be issue agnostic, emphasizing 'Here's what you can do as an individual,' with insights that could be scaled/adapted by groups. Could be hosted virtually, soon (to coincide with election interest) and/or as an in-person (recorded) conference session. Based on engagement at the April 2026 Coming Together pre-conference workshop, folks think there'd be interest from the BCLA audience.*
 - ii. **ACTION ITEM: Helen to reach out to potential guest presenters (e.g. Kathryn Harrison; someone from BCLA who does advocacy at the provincial level; etc.); possibly reach out to Natalie at BCLA.**
5. Backburner items
- a. CAC Document storage update and discussion
 - i. *No updates*
 - b. Toolkit
 - i. *Helen raised this as a possible collaboration with Dr. Sara Harris' class; will report back.*
 - c. NRCAN
 - i. *Progressing, have had several meetings*
 - d. CFLA task force
 - i. *Meeting next week*
6. Other business
- a. BCLA Priorities webpage
 - i. *[Climate Action section of the BCLA Priorities page](#) is outdated (no updates since 2023). Note: CAC does not have edit access for this page, so we will need to draft and submit edits to BCLA.*
 - ii. **ACTION ITEM/project for someone to take on: Write up 2024-2026 activities and any other updates for climate action section on the BCLA Priorities page; could tie this to the climate action statement review.**
 - b. Disaster/emergency protocols
 - i. Dom's group (AC Friends of Court) is collecting information about what public institutions are doing to prepare. It's noted that VCH has done good advocacy work.
 - ii. Discussion: Idea of CAC developing a disaster outreach 'protocol' for reaching out to libraries impacted by evacuations or emergency declarations. Idea is that the note would offer acknowledgement, solidarity, support. Group discusses framing of this as a formal protocol/policy vs. as an informal practice, noting that we might not

always know how to reach every library which could lead to issues of equity and other issues related to BCLA issuing formal statements.

iii. ACTION ITEM: Add Emergency/Disaster response as back burner item in future agendas.

7. Project Sharing (what's going on at your workplace?) *(skipped due to time)*

8. Breakout Room Discussion: *(skipped due to time)*

a. Welcome & Social Events

i. ACTION ITEM: Connect with BCLA regarding Zoom setup as we need to have host privileges to make breakout rooms and to turn off meeting transcription.

9. Action item review

10. Check out and closing thoughts