



Libraries and Media Concentration

Submitted by the BCLA Information Policy Committee, April 21, 2007

Whereas, freedom of the press and public access to diverse media and information are prerequisite to a functioning democracy;

And Whereas, public interest is served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints; and one of the fundamental tenets and responsibilities of libraries is both to facilitate and foster this availability;

And Whereas, libraries are the primary social institution with responsibility to assure the broadest possible availability of a wide range of ideas and information;

And Whereas, the consolidation of media ownership in Canada and internationally has the effect of reducing the range of opinions that can be expressed;

And Whereas, BCLA passed a resolution in 2003 voicing concerns about media concentration;

And Whereas, media ownership continues to become more concentrated in British Columbia, with CanWest Global Communications Corporation's holdings and CTVglobemedia's proposed 1.7 billion dollar purchase of CHUM Limited;

Be It Resolved that BCLA again encourage libraries and other library associations to engage in public education activities such as displays, bibliographies, web links, and programmes on the current extent of concentration in Canadian and international media industries, and its impact on access to the widest possible range of information and analyses;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA urge CLA to also monitor and oppose changes occurring in federal policymaking and regulatory processes which might result in further media concentration;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA submit comments during the CRTC's planned Fall 2007 hearings on corporate concentration;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA continue to work with organizations such as the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Canadian Association of Media Educators, university departments of communication and journalism, local alternate media and other community organizations concerned about media concentration;

Be It Further Resolved that BCLA support public events, such as the independent media fair, taking place in conjunction with the international conference of the Union for Democratic Communications in Vancouver in October 2007.

Moved by C. Graebner. Seconded by B.J. May.