

1. Title of Resolution

Access to BC government publications

2. Rationale / Purpose for Resolution

British Columbia has no Archives Act and no formal mechanism in place ensuring long term access of government publications. Further, the Province of British Columbia requires individuals and institutions pay \$51.00 per document to download and print provincial documents. British Columbia's Crown Copyright legislation is a barrier to long term access and preservation of publications, records and other resources. British Columbia government information needs to be freely available to the public and reproducible for non-commercial use.

In its 2010 submission to the FOIPPA consultation, BCLA raised these issues without result. We attach this document by way of background to the concerns which currently still exist.

3. Prior History of this Resolution (IF ANY)

n/a

4. Body of the Resolution (Action Proposed)

Whereas the British Columbia government has overly restrictive policies on the use of government publications and is opaque regarding fair-use and the application of user fees;

Whereas British Columbia Crown Copyright prohibits collection and curation of British Columbia government domains;

Whereas the British Columbia government needs to make their intellectual property freely and openly available for non-commercial use;

Whereas the British Columbia government states clearly on its website that it is committed to [Open Government principles](#) while limiting access only to open data and some legislative materials including regulations;

Whereas Government agencies produce and publish important information that citizens should be able to access freely and use without restriction;

Whereas the British Columbia government requires potential users to seek permission for uses already allowed under the Copyright Act;

Whereas, the British Columbia Intellectual Property Program's [Crown copyright](#) claims are over-broad and intimidating, and discourage the legitimate use of government information by individuals and libraries providing no exemptions whatsoever;

Whereas, the IPO requires that all potential users [apply for](#) and receive permission for any reproduction of a work even for non-commercial purposes;

Whereas the British Columbia government needs to eliminate the processing fee for copyright requests;

Whereas Copyright statements from [Prince Edward Island](#), [Yukon](#), [Nova Scotia](#), [Saskatchewan](#), and [Ontario](#) already take into account reproduction for non-commercial use and fair dealing;

Whereas access and the unrestricted non-commercial use of government information is essential;

Therefore, be it resolved that BCLA requests the British Columbia government to expand their use of the open government license; and be it further resolved BCLA encourages the British Columbia government to include a fair dealing statement on the website as do other provinces and territories; and be it further resolved that the taxpayers of British Columbia have already paid for the creation and dissemination of these materials and deserve to have this information available free of charge; and be it resolved the Information Policy Committee draft a letter on behalf of the Association outlining the concerns and issues highlighted in this Resolution for the BCLA Board to review and the BCLA President to sign and be it further resolved that the Information Policy Committee continue to monitor access to British Columbia government information and recommend further follow-up when/if required.

5. Initiating Individual, Section, Committee or Interest Group

Information Policy Committee

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8. BCLA Sections / Committees / Interest Groups Consulted (IF ANY)

Information Policy Committee

9. Endorsement by BCLA Sections / Committees / Interest Groups (IF ANY)

Information Policy Committee

10. Fiscal Implications (IF ANY)

n/a

11. If this resolution necessitates a change in an existing bylaw, state the bylaw and the change. If this resolution proposes a new bylaw, please state the new bylaw. See [BCLA constitution and by-laws](#) for updated Constitution and Bylaws.

n/a

12. If this resolution conflicts with an existing bylaw, state provisions for resolving the conflict.

n/a

13. If this resolution proposes a BCLA position statement, indicate the positions relation to libraries and library service.

n/a