

1. Title of Resolution (At the discretion of the Resolutions Committee)

Campaign for political action to combat discrimination and hate directed at equity-seeking groups

2. Rationale / Purpose for Resolution

This resolution seeks support from BCLA for the Vancouver Public Library Board's call to politicians to seek ways to combat discrimination and hate directed at equity-seeking groups, potentially through law reform.

Equity-seeking groups face barriers to accessing library services because of the discrimination they may experience while within library spaces, and because of the discrimination that they experience within our communities. Increasing polarization and discriminatory activity in the online environment has physical world consequences, and the current legal and policy environment is not adequately protecting members of equity-seeking groups from discrimination and hate.

Public libraries are expected to act in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. VPL recognizes that the public, and members of the library community, have raised the concern that the current legal framework that governs its public meeting room rentals inadequately protects the human rights and dignity of trans, gender diverse and Two Spirit people, as well as other equity-seeking groups.

VPL is undertaking consultation to collectively explore ideas for law and social reform that would reduce discrimination and hatred against, and increase understanding and acceptance of trans, gender diverse and Two Spirit people. This consultation process will include calling on politicians to explore ways to combat discrimination and hate against these and other equity-seeking groups, asking the provincial and federal governments to use the full breadth of mechanisms available to them to enact changes, including the potential for law reform.

As an example of one type of law reform, the federal government could re-consider how to address hate in online publications in the Canadian Human Rights Act. Section 13 of that Act was repealed in 2013. The government may also consider strengthening existing protections under human rights legislation and the Criminal Code or evaluating whether new measures may be required to provide robust protection for the human rights and dignity of equity-seeking groups, in particular trans, gender diverse and Two Spirit people.

3. Prior History of this Resolution (IF ANY)

None

4. Body of the Resolution (Action Proposed)

WHEREAS BCLA's values include Inclusion and Diversity, and Social Responsibility, and acting on these values serves to enable equitable access to library service for all;
AND WHEREAS BCLA members recognize that equity-seeking groups, including LGBTQ2+,

racialized and marginalized individuals face barriers to accessing library services;
AND WHEREAS the current legal and policy environment does not adequately protect equity-seeking groups;
AND WHEREAS political action is needed, including the potential for law reform, to clarify and address gaps in the legal framework that governs the public use of space in libraries;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT BCLA will send letters on behalf of the membership to politicians to call on provincial and federal governments to engage in study and consultation with the intent to use the full breadth of mechanisms available to government to reduce discrimination and hate towards equity-seeking groups in Canada;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BCLA will request the participation of CFLA in this call to government.

5. Initiating Individual, Section, Committee or Interest Group

Vancouver Public Library / Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian

6 a. Mover's Name

Christina de Castell

6 b. Mover's Email

christina.decastell@vpl.ca

6 c. Mover's Telephone

(604) 331-4003

7 a. Seconder's Name

Gwen Bird

7 b. Seconder's Email

gbird@sfu.ca

7 c. Seconder's Telephone

(778) 782-3265

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

Unable to consult prior to submission deadline

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

Unable to consult prior to submission deadline

10. Fiscal Implications (IF ANY)

None

11. If this resolution necessitates a change in an existing bylaw, identify the current bylaw(s) affected by number, state the change and provide the full text of any amended or new bylaw to be included.

Not applicable

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

Not applicable