

**A Resolution Opposing the Termination of the Community Access Program (CAP)
Presented by the BCLA Information Policy to the AGM April 2005**

Moved by B. Campbell. Seconded by A. Fennema.

Whereas public libraries and community networks across Canada were the main initiators of the Government of Canada's *Connecting Canadians* agenda;

And Whereas the Government of Canada, Provincial and Municipal Governments have systematically moved access to government information and forms to the Internet, often to the exclusion of other forms of access;

And Whereas access to the Internet is now a necessity for equal access to government resources and democratic participation;

And Whereas the Community Access Program was developed to fund free, public Internet access;

And Whereas libraries are the main free Internet public access sites in Canada;

And Whereas community networks provide access to socially excluded communities, groups and individuals as well as test new community-based technologies;

And Whereas both libraries and community networks are major participants in overcoming the digital divide;

And Whereas public demand for free Internet public access continues unabated;

And Whereas demand for Internet access now includes training, assistance in printing and filling out important forms such as EI and support in Internet searching;

And Whereas we have been advised that Industry Canada will announce the termination of the CAP program;

And Whereas such cancellation will result in financial hardship for libraries and community networks, especially those in rural and poorer areas, resulting in an increase in the digital divide.

Therefore Be It Resolved that BCLA write to the Minister of Industry Canada urging his reconsideration of the termination of the CAP program and the creation of a program providing ongoing support for library and community networks for public access and training;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA forward this resolution to the Canadian Library Association, Telecommunities Canada, Pacific Community Network Association and other provincial and territorial library associations urging them to contact the Minister;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA write all BC MP's, sending them a copy of this resolution and expressing are strong opposition to the termination of CAP;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA urge all BC Library Boards to pass a similar resolution, forwarding a copy to their local MP and to their local municipal or town council;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA send a copy of this resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities and urge them to pass a similar resolution and forward it to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to adopt a similar resolution.